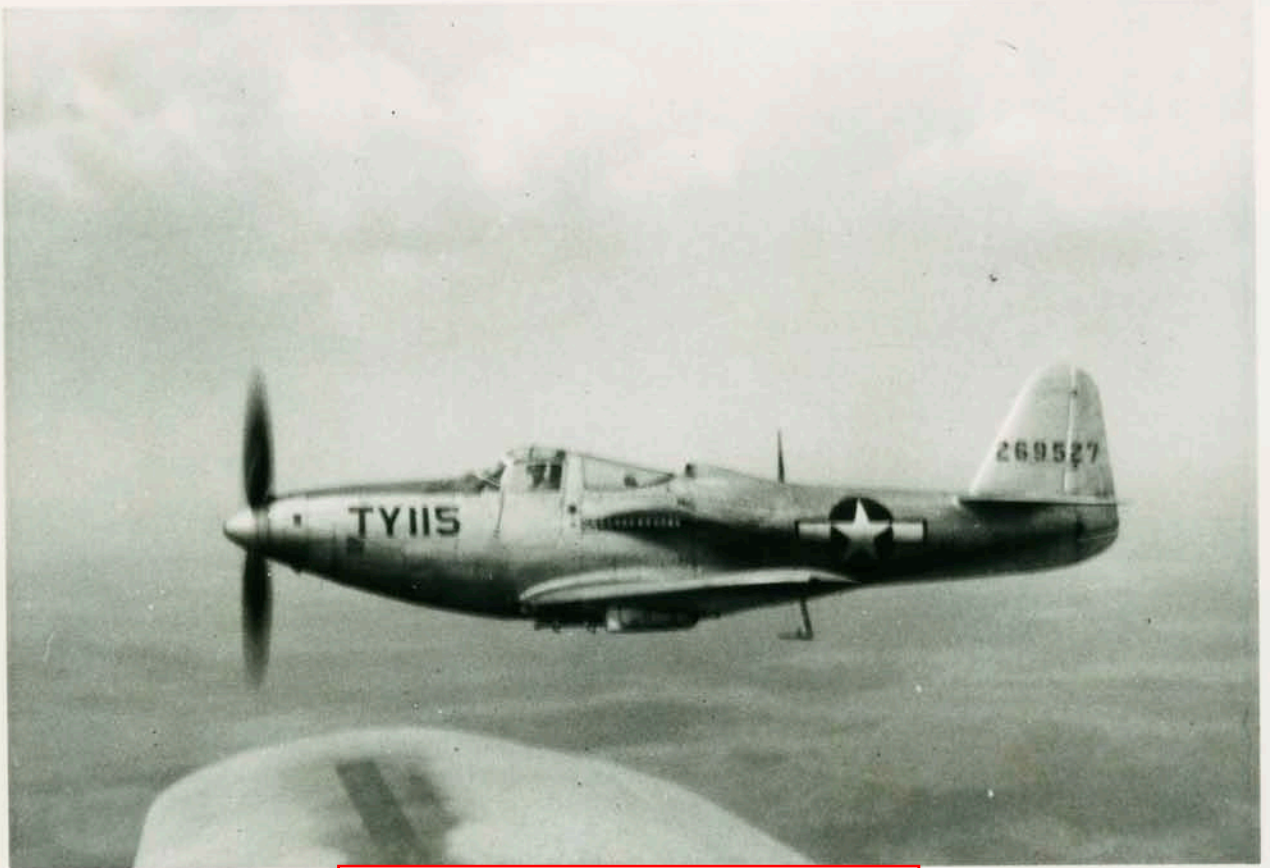




1945_P63 at Tyndal Field FL



1945_115 near Tyndal Field FL

3000 Meter Steeplechase Pictures on cover and page 21

By Bert Nelson

Any Hollywood scripter who wrote the story of a virtually unknown 17th ranked American FBI agent beating a world record holding Red out of Russia's best hopes for a gold medal would be laughed out of the business. Yet this stranger than fiction history was made as Horace Ashenfelter defeated Vladimir Kazantsev to win the United State's first gold medal since 1908 at any distance further than 800 meters.

Kazantsev was THE big name of modern day steeple-chasing. Running phenomenally well he had blasted steeple-chasing out of the nine minute plus class and eventually lowered his time for the 3000 meters to 8:48.6.

Ashenfelter, on the other hand, had run barely half a dozen steeplechases, and only one of them well. That was his win in the final trials when he appeared close to all out in clocking 9:06.4, an American record, but far from Kazantsev's time.

Throw in 15 other performers with better times than Ashenfelter's and the long shot position which was his can be readily appreciated.

If there was any one in the world who believed he stood any sort of a chance it was "Nip" Ashenfelter himself. He had withdrawn from the 10,000 meters only to see friends Curt Stone and Fred Wilt, rated America's two best ever distance men, do no better than 20th. And he had seen all three Americans do very poorly in the 5000m.

That left the salvaging of America's already meager distance reputation squarely in the hands of Ashenfelter. When told that, Nip would only say "I'll try". But he knew that his 8:51.4 indoor two-mile times compared favorably with anyone in the race, and that he had improved considerably in his steeplechasing technique, largely through the help of Jindrich Roudny, the Czech European champ. He refused to count himself out of the money.

Kazantsev impressed in winning the first of three heats. The long haired, thin faced hurdle expert eased off after a fast pace (1000m in 2:49, 1500m in 4:20.8 and 2000m in 5:50) but still broke the Olympic record with his 8:58.0 clocking. Roudny was the number one casualty, his late challenge just missing the fourth spot even though his time equalled Ashenfelter's American record.

Britain's John Disley and Finland's hope, Olavi Rinteenpaa nearly deadheaded in the second heat after a fast last 1000m with Germany's 8:50.0 star, Helmut Gude, unimpressive although he rushed up from fifth on the last lap to qualify. Intermediate times were 2:55 and 4:29 by Gude and 5:57 by Disley.

Bill Ashenfelter, the tall younger brother of Nip, failed to finish the first heat and veteran Olympian Browning Ross was a poor last in the second. But America's great moment was yet to come.

Going to the front early, Ash set and held a fast pace. He met the challenge of Russia's number two ace, Mikhail Saltykov (8:57.6), and clocked 2:50.4, 4:20 and 5:49. So at the two-thirds mark he was a second ahead of Kazantsev's new Olympic record and running strongly.

Unaware of his fast pace--no lap times are given and the lap is well over 400 meters anyway--Ash had no idea he was heading for a new record. But he felt full of run and even though untested came home strongly with a brilliant 8:51.0, third greatest ever.

Eight of the 12 qualifiers were under Iso-Hollo's



to R, McMillen, Barthel, El Mabrouk, Lueg (Bannister hidden)

old Olympic mark of 9:03.8 and the slowest managed 9:06.0. So the final two days later was a cinch to be the greatest steeplechase of all times. Despite the ease of Ashenfelter's performance the Russian was still rated the favorite with Disley given as much chance as Ashenfelter.

Rinteenpaa went to the front at the gun with Ashenfelter last, but at the end of the first lap (67.1) Saltykov had taken over his familiar pace setting role and Nip had moved to fourth with Kazantsev fifth. For another lap (2:20.5) the order remained virtually the same.

