

Dumas, Vinci Gain Yank Gold Medals In Olympics; Russia's Kuts Winner

By LEO M. PETERSEN
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Melbourne—(U.P.)—Inspired American athletes swept up two of the first four gold medals in the 1956 Olympic games today when slender Charley Dumas of Los Angeles soared to a record victory in the high jump and mighty little Chuck Vinci of York, Pa., outdistanced the world's best bantamweight strong man.

In a record-shattering day indicating the XVI Olympiad may well produce the greatest number of new marks in history, all four gold medal winners and the second and third-place performers in each of those events surpassed Olympic records set in 1952.

Kuts Wins Medal

The other two gold medals fell to Vladimir Kuts, the sturdy Russian sailor, who bagged the 10,000-meter run in the new Olympic time of 28 minutes, 45.5 seconds, and to shapely Olga Fikotova of Czechoslovakia, who joined the record-setting parade with a toss of 176 feet, 1 1/2 inches in the women's discus.

In the weight-lifting hall, Vinci set three new Olympic marks en route to his bantamweight crown.

And as darkness descended over the vast Melbourne Cricket Club stadium Dumas climaxed the day by slithering over the cross bar at six feet, 11 1/4 inches. It was a full three inches better than the Olympic record set by Walt Davis of the United States in the 1952 games at Helsinki.

Except for a surprise defeat of Yale's eight-oared crew, an upset that injures but doesn't eliminate America's chances in that event, the first full day of Olympic competition was a spectacular success for the Yanks.

Sprinters Tie Record

Sprinters Ira Murchison of Chicago and Bobby Morrow of Harlingen, Tex., tied the Olympic 100-meter dash record for 10.3 seconds as they qualified for the semi-finals along with Shane Baker of Elkhart, Kan.

In addition, all three U.S. 400-meter hurdlers won qualifying heats, all three 800-meter runners qualified for the semi-finals, American crews won heats in seven different rowing classes, and George Lambert of Sioux City, Iowa, shot into a surprise lead in the modern pentathlon by winning the cross country riding phase.

Dumas, a 19-year-old student at Compton Junior college and the only man in the world who has cleared seven feet, had to make 14 leaps to sweep the high jump crown from Chilia Porter of Australia. Porter finished second at six feet, 10 1/2 inches and Igor Kachkarov of Russia was third at six feet, 9 1/2 inches—also better than the old Olympic mark.

With the pressure mounting in the darkness, Dumas cleared six feet, 11 1/4 inches on his third try of the last round. He later made one crack at seven feet, hoping for an even better Olympic record, but after one failure, he gave it up.

This gave Russia its first track victory ever in Olympic competition as he came flying down the red-cinder track and bet-

MEDFORD TRIBUNE SPORTS

tered by 31.4 seconds the record chalked up in 1952 by the fabulous Czech, Emil Zatopek.

As the fair-haired Russian thrashed through the last of 25 laps he looked like another Zatopek with his face contorted, arms and legs working like a machine.

Old Records Broken

Josef Kovacs of Hungary was a surprise second in 28:32.4 and Allen Lawrence of Australia was third in 28:53.6. All surpassed Zatopek's mark of 29:17 set at Helsinki. Kovacs and Lawrence closed fast to pass Britain's unpredictable Gordon Pirie, who faded badly after making it a two-man race with Kuts for most of the grind.

The first three finishers in the women's discus, led by the comely Czech medical student, all broke the old Olympic mark of 168 feet 8 1/2 inches set four years ago by Russia's Nina Ponomareva who finished third today though she bettered her own record.

Irena Begiakova of Russia was second and Earlene Brown, 225-pound Los Angeles housewife and mother, finished fourth just three inches short of the old record.

Vinci, a compact five-footer, gave the United States its first gold medal in a competition so close that four men broke the old Olympic record. The 123-pounder from the weight-lifting capital of the United States—York, Pa.—lifted a total of 754.45 pounds, bettering the mark of 694 pounds set in 1952 by Russia's Ivan Udodov.

In addition to the show put on by America's 100-meter sprinters, the three Yanks entered in the 400-meter hurdles and 800-meter run all looked impressive.

Josh Culbreath, Norristown, Pa., won the fastest 400-meter hurdler heat in 50.9 seconds, only one-tenth off the Olympic record. Glenn Davis, Clinton, Ohio, who has a world record of 49.5 seconds pending, won his heat in 51.3, and Eddie Southern, Dallas, won in the same time.

Tom Courtney, Livingston, N.J., won his 800-meter heat eased up in 1:52.7. Arnie Sowell, Pittsburgh, ran second, also easing, when he allowed Australia's Jim Bailey to pass him at the finish. Don Suprier, Delano, Calif., ran second in no particular hurry because three men in each heat qualified for Saturday's semifinals.

Stunning Rowing Defeat

In rowing, the defeat of Yale's eight-oared crew was a stunning blow. One more defeat and the Yank title is lost.

The snappy Australian eight glided powerfully over the finish line in six minutes, 5.8 seconds to nose out Canada by a quarter length. The Aussies and Canadians thus qualified immediately for the semifinals but the

Green Bay Spills Lions

Detroit—(U.P.)—The Green Bay Packers, unable to beat the Chicago Bears in two games this year, gave their arch-rivals a big boost Thursday when quarterback Tobin Rote pitched the Packers into a 24-20 upset victory over the Detroit Lions.

Down 13-3 going into the fourth quarter, Rote tossed two scoring aeriels and slid off tackle for another in a game played in 30-degree temperature and an on-again blizzard.

The loss gave the Bears sole possession of first place in the NFL's Western Division pending the outcome of Sunday's battle with the Eastern Division leading New York Giants.

But Detroit Coach Buddy Parker, a picture of gloom in the quiet Lion dressing room after the Packer battle, saw little hope of the Giants upsetting the rampaging Bears.

Yanks will have to defeat the Britons, France and one other non finalist not yet determined to gain a berth in the semifinals.

Other American oarsmen fared well, however, with Jack Kelly of Philadelphia winning his heat in the single sculls and a pair of former Stanford stars bagging a heat by four lengths.

As a result of the day's activity, Russia took over first place in the unofficial team standings with a total of 43 points. The Soviets' harvest of 37 points was the largest for Friday's competition.

Including the points awarded in Stockholm, Sweden, last February, Germany was in second place with 42 1/2 points, while the United States was tied with Sweden for third place with 35 each.

Quarter-Midget Races on Sunday

Quarter-midget auto racing is slated again on Sunday at Jackson Hot Springs. The program will get underway at 2 p.m.

Eddie McCoy, son of hardtop driver Jack McCoy, waltzed off with both the main and semi-

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main last Sunday. He did some hard driving on the inside, making up on the corners what his car lacked in speed.

Janice Lemley had fast time in the time trials, but Mike Buyers outraced both Janice and Bobby Bruce to take the trophy dash. Miss Lemley and Steve

and Bobby Bruce won the heat races. Fifth race of the fall season had a large turnout of spectators.

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