

Olympic— —Ramblings

By BILL BOWERMAN
U. S. Track Coach

With Track and Field News Tour, Melbourne, Dec. 2.—Final day of track and field at the Melbourne Olympics could not have been better. The wind had died down for the first time. Summer temperature had gone up to a comfortable 80 degrees. Probably 140,000 people jammed the stadium. Competition included not only the 400 meter relay and the 1500 meter relay but also the metric mile (1500 meters).

No one will believe this who has not attended one of the Olympic games, but the finish of the marathon (26 miles, 385 yards) was to minutes after all the other competition was over. If anyone left the stadium, the empty seats could not be seen.

The two relay races left the great crowd pleased, limp and happy. U. S. was the winner, but the partial home-crowd was delighted by Australia's second place in the 1500 meter ahead of England and Russia.

Press wire has already reported that Ron Delaney made a great finishing kick to win the gold. The race was run, exactly to the taste of a man with a burning final lap. First lap went in 58 seconds with Delaney 10th in 60. Second was 1:59.5 with Delaney in eighth at 2:01.5. My watch showed the leader at three laps in 3:02 with Delaney at 4:05 in 3:02.5. He was ready and did it. He is a great runner and well-deserved his victory.

The crowd was well aware that Emil Zatopek (Czechoslovakia) was in the crowd of marathoners. His move up through the crowd (a big sign board reported runner's location in the field each four miles) was closely watched. Alain Mimoun of France had trailed Zatopek at Helsinki in both the 5,000 and 10,000 meters. This time it was Mimoun who spread-eagled the field. When Zatopek came in, he was given a great ovation by the crowd, even though he placed sixth.

A 6 a.m. plane brought many Americans to Sydney, including me. People's returns are fouled up in many cases. I hope mine is not one.

Never have 10 days of pleasure gone so quickly. This was the final day of track, although competition was to go on for another week. There have been not less than 100,000 people to each session. The weather has been cold and windy, exceptions being Friday and Monday. This morning there was not a cloud in the sky. With the wind having died down, the setting was perfect for the greatest event of the games, the 1500 meters or metric mile.

The sports writers all liked Merv Lincoln, another fine Australian, for this race. John Landy did not look good in his trial. My personal pick was Brian Hewson of England. Any one of them was capable of being an Olympic champion.

Big Lead Slips
The decathlon was not as pleasurable as I had hoped. Five events were run on each of two days. First day was concluded with the metric 440, and it was Milt Campbell leading by 900 points and looking to score nearly 9,000. Then the next day he fell down on the pole vault, losing most of his lead. He had to "crum" his tail off in the final event, the metric mile, to break the Olympic record but he was far short of his 9,000 possibility.

Bob Richards rode back with me from the competition. He is vastly proud to be a member of

HOCKEY
NATIONAL LEAGUE
By UNITED PRESS
The Detroit Red Wings, after a four-week pursuit, have finally caught up with the Boston Bruins in their race for first place in the National Hockey League.

The Red Wings tied Boston for the lead Thursday night by edging the Bruins, 3-2, at Detroit in the only league action.

Avery Brundage Eyes Nobel Prize
Melbourne — (AP) — Avery Brundage, president of the International Olympic committee, hinted today that his organization was worthy of nomination for a Nobel peace prize for solving problems of international significance during the current games.

The games' top official said it was no secret that the committee had been mentioned for a Nobel prize.

Brundage credited the IOC with making possible "an Olympic truce" in Hungary which permitted a team from that divided nation to compete in the games.

"It was a triumph for sports," he said.

Brundage brushed aside incidents such as the bloody battle between Hungary and Russia in their water polo match Thursday.

"People are only human and these conflicts have been at a minimum," he said. "I think we have had a reasonable amount of harmony."

this, his third Olympic team. He says the character as well as the ability of our athletes is getting better. He gave as an example the Sunday services held in several parts of the American area, with various athletes reading from the scriptures or leading the singing. They are indeed a grateful group.

Speaking of praying, I heard the only really funny joke of my trip. The International Coaches met last night. Two of the Aussie coaches ran the pole vault. One of them reported that Rafer Johnson had missed 12 feet twice and was over by himself on his knees. The other official said, "Ted, old boy, if that bloke makes it this time, I'll jolly well have to disqualify him. He's getting outside assistance."

Big Ten Studies Aid Restriction

Chicago — (AP) — The Big Ten Conference's new plan to restrict financial aid to athletes went before faculty representatives today for final action.

The proposal survived a major test Thursday when it was approved at a joint meeting of Big Ten athletic directors and faculty representatives.

Lions Could Clinch Flag

Detroit — (AP) — The Detroit Lions could wrap up the National Football League's Western division title Sunday with a helping hand from the Chicago Cardinals but Coach Buddy Parker isn't expecting any early Christmas present.