Then, just before the water jump on the third lap--about 50 meters from the starting mark--Nip went ahead, dragging Kazantsev with him. They crossed the mark in 3:55 with Rinteenpaa third, Saltykov fourth, and Curt Soderberg of Sweden fifth. Disley was last at this point, and Gude next to last.

By four laps Nip's burning pace had begun to tell and the two aces had opened up a five yard gap on the Finn with open air showing all the way along the line.

Around they went, the guant, 140 pound Ashenfelter and his red-shirted rival both taking the hurdles and jumps cleanly, neither losing nor gaining on each other. Kazantsev sometimes ran alongside Ash, sometimes just behind, but never did he give ground.

The 6:04 fifth lap clocking saw the American-Russian lead widened to six yards over Rinteenpaa with Soderberg and Saltykov hanging on and Germany's Gunther Hesselman and Disley moving up. Disley's belated move carried him from seventh to third at the end of six rounds, (7:20) but he had a 20 yard deficit on the flying Ashenfelter and the latter's relentless pursuer.

Pace-setter Saltykov had hit the 1000m mark in 2:49.8 and Nip had poured it on for 5:47.4 at 2000m, faster even than his Olympic record. The rest of the field appeared beaten, but Kazantsev was running strongly and there were many who felt he was only biding his time, toying with Ash.

America's hopes were lifted just after the bell when Kazantsev made his first mistake. The Russian stumbled coming off the hurdle and for an instant he was in trouble. But he recovered nicely and quickly and in a few strides was alongside Ash again.

Now on the last backstretch, the pair still enjoyed a huge yard lead over Disley, but for the first time both showed signs of distress from the unheard of pace. Still both were fighting and picking up the pace.

Then it was that Kazantsev made his big move, swinging past Nip and taking the lead just before the curve. It looked like the beginning of the end for the game American who wasn't supposed to be up there in the first place. All the experts knew that Ashenfelter had no kick, that if he couldn't run his rivals into the ground before the last lap he was doomed. And here was the greatest of all time starting to run away from him with a half lap to go.

Ash knew something the experts did not, and as they approached the water jump, just past the middle of the last curve, and on the outside of the track, Nip swung wide. Kazantsev went over cleanly with Nip splashing just short of dry earth about four feet behind his opponent.

Driving out of the water with a tremendous burst, Ashenfelter exploded past the startled Russian. The latter could be expected to rally and fight home, but in 25 yards it was all over. Ash's lead had increased to four or five yards in that incredibly short distance and Kazantsev was licked. Without challenging further he threw in the sponge and came home wearily.

Sensing victory, Ash eased off the quick sprint--no man could sustain that explosion for long--and took the last hurdle cautiously. Once on safe ground Nip strode home, no need for a last, dying sprint. He received a tremendous hand from the Finns who lose no love on their aggressive neighbor.

Meanwhile, Disley, who is bothered by insomnia but who slept well the night before, was closing with a rush on the beaten Kazantsev. The 22-year-old schoolmaster had started too late, though, and missed second by a yard. There was a terrific battle for fourth among the four who had pursued the two leaders all the way. Finland got one of its big thrills when Rinteenpaa grabbed the fourth with Soderberg and Hesselman shutting Saltykov out of the money.

The times were phenomenal. Ashenfelter's 8:45.4, helped by a 68.6 last lap, was more than three seconds faster than Kazantsev's best on record in this event for which there is no recognized world record. The seventh man ran 8:56.2 with the eighth man, the disappointing Gude, also under the former Olympic record.

Before the Olympics only Kazantsev and Gude had broken 8:57. In this one race no less than seven men bettered that figure. It was, of course, a new national

Continued on page 21

Women

By Fulvio Regli

(FR) - Anglo-Saxon girls again dominated in the sprint and hurdle races, as well as in the jumping events, while the powerful Russians easily annexed two of the three throwing event titles. Australia's Marjorie Jackson turned out to be the new "Blankers Koen", but was unlucky enough to drop the baton in a curious manner in the decisive stage of the sprint relay. This eventually opened the way for the U.S. foursome, comprising three little, quick striding negro girls and clever Jones. This gold medal, quite unexpected, was accompanied by a new world record of 45.9.

Pretty Shirley Strickland de la Hunty of Australia set new records in the 80m hurdles (a wind assisted 10.8 in the semi-final and a legitimate 10.9 in the final). An insatiable medal collector was famous, 5'11" all-round Aleksandra Chudina of USSR - second in the broad jump to the incredible Yvete Williams of New Zealand, second in the javelin and third in the high jump. 34-year-old Esther Brand of South Africa, a cat-like jumper who did 5'5"1/8 back in 1941 under the name of miss van Heerden, saved the reputation of the older generation, creating a new Olympic high jump record. Blankers-Koen was seriously ill and never looked like the great champ she is. Dum-

3000 Meter Steeplechase

(continued from page 7)

record for the United States, as well as for Great Britain, Finland, Sweden, and Turkey.

Once again Ashenfelter did not know how fast he was going. "There weren't any times" he said, "and besides, in a race like this you can't run by the clock. I just felt good and went out and ran."

"What did I think when Kazantsev passed me? I knew I had something left and decided to give it a try coming off the jump."

No sooner had Ash put on his sweat suit than he was seen headed across the field and under the stands. Soon he appeared in the stands, coming up the aisle to where his wife, Lillian, was sitting as a member of the Track and Field News Olympic Tour. The new champ received a big hug, gave his wife a kiss which was later described as "very salty", and then dashed down to the victory stand.

Soon he was back in the stands again, presenting his medal and bouquet of carnations to Lillian, and receiving the heartfelt congratulations from the American contingent, most of whom had just received their biggest thrill of the Games.

It was the 29-year-old's eighth steeplechase but only his second in fast company. He was fifth in the 1950 AAU, second in 1951, and 1952 and won the final trials. He had also competed in a pair of unimportant two-mile steeplechases.

For the quiet, modest father of two boys it was the climax to a late starting career. Ash did a little running in the air corps, then entered Penn State College after the war, graduating in 1949. There he came under the tutelage of ace distance coach Chic Werner, one of the three assistant Olympic coaches. Following graduation and despite marriage and a hard job, Nip continued to improve, but saved his blossoming into greatness for the right moment.

