

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Running for the Money

As the '84 Olympics draw near, our track stars are beginning to yearn for gold. And it's not necessarily in the form of a medal. We are living in changing times. Yesterday athletes were paid in watches, radios and sometimes if you were fortunate to win a really big race you could receive a TV. But now that's indeed changed. Good runners make big bucks.

Track and field athletes make big money running on the European circuit. Alberto Salazar and Rob de Castella, the fastest two marathoners ever, each collected over \$60,000 for their Rotterdam marathon. The fact that Alberto won was insignificant given the monetary reward received by each.

Michael Musyoki, winner of the last two Cascade Runoffs, received \$10,000 for each race. And that does not include travel and hotel expenses for both himself and his wife.

M&Ms make biggest bucks

Who makes the most money in track and field? The two Ms, milers and marathoners. The mile has long been the glamour event and big-time promoters pay dearly for an attractive field. It's needless to say that Britain's Sebastian Coe and Steve Ovett are the top money winners among the milers. Both men have alternately shared or broken the 1,500 meter world record. Both Coe and Ovett were offered \$50,000 apiece to run in New York's now famous 5th Avenue Mile. Both men turned it down and America's Sydney Maree was the eventual winner.

Maree, who in April 1984 will officially become a U.S. citizen, is one of the more highly paid track and field runners in the business, partici-

pating in both road and track races. Maree, while on the varsity track team at Villanova, received little money and many prizes, some of which he was able to convert into money. Now, as a result of his tremendous ability, he can demand and receive big bucks.

Sidney Maree is married and has one child. He and his wife Valerie live in a beautiful split-level home outside Poughkeepsie, N.Y. They drive a BMW... each. And just recently Maree purchased a four-bedroom home for his mother who lives in Pretoria, South Africa. And the only job Maree has is running the 1,500 meters in less than 4 minutes.

While it's true the distance men make the most, the premier sprinters such as Evelyn Ashford and Carl Lewis command some handsome figures. Lewis can usually get anywhere from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per meet. Mind you... these top prices only go to the top runners.

"Amateur" status

The most significant change in U.S. Amateur athletics came in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. It gave the U.S. athletes equal opportunity with the Eastern block countries, which have for years subsidized their athletes.

The Russians, for amateur purposes, would simply draft their top athletes into the army. There they receive room, board, training facilities and a salary.

From 1977 thru 1979 there has been a constant battle between the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation) and TAC (The Athletic Congress) on the definition of "Amateur." The IAAF allows athletes the freedom of making commercials and being paid to wear



1982 Ironman Champion Scott Tinley, 26, of San Diego, will be among the top triathletes competing at the Portland stop of the Bud Light U.S. Triathlon Series on Saturday, July 30, at Hagg Lake near Forest Grove. More than 600 triathletes are expected to swim, bike and run the 36-mile course.

a certain sponsor's shoe. TAC frowns on such measures. The athlete is caught in the middle.

How will he pay the bills?

Rumor has it that world record holder Reynaldo Nehemiah actually took a pay cut when he stopped running the 110-meter hurdles to chase down football passes.

The San Francisco 49ers reportedly paid Nehemiah a six-figure salary, plus a nifty \$500,000 bonus to sign. That sort of money is not there for most track runners. But for the stars, the living is good.

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1983 Little League State Tournament slated

The 1983 Little League State Tournament (Major) will be held July 31 to August 7th at Lakeside Little League field, N.E. 52nd and Columbia. The tournament will be hosted by District 1 (North and Northeast Portland, Parkrose to Astoria).

The week will include daily games

in double elimination play with the championship game on Sunday, August 7th. The winner will represent Oregon at the Western Region Tournament in San Bernardino and then perhaps on to the Little League World Series.

Eight teams from throughout the state, each with 14 boys ages 11 and

12, will participate. The tournament is run totally by volunteers and the funds are donated.

Oregon hopes to follow the example of Kirkland, Washington, which in 1982 was the first U.S. team in ten years to win the World Series.

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