The Lions play host to the Pittsburgh Steelers Sunday while the Cardinals tackle their crosstown rivals, the Bears. A Detroit victory coupled with a loss by the Bears would give the Lions division honors.

Pittsburgh Steelers Sunday

While the Cardinals tackle their crosstown rivals, the Bears, a Detroit victory coupled with a loss by the Bears would give the Lions division honors.

"But we're thinking only of the Steelers," Parker said. "They're the team we have to beat this coming Sunday. We won't start thinking about the Bears until next week."

Special delivery of mail in the United States has been in effect since 1885. The postal order system dates back to about 1864.

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A schedule quick has the Lions and Bears, the top teams

in the division, meeting on two of the past three Sundays of the regular season.

Detroit whipped the Bears in the first encounter at Briggs Stadium last Sunday by a convincing 42-0 score. The teams meet again at Chicago Dec. 16.

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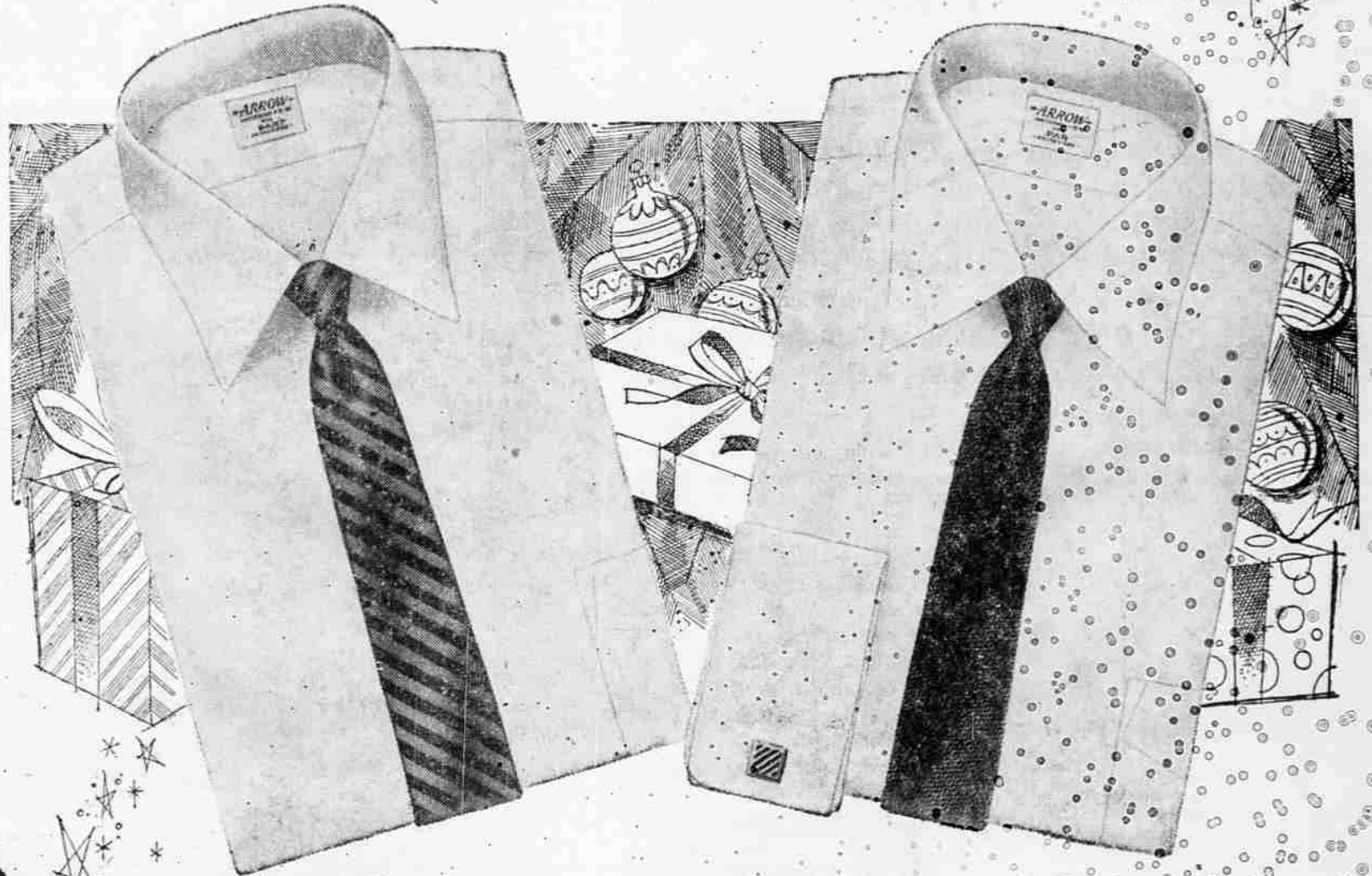
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