- HEATS (three heats, four qualify). July 23rd.
- I- 1, Kazantsev, USSR. (8:58.0); 2, Hesselmann, Ger. (9:05.0); 3, Karlsson, Swe. (9:05.4); 4, Onel, Tur. (9:06.0); 5, Roudny, Czech. (9:06.4); 6, Lusenius, Fin. (9:26.8); 7, Johnson, GB (9:27.0); 8, Stritoff, Jug. (9:28.0); 9, Firea, Rom. (9:29.2); 10, Sola, Chi. (9:32.2); 11, Prat, Fra. (9:32.8); 12, Mann, Ind. (9:48.6).
 - II- 1, Disley, GB (8:59.4); 2, Rinteenpaa, Fin. (8:59.4); 3, Apro, Hung. (9:00.4); 4, Gude, Ger. (9:04.2); 5, Marulin, USSR (9:08.4); 6, Baghbanbachi, Iran. (9:13.2); 7, Kielas, Pol. (9:15.4); 8, Lebrun, Fra. (9:17.8); 9, Takahashi, Jap. (9:21.6); 10, Kjuraskovie, Jug. (9:23.2); 11, Nilsson, Swe. (9:25.0); 12, Ross, USA, (9:44.0).
 - III- 1, Ashenfelter, USA (8:51.0); 2, Saltykov, USSR. (8:55.8); 3, Soderberg, Swe. (9:02.4); 4, Brasher, GB (9:03.2); 5, Julin, Fin. (9:09.4); 6, Jezzenszki, Hung. (9:11.2); 7, Paris, Fra. (9:30.0); 8, Schoonjans, Bel. (9:30.6); 9, Segedin, Jug. (9:40.2).

- FINAL July 25th.
- 1, HORACE ASHENFELTER, USA 8:45.4
 - 2, VLADIMIR KAZANTSEV, USSR 8:51.6
 - 3, JOHN DISLEY, GREAT BRITAIN 8:51.8
 - 4, OLAVI RINTEENPAA, FINLAND 8:55.2
 - 5, CURT SODERBERG, SWEDEN 8:55.6
 - 6, GUNTHER HESSELMAN, GERMANY 8:55.8
 - 7, MIKHAIL SALTUKOV, USSR 8:56.2
 - 8, HELMUT GUDE, GERMANY 9:01.4
 - 9, JOZSEF APRO, HUNGARY 9:04.2
 - 10, CAHIT ONEL, TURKEY 9:04.4
 - 11, CHRISTOPHER BRASHER, GREAT BRITAIN 9:14.0
 - 12, KARL KARLSSON, SWEDEN 10:26.4

badze of Russia was only third in the discus. In the shot put two non specialists, javelin thrower Zybina of USSR and discus thrower Werner of Germany, grabbed first and second. Emil Zatopek's wife, Dana Zatopkova broke USSR domination in the throwing events, winning the javelin with one great effort. This was only a few hours after Emil's victory in the fantastic 5000m - two gold medals in the same family in one day: another Helsinki record!

American girls showed insufficient experience in the sprints. Hardy was eliminated in the quarter finals with 12.1, after doing 11.9 in a heat; Faggs ran against Hasenjager (South Africa) and Cripps (Australia) and was eliminated, though running 24.4; Dwyer ran almost the entire 100m distance, despite a false start and consequent recall. Five minutes later, in the race proper, she had nothing left. Mabel Landry, a shy 19-year-old student, broad jumped 19'3"1/2 - best ever by an American - in the qualifying round, but finished unplaced in the afternoon final, despite a good 18'10"3/8. The broadjump, won by Williams of New Zealand with a mark only 3/8" short of the world record, saw no less than nine national records broken!

SUMMARIES: 100m- 1.Jackson (Australia) 11.5; 2.Hasenjager (South Africa) 11.8; 3.Strickland (Australia) 11.9 (Faggs-USA- sixth in 12.1); 200m- 1.Jackson 23.7; 2.Brouwer (Holland) 24.2; 3.Khnykina (USSR) 24.2; 80mH 1.Strickland (Australia) 10.9; 2.Golubishnaya (USSR) 11.1; 3.Sander (Germany) 11.1; HJ 1.Brand (South Africa) 5'5"3/4; 2.Lerwill (GB) 5'5"; 3.Chudina (USSR) 5'4"1/8; BJ- 1.Williams (NZ) 20'5"3/4; 2.Chudina (USSR) 20'1"3/4; 3.Cawley (GB) 19'5"1/8; SP- 1.Zybina (USSR) 50'1"1/2; 2.Werner (Germany) 47'9"5/8; 3.Tochenova (USSR) 47'6"3/4; DT- 1.Romashkova (USSR) 168'8"3/8; 2.Bagryantseva (USSR) 154'5"1/2; 3.Dumbadze (USSR) 151'9"1/4; JT- 1.Zatopkova (CSR) 165'7"; 2.Chudina (USSR) 164' "7/8; 3.Gorchakova (USSR) 163'3"; 4x100m Relay- 1.US (Faggs, Jones, Moreau, Hardy) 45.9; 2.Germany 45.9; 3.Great Britain 46.2; 4.USSR 46.3; 5.Australia 46.6.

FASTEST 10,000 METER RUNNERS

29:02.6	Zatopek, Czech	8/4/50	30:05.5	Salminen, Fin	7/18/37
29:27.2	Heino, Finland	9/1/51	30:06.1	Nurmi, Fin	8/31/24
29:31.4n	Anoufrieu, USSR	6/28/52	30:06.6	Syring, Germ	7/13/40
29:32.8n	Mimoun, France	7/20/52	30:07.0	Semyonov, USSR	9/23/50
29:42.2	Schade, Ger.	9/29/51	30:07.6	Tuominen, Fin	8/6/39
29:46.0	Albertsson, Sw	10/14/51	30:09.4	Szilagyi, Hun	10/14/42
29:50.0	Popov, USSR		30:09.5n	Pirte, GB	7/20/52
29:51.4n	Posti, Finland	7/20/52	30:09.6n	Vanin, USSR	9/23/50
29:51.8n	Sando, GB	7/20/52	30:10.0	Koskela, Fin	7/24/51
29:52.6	Maki, Finland	9/17/39	30:10.0n	Karlsson, Swe	7/24/51
29:54.8n	Nystrom, Swe.	7/20/52	30:10.0	Mihalic, Yugo	52
29:55.0	Stokken, Norway	8/12/51			



Ashenfelter leads over early jump, followed by Kazantsev Saltykov, Rinteenpaa, Hesselman (head over R's left shoulder Apro(head over R's head), a Swede, Onel, Gude, Disley, Brasher.

Penn State

Alumni News



Ashenfelter's Victory Leap

SEPTEMBER 25, 1952



Ashenfelter Pulls Surprise Victory in Olympic Games

Breaks Steeplechase Record;
Edges Favored Russian Ace

FBI Agent Horace Ashenfelter '49 holds the Olympic record and gold medal for the steeplechase . . . an event no American was expected to win.

The Penn Stater beat out Vladimir Kazantsev of Russia in a terrific last lap battle. His time of 8:45.8 is the fastest the 3,000 meter steeplechase has ever been run.

Ashenfelter had run the steeplechase, which is a European specialty, only a half dozen times in his life. His distance is the 10,000 meter run. But Penn State Coach Chick Werner, an Olympic coach, felt that Horace's chances in the steeplechase would be greatly improved if he concentrated on that event. Ashenfelter agreed.

In the meantime, the G-man was learning all he could about the steeplechase from foreign entries. He watched them closely in practice and determined that the race was won and lost on the water jump. "I think," he confided to Werner, "that I can beat most of the fellows on the flat. If I can lick the water jump, I might be able to win the event."

He set out to perfect the mastery of this hazard. This meant long, hard hours of work. But it paid off.

The water jump was the key to the whole race. Where most steeplechasers did the jump laboriously, many times sloshing into the water mid-way across, Ashenfelter learned to place his right or left foot on the barrier in full stride and land on the shallow end of the pool with his other foot and continue in full stride.

In the time-trials in the preliminaries, Horace ran as Werner had suggested . . . staying behind the pack at the outset, moving up as the opportunity came, and going all out as he approached the critical water jump. When he went over the water jump without losing a stride, it was plain his preparation was complete.

His time of 8:51 in the prelims set a new Olympic record, and estab-



HORACE ASHENFELTER crosses the finish line in the Olympic Steeplechase race as an official clocks his record time of 8:45.8.

lished him as the one threat to Kazantsev in the finals. It was then that Werner privately began to entertain hopes of an Olympic champion—the first individual gold medal winner in Penn State history.

Werner and Ashenfelter thought hard and long about the best strategy to pursue in the finals. They decided the same strategy used in the qualifying run would pay off, and Horace adhered to it to the letter.

He fell back from the pack at the start, moving up slowly, then bursting into the lead. Kazantsev stayed on his heels, breathing down his neck most of the way.

While the race was being run, a London sports writer, standing behind Werner, suggested that the Rus-

sian might worry Ashenfelter to death.

"He's worrying him all the time he's on his shoulder," the scribe suggested. "Yes," Werner agreed, "you're right. But don't forget that the strategy requires Kazantsev to run wide, and therefore farther than Ashenfelter."

Ashenfelter decided, on his own volition to fall back and let Kazantsev take the lead going into the last lap. It worked like a charm. The Russian rushed out in front and approached the climactic water jump with a slim lead. But, when Kazantsev faltered on the jump, Horace took it cleanly, never lost a stride, and poured it on down the stretch, for the 8:45 record. When Kazantsev got through the water he was five meters behind and

he lost 25 meters more in the final spurt.

Ashenfelter, besieged by reporters, photographers and movie cameramen, ran to the dressing room just long enough to catch his breath and exchange a few congratulatory words with Werner.

He then returned to the track and lapped it once before ascending the podium for his gold medal. He got something a little extra when a Finnish lass thrust a huge mound of flowers into his arms. The crowd then demanded that he kiss the girl.

The ritual ended, Horace rushed into the stands and raced to the side of his wife, who was sitting high in the stadium. Mrs. Ashenfelter received the flowers from him.

"No one could understand how he would have the strength to go up those steps after the tremendous job he had done on the track," Werner said. "The Finns were flabbergasted."

"But what they didn't know," the mentor adds, "is that Ash has been doing things like that all his life."

Two other Penn Staters competed in the Olympics. Curt Stone placed 20th in the 10,000 meter run, while Bill Ashenfelter, brother of Horace, competed also in the steeplechase.

Lions Lead in Wins Over 6 of 10 Grid Opponents

PENN STATE claims an edge in all-time competition on six of the ten opponents it will meet on the football field this fall. The bulge is sizeable in only two instances.

Temple, the opening game opponent, and West Virginia both trail the Nittany Lions by a wide margin. There have been only single games with Purdue and William & Mary, three with Rutgers and four with Nebraska.

Pennsylvania and Pitt, the two oldest opponents, each owns a top-heavy advantage in the all-time series.

The all-time chart:

Opponent	First Game	Penn State Record		
		W.	L.	T.
Temple	1931	8	3	1
Purdue	1951	0	1	0
William & Mary	1922	1	0	0
West Virginia	1904	13	4	1
Nebraska	1920	3	1	0
Michigan State	1914	1	5	1
Penn	1890	12	24	4
Syracuse	1922	13	11	5
Rutgers	1918	2	1	0
Pitt	1893	19	30	2

4 Nittany Squads, 6 Athletes Win Titles in 1951-52

FOUR championship teams plus a sextet of individual titlists established the 1951-52 sports season as one of the best in a decade at Penn State.

Cross-country showed the way by repeating its team victory of the year before in IC-4A competition, while Charlie Speidel's wrestlers also repeated in the annual Eastern tournament. The basketball team's 20-and-4 season record also won it a berth in the NCAA play-offs.

In baseball, Joe Bedenk's Nittany Lion nine went to the "College World Series" for the first time by topping St. John's, Fordham and Villanova in the District Two play-off. The Lion batsmen finished third in an eight-team field at Omaha, Neb.

Wrestling led the way in individual titles when Joe Lemyre won Eastern and National collegiate honors as his brother, Dick, and Bob Homan won Eastern titles.

John Albarano and Captain-elect Sam Marino were the title-winners in Eastern boxing competition. Jean Cronstedt, Finnish-born freshman, won horizontal bar and all-around titles in the Eastern gymnastic championships, then took calisthenics honors in National AAU competition.

Gets Lacrosse Award

Penn State's 123-pound midfielder, Harold (Bud) Wolfram, has been named winner of the George R. Pittenger Memorial Award established five years ago by lacrosse players in memory of an alumnus who lost his life in the war.

Wolfram, who learned the rudiments of the sport at Baltimore Poly, was acclaimed the team's most valuable player by a selection committee headed by Nick Thiel, Lion coach.

Thiel praised the Maryland youth for his courage, enthusiasm and "ability to excite his teammates to greater effort." Wolfram was graduated in June.



The three best of 3,000 meters steeplechase. Left to right, KAZANTSEV, USSR, second place; ASHENFELTER, USA, first, and DISLEY, Great Britain, third.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 6, 1952

Mr. Horace Ashenfelter, III
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Ashenfelter:

I thought you may be interested in knowing that I have received most favorable comments from Mr. J. Raymond Ylitalo, Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Security and Consular Affairs of the Department of State, regarding your exemplary conduct while participating in the Olympic Games at Helsinki, Finland.

It always pleases me very much to know that agents of the Bureau, no matter what the occasion, maintain the high standards of behavior which continue to enhance the reputation of the FBI, and I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate your contributions in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 2, 1953

Mr. Horace Ashenfelter, III
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Ashenfelter:

I have received with the greatest pleasure the news that you are to be awarded the James E. Sullivan Memorial Trophy for your outstanding contributions in the field of athletics.

I wish to extend to you my personal congratulations for this latest tribute to your ability and sportsmanship. I realize that the Sullivan trophy is one of the most coveted in athletics, and the choice of you as recipient is an honor to the Bureau as well as to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 12, 1954

Personal and Confidential

*Mr. Horace Ashenfelter III
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Newark, New Jersey*

Dear Mr. Ashenfelter:

I have noted with pleasure that you have recently been voted the New York Track Writers' Association Trophy for having done the most outstanding work during the past winter season.

I do not want this opportunity to pass without expressing to you my personal and sincere congratulations upon this recognition of your great contribution to the world of sports.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Wilt, the Technique Man

by Joe Henderson

It's a hobby--nothing more, Fred Wilt quickly assures anyone who's led to believe he spends at least every waking moment immersed in the theoretical details of track and field techniques. This is the Fred Wilt who has spent most of his 48 years studying the hows and whys behind top performances; the man who in the last decade has produced a stream of the most influential technical literature in the track world--"How They Train", "Track Technique" and "Run Run Run"; the coach who "advised" (his word) Buddy Edelen when Edelen was the fastest marathoner the world had known.

But, Fred repeats with emphasis, track is strictly a spare-time thing. He's an FBI agent, and that's where his overriding loyalty lies. He doesn't depend on either editing or coaching to sustain him. "About 22 years ago, I made a decision not to become a coach. In fact, speaking strictly for myself, I am certain I am happier taking my track and field strictly as a pleasant hobby during spare time. I do not feel any obligation at all to 'get more done' or for that matter get anything done. The books I have written, and the honorary position of editing Track Technique, just somehow happened. I rather fell into these ventures, and I therefore have no particular obligation or goal in track and field."

Wilt's association with track, however, isn't quite as casual as his description. With the obvious demands of his work and family (he has a wife and three daughters) life, the "spare time" he talks about is at best scarce. Yet the volume of work he turns out on track technique, and the tone of his writings, indicate he's a hard-driving, energetic personality who doesn't enter anything with half a heart. From all appearances, he hunts down obscure facts about New Zealand distance training (or Russian high jumping, or Hungarian hammer throwing) with the same diligence he uses to track down a suspected lawbreaker.

His passion for technical knowledge sprang up the moment he started his 20-year racing career. Fred wrote in introducing "How They Train": "As a 14-year-old freshman in a small Indiana high school, I was the only miler on the track team. Track training knowledge was unknown to my coach and others in the area. Each race was a bitter experience in terms of exhaustion, and I suffered many infuriating defeats at the hands of athletes from larger schools who had the benefit of better coaching and more thorough workout programs. I consulted what literature I could find on the subject of training but found nothing specific which I could actually use."

So began Wilt's unbroken search for information. Collecting bits and pieces of theory from a thousand sources, and using himself as his guinea pig, he developed some solid training ideas of his own. He also developed himself into one of the top all-around distance racers this country had seen. Highlights of that career: Olympic team membership in 1948 and 52; American records at 3000-, 5000-, and 10,000-meters plus two-miles; a world indoor mark for the two-mile; nine AAU championships and two in the NCAA.

"My own 20 years of competitive racing have been a beneficial experience in many ways," he said. "As an athlete, I visited Europe on seven different tours and always sought to get acquainted with the national coaches of the various countries I visited. Through the sport, I have enjoyed many pleasant associations which probably would not have been otherwise available to me. It is thus fitting that I should attempt to make some tangible contribution to the sport in token appreciation. My attempted contribution is an effort to disseminate training knowledge."

His first big effort in that line was "How They Train", a collection of training data on past, present and future leaders from the half-mile up. The Track & Field News-produced book was an instant hit when it came out in 1959. Ten years and five printings later, "How They Train" still ranks among T&FN's three best-selling books of all-time. Another Wilt effort, his 1964 "Run Run Run", also is in that top group, trailing only "The Jim Ryun Story" in sales. Track Technique, which Fred has edited since 1960, now has a quarterly circulation of over 2000 and is in big demand for single copy sales.

But money-making aspects of his editorial works are secondary to their influence: "To my way of thinking," Wilt said, "knowledge which is kept secret is useless." If nothing else, he doesn't keep secrets. His publications look at the sport from all angles, presenting varying opinions in depth that was never approached prior to 1959. "The main factor behind the tremendous upsurge of running interest and quality during the last 10 years is better coaching. Specifically, our high school coaching is now better than ever before. Most everyone knows how to train properly. Better informed coaches result directly from better communications now. Anyone interested can purchase good books on training and get the latest technical info simply through Track Technique and similar publications. The US will never be behind the world on training knowledge in the future."

Fred isn't one to sit still for long. He's a doer, not just a thinker and a preacher. He has been heavily involved as a lecturer-participant in the "learn-by-doing" coaching courses of England and Canada, performing the events as well as teaching them. Almost any night, sometimes as late as 10:00 p.m., he can be seen running near his Lafayette, Ind., home. His routine more closely resembles that of a decathlete than a middle-aged distance man. "I am NOT a jogger," he says emphatically. "I am still a runner. I am so pressed for time that I cannot run as much as I prefer. Therefore, to keep in the best possible condition, I start out jogging 110-yards, then run fast for 220 ('fast' is about



Twenty years ago, FRED WILT (center) was winning races. Now he's advising other on how to do it by producing a mass of technical literature. Wilt, who now edits Track Technique in his spare time, is shown here with two leading US runners of his day, HORACE ASHENFELTER (left) and CURT STONE.

35-40 seconds), jog 110, etc., for 2½ miles. I also do about five minutes of weight training with a 100-lb. barbell two or three times each week. Either before or after I run, I do 50 to 100 turns with a 12-lb. hammer. If I am taking the workout in daylight, I usually take 10 hammer throws. My best is around 150-feet. On weekends, and some weekday evenings in summer, I take 40 discus throws, 20 puts with an 8-lb. shot, and some javelin throwing. In summer I vault a little, do easy triple jumps and a bit of high jumping." Whew.

A few years ago, Wilt in Indiana was helping Bud Edelen in England prepare for marathons. They made quite a combination, though Wilt tends to play down his role. Within a year of his first 26-miler, helped along by frequent and lengthy correspondence from his advisor, Edelen improved to 2:14:28--the fastest in the world at that time (1963), and still an American best. Then Bud's progress was cut short by a leg injury. "I may have helped Buddy a bit," Fred says, "but my help to him was more in regard to other issues than actual training. I have given him schedules, etc. But this business of coaching by correspondence is something which I do not like to do. I avoid it. Edelen is the only one whom I could say I actually associated with over a long period of time in an 'advisory' capacity. I coached a season in high school in South Carolina, and at both the University of Tennessee and Indiana University while attending those institutions. However, I do not hold myself out to be a coach."

He may not be a coach, or call himself one, but Fred Wilt is no doubt one of the strongest supporters they have. He said flatly, "I like to think there are no bad coaches. They are all terrific." In a passionate defense of this country's coaching system, he proclaimed, "Coaches make track and field in America. Make no mistake about that. I do not like to hear people criticize coaches, because the very life-blood of the sport is the coaches themselves. The day is long-past when track and field can and will thrive and prosper in the hands of volunteers. The future of the sport lies in the hands of the paid, professional coaches in America. To all would-be critics of coaches, I say I will have no part of it. American coaches are directly responsible for making America the greatest track and field nation the world has ever known, and I salute them and give them every respect and honor for their great work."

Still, Wilt feels track has "only scratched the surface" in this country, that much more can and will be done in the future. He says the key is the development of a powerful club system, preferably supported by industries which provide facilities and equipment, hire professional coaches and pay expenses. "When (or if) this happens, we will be giving the non-collegiate working man (and woman) more opportunity to play the game. The records will tumble."

Meanwhile, Wilt keeps digging into the area behind the records, searching for clues on how they happened and how they can be improved. Recently he has collaborated with Tom Ecker to produce two new books, "Illustrated Guide to Olympic Track and Field Techniques" and the soon-to-be-published "International Track and Field Coaching Encyclopaedia". Fred now is busy revising "How They Train" and hopes to put out a similar manual on the field events.

All this in his spare time? That's what he says. Next year he's eligible for FBI retirement, and who knows what might happen if he decides to turn full energy and attention to the sport?

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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS 1977



Horace Ashenfelter III '49, '55g

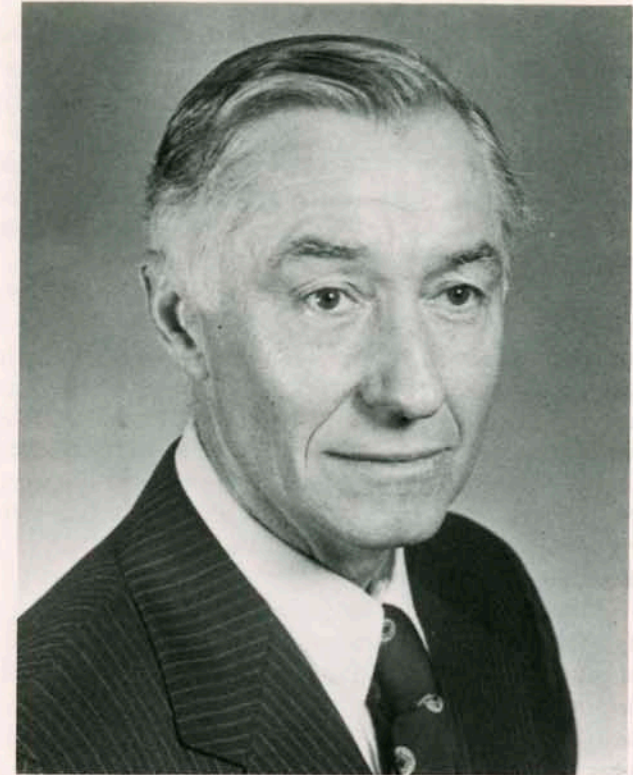
Horace Ashenfelter is an Olympian who has chased runners, planes, crooks, and medals, all with a degree of success that evokes superlatives. His most recent recognition was being named in 1975 to the U.S. National Track and Field Hall of Fame and to the Road Runners Club of America Hall of Fame of American Distance Running. A year earlier he had been selected by the NCAA as one of fourteen finalists for its Silver Anniversary Award honoring former student-athletes who have had distinguished careers following graduation.

Ashenfelter captained Penn State's track and cross country teams, made All-American five times in combined sports, and earned twelve AAU championships. But it was in the Olympics that he skyrocketed to international acclaim, upsetting the Russian favorite to set a world record and win the gold medal in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 1952 Helsinki Games, giving the U.S. its first distance crown in forty-four years. That same year he was selected over nine other Olympic champions for the coveted James E. Sullivan Award as the Outstanding Amateur Athlete in the United States.

By then he had graduated from Penn State and was an FBI agent, operating in Washington, Boston, and Newark until 1959, when he became sales manager for Engelhard Industries' refining division. Today he is president of Platina Refining Laboratories, Inc., which he co-founded in 1972 to refine precious metals for chemical, pharmaceutical, and other highly specialized and technical applications.

Ashenfelter started running on a dirt lane on his dad's Montgomery County farm and later took to the air as a World War II fighter pilot before returning to Penn State, where he had studied horticulture for two years. Switching to physical education, with some aerospace studies on the side, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in 1949 and 1955.

Active in the community, Ashenfelter is the founder of the Glen Ridge, New Jersey, Athletic Association, an officer in several civic organizations, and a life member of the New York Athletic Club. A member of the Penn State Alumni Council and past president of the Northern New Jersey Alumni Club, he is one of a long line of Penn Staters: the son of Horace Jr. '12; the brother of Donald '51, Martha Jane '51, and William '52; and the father of John '79. His other three sons are Yale, Colgate, and Kent State graduates.



CITATION

To Horace Ashenfelter III, Olympic gold medalist, for gaining national and international acclaim for his achievements both on and off the cinder track; for encouraging youth to excel in the athletic arena; and for his loyal service to his alma mater.

Maryland's Neal Olkewicz (47) and his teammates stack up Minnesota fullback Kent Kitzman on the goal line during first quarter of Hall of Fame game last night. Minnesota scored a touchdown on the next play, but Terps won, 17-7.

Associated Press

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Ashenfelter Recalls His Days of Glory

There was a Cold War going on at the time and so it was logical that newspapers around America would take to writing headlines that said "FBI Man Runs Down Russian."

This was not a script line out of a made-for-television special. This was not the creation of a chiller-diller writer whose imagination had taken off in interesting directions.

It really and truly did happen. The FBI man was Horace Ashenfelter of Glen Ridge, N.J. The Russian was Vladimir Kazantsev. They were the principals in the 3,000-meter steeplechase final of the 1952 Olympics at Helsinki.

Ashenfelter was last at the start, seventh on the second lap, second on the third lap, first by the fourth lap, with Kazantsev dogging his every stride. They stayed that way until the final barrier.

The Russian momentarily surged ahead. The FBI man stayed unruffled. The Russian stumbled slightly coming down off the last three-foot wooden obstacle. The FBI man ran right past him and went on to win by 30 yards in the world and Olympic record time of 8:45.4.

No American had won a distance race in the Olympics since marathoner Johnny Hayes in 1908. No American had ever won the 3,000-meter steeplechase race in the Olympics. No American has won it since.

HAVE 25-PLUS YEARS REALLY flown by since the FBI man flew past the Russian? Has Horace Ashenfelter ever come down to earth since climbing the heights of Mt. Olympus? Is Horace Ashenfelter alive and well and living in New Jersey today?

The answer to all three questions is yes. Horace Ashenfelter, the living legend himself, visited Buck Smith's Restaurant, East Keansburg, Middletown Township, Sunday night, to address the 12th annual banquet of the Shore Athletic Club.

The invitation was not originally intended as a quarter-century anniversary salute to the man's epic accomplishment. It just turned out that way.

"I've taken something out of this sport over the years," was the explanation for his presence. "Now I want to put something back."

ASHENFELTER PAINTED a simplistic rationale for his beginnings in the sport in the early post-World War II years.

"This was at Penn State and there was a bad housing shortage. The only quarters available had very limited facilities.

"I heard that they were offering free lockers and showers to the people on the cross-country team.

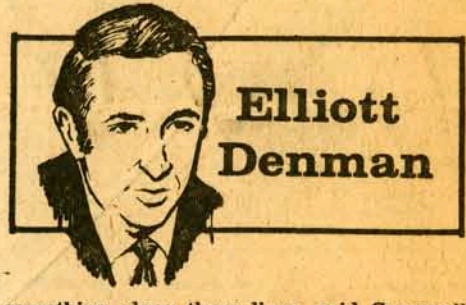
"I asked Coach Chic Werner if I could go out for the team. He asked 'Can you run two miles?' I said I could. He told me 'you just made the team.'"

BY 1952, ASHENFELTER was a familiar figure on the domestic indoor and outdoor circuits, dueling it out with such contemporaries as Fred Wilt, Browning Ross, Curtis Stone and Charley Capozzoli with gold medal distinction.

But he ranked as an international unknown before Helsinki.

Even Southern California Coach Dean Cromwell, considered the most learned man of his day in the sport, refused to give Ashenfelter a shot at winning.

"No chance," said Cromwell before the opening ceremonies. "Still no chance," said Cromwell after Ashenfelter won his trial heat in Olympic record time. "Unbelievable," or



something along those lines, said Cromwell after Ashenfelter won.

ASHENFELTER MADE A SECOND U.S. Olympic team in 1956 but didn't come close to winning this time around. He faded out of the competitive picture in the years thereafter, became an ex-FBI man to venture into the business world, sired a family of swimmers and runners and interested citizens, and has kept close tabs on athletic developments all this while.

Once "lean and mean," he's still not far from that description at 155 pounds. He's an advocate of "natural foods, no fads," "quality training instead of quantity" as the route away from mental stagnation, and "everything in moderation" but nicotine.

He'd like to see his sport steer clear of professionalism, commercialism, giantism and any other "ism" that could do it in.

PAYMENTS TO TRACK ATHLETES so they could maintain themselves through the alleged economic rigors of making the U.S. Olympic team? "Sheer nonsense," says Ashenfelter.

"We don't have to support those clowns. Are you kidding?"

Government involvement in Olympic sport, the better to challenge the Soviet Union and East Germany? "Never. Let's do it our way. And let them do it their way. Who cares?"

The NCAA? "They're power-mad. They react when they see dollar signs."

The AAU and the Olympic Committee? "They're not too competent, either. They've all made a mess of it.

"I'd like to see a guy like Fred Wilt (recently retired from the FBI and now on the Canadian national coaching staff) in charge of our whole program."

HE'S AS MUCH IN AWE of progress in the sport these days as anyone.

His old Olympic steeplechase record would have left him coming around the last bend while Anders Garderud of Sweden crossed the finish line at Montreal last year. He was considered "a distance runner." Now he'd be a "middle distance man." The speediest 440 of his life was 53.8. World-class middle distance men can now produce 47 or 48-second laps.

But some things never change, either. Running is still uncluttered with excess equipment requirements.

"All you need is shoes, a jock, and britches.

"Girls out there excuse me for that. I think you've added about three new dimensions to the sport."

And humans in sweat suits running through the public parks are still considered proper targets for hecklers.

Horace "Antique" Ashenfelter, clad in a sweat suit, "the last one I stole from Penn State," was working out in Bloomfield a recent evening when spotted by a young man who fancied himself as a humorist.

"Hey pop," he said. "Keep that up 20 more times and you'll make the Olympic team."

"THOUGHTS ON WINNING, LOSING AND OLYMPIC SPORTSMANSHIP"

Participation has always been the most important aspect of the Olympic Games, but it is interesting to note that once again, as in the ancient games, "to the victor belongs the spoils," is the theme.

To me the games were the ultimate opportunity to test ones capabilities against the best of the amateur world. Since there was very little in the way of professional track at that time, this literally meant -- the rest of the competing world. Unfortunately the prevailing thought of putting a price on every effort seems to have gained a strong following in sport. The market value of gifted, or even persistent athletes, in todays dollar (or mark, ruble, yen) oriented world has corrupted amateur sport in many ways. Amateur sport as I remember it was for the sheer fun of the sport. This meant the training, the competition, the travel, the friendships, and the opportunities to be helpful to beginners. It meant good health and good attitudes as well as frustrations and disappointments. It meant developing the mental toughness and physical strength to work long, hard, and effectively at a chosen occupation and sport. This is also why one takes part in an Olympic Academy, or a little league, or any volunteer civic effort. One is "putting back" some of the psychic equity gained by participation. I would like to think that we can beneficially influence youngsters. Cynicism as an attitude is very bad. Positive enthusiasm for life, living, and the activities that promote good living. This is what I seek.

Winning is, of course, the best of all worlds if the win is clean and untainted. There are times however, when losing has a more positive long-term effect on a person. As an example -- had I easily

made the 1948 Olympic team as I might have, it is likely that my Olympic career would have been different. Success in London would have been very unlikely, even more so than in '52 at Helsinki. The dumb loss in the 1948 10,000 m trials really encouraged me to work harder, and in 1952 it all worked out.

Actually, Olympic success is as much an absence of bad luck such as injury, personal problems, lack of money, etc., as it is good luck or hard work and real talent. You all know several very talented and promising athletes that never made the team let alone win.

Success also generally means a great deal of cooperative support on the part of parents, a spouse, other family members, as well as coaches, teammates and available facilities. My wife and her family made my trip possible by taking care of our two youngsters. This was a major contribution and I am sure many other successful competitors could cite similar instances without which they would have stayed home.

Losing at the games is certainly not desirable, but just being there is a major victory in itself. There are very few, if any, Olympic competitors who have any long-term negative effects from not winning. They all know they were very good as well as very fortunate to just be there.

Procedures such as blood doping or the use of undetectable stimulants are ethically repugnant to me, even if they are technically legal.

Also when politics take precedence over athletics, I am very disappointed. My position is that political differences should be put

aside during the Olympic period. The good will generated in my experience was euphoric and long term. I feel sure most other competitors felt the same way. I was a Special Agent in the FBI during this period and was well aware of the perceived challenge of communism; however, I was never aware that the Russians or other East Block competitors were politically active. Remember -- the history of the ancient games held that the wars stopped so that the games could go on.

Now the games seem to have evolved into a TV spectacular which is more important than the actual competitions or more important than the associations the athletes and other personnel develop with each other.

Personally, I would like to see the teams spend an extra week on location after the competition when they could relax and get to really know, understand, and appreciate each other as individuals, ethnic nationalities, and political groups. I truly believe that a much deeper understanding of the other nationalities at the games would do more for world harmony than all the media medal counts that we now see. This would involve more proficient and non-political oriented interpreters, but any major multi-national corporation such as IBM, DuPont, Toyoto, Siemans, or Shell could help underwrite. One might consider the U.N. if a total anti-bias could be assured. What an opportunity!

I thank you for this opportunity and hope you will all join my prayers that violence does not mar the games in Seoul.

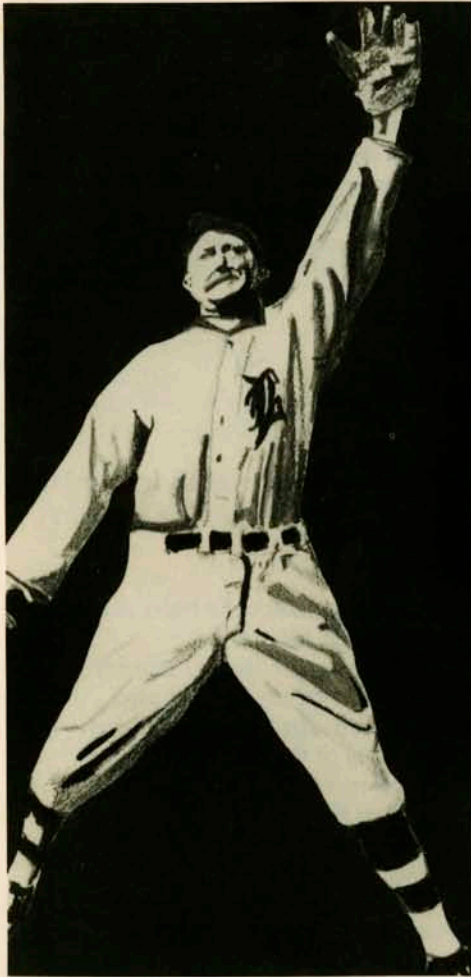
Horace Ashenfelter, III
June 16, 1988
XII Olympic Academy at
Penn State University



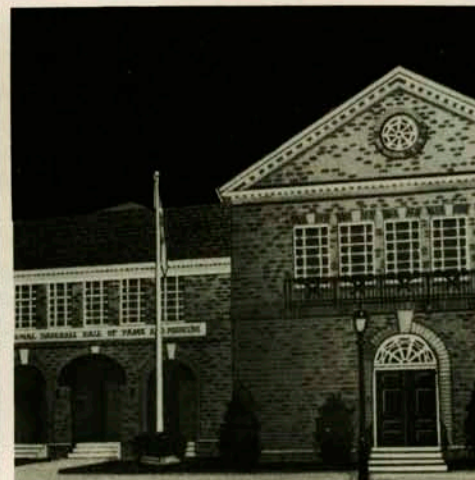
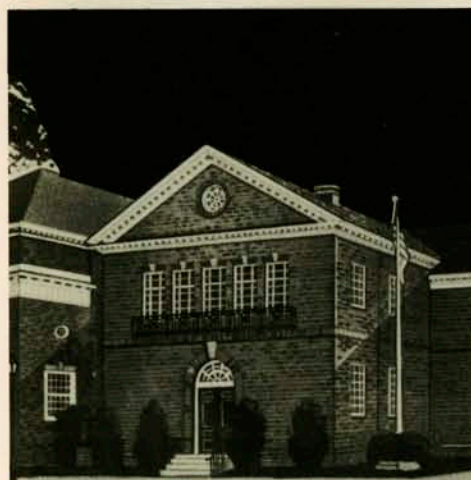
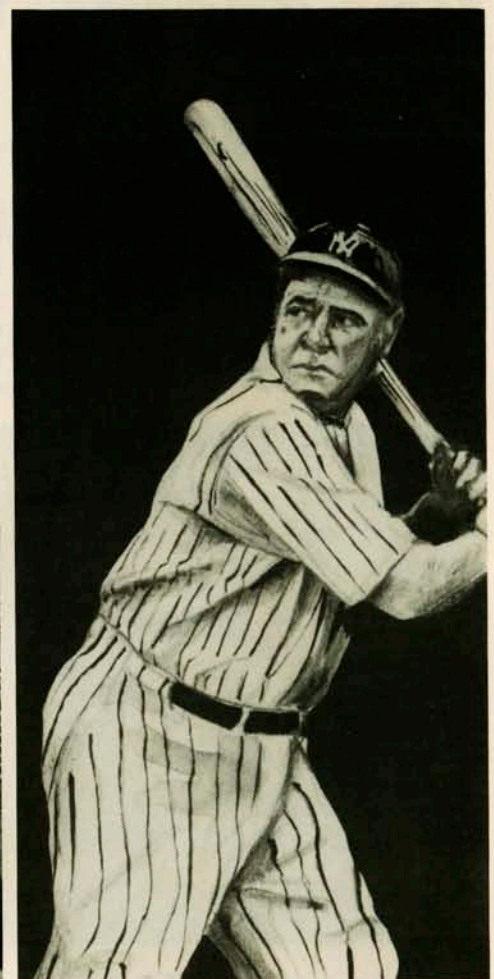
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The Investigator

OCTOBER 1989



50
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G-MEN Fact and Fiction

by SA Stephen P. Markardt
Office of Public Affairs

In 1952, as the Cold War was slowly developing between East and West, the United States and the Soviet Union had a chance to test each other and vent some steam at the Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland. One of the most dramatic confrontations at those Games was in the 3000 meter steeplechase. In the final of that event, undefeated Vladimir Kasantsev faced Special Agent Horace Ashenfelter III, Newark Office of the FBI.

SA Ashenfelter, who flew P40 and P63 fighter planes stateside as an aerial gunnery instructor during World War II, was a 1949 graduate of Penn State. He continued running track after entering on duty with the FBI in 1950. Following a brief stint in the Boston Office, he was assigned to Newark. He remained there until leaving the Bureau in 1959 to pursue other goals. Ashenfelter trained for the Olympics in his spare time but was assigned briefly to the Princeton Resident Agency when the Olympic team trained at Princeton University before going overseas to compete.

The 3000 meter steeplechase competition involves not only running but jumping over a series of hurdles and water barriers. It requires speed, agility and timing. In heat one, Kasantsev finished first. Ashenfelter ran in the third heat and also finished first, beating the previous Olympic record. It was going to be a close race between the two. At the sound of the gun in the final, Ashenfelter was last in the pack of twelve run-

ners. In the second and third laps he moved closer to the front. At the beginning of the fourth lap he was in the lead with Kasantsev, whom he had just passed, hot on his heels. It remained that way until the seventh and last lap. Suddenly, with reserve energy, Kasantsev pulled ahead, and it appeared he would remain undefeated. On the last water jump, however, he stumbled slightly while Ashenfelter cleared it in perfect stride. That error cost the Soviet the gold medal as Ashenfelter went on to win by more than six seconds, setting a new world's record of 8 minutes, 45.4 seconds. It was the first time the United States had won this event and with a Soviet placing second, national pride was enhanced. Ashenfelter is pictured crossing the finish line.

Upon his return to the States he was feted with the customary banquets and hometown parade. Among other honors he had dinner at the White House with President Eisenhower, and made a guest appearance on the then popular television show *What's My Line*. In those days before televised Olympics, his face was not familiar and no one on the celebrity panel guessed his identity. He also met personally with Director Hoover, who stressed the importance of his victory, given the political climate at the time.

Ashenfelter attempted to repeat his victory at the 1956 Games in Melbourne, but failed to qualify in one of the preliminary heats. Since then, though, he has continued to

remain active in athletics. Recently in an interview for this article he stated that he owes a great deal to amateur sports for the opportunities it gave him. Occasionally, upon request, he still makes appearances at local area track meets to inspire young athletes. He is also an active member of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI.

On one episode of the long-running television series *M.A.S.H.*, the gang of the 4077th organized their own Olympics while listening to the Helsinki Games on the radio. Flashes of the actual Olympics are shown including Ashenfelter's victory.

Special Agent Ashenfelter carried FBI badge #4464. That same badge is now carried by Assistant Section Chief T. Van Magers, Intelligence Division, who, in the nature of his work, continues to stay ahead in the race.

At least two other SAs have participated in the Olympics, though they did not bring home any medals. Donald R. Lash (service dates 1941-1963) was an Indiana University graduate and former Indiana State Trooper. For seven consecutive years, 1934-1940, he won the annual Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) 10,000 meter National Cross Country Race. In 1936 he was on the U.S. Olympic Team at the Berlin Games. Later he held the world's records for the indoor and outdoor two-mile run. He tried out again for the 1948 London Games but a pulled muscle denied him a place on the team. He had two sons, Russell and David, who became Special Agents in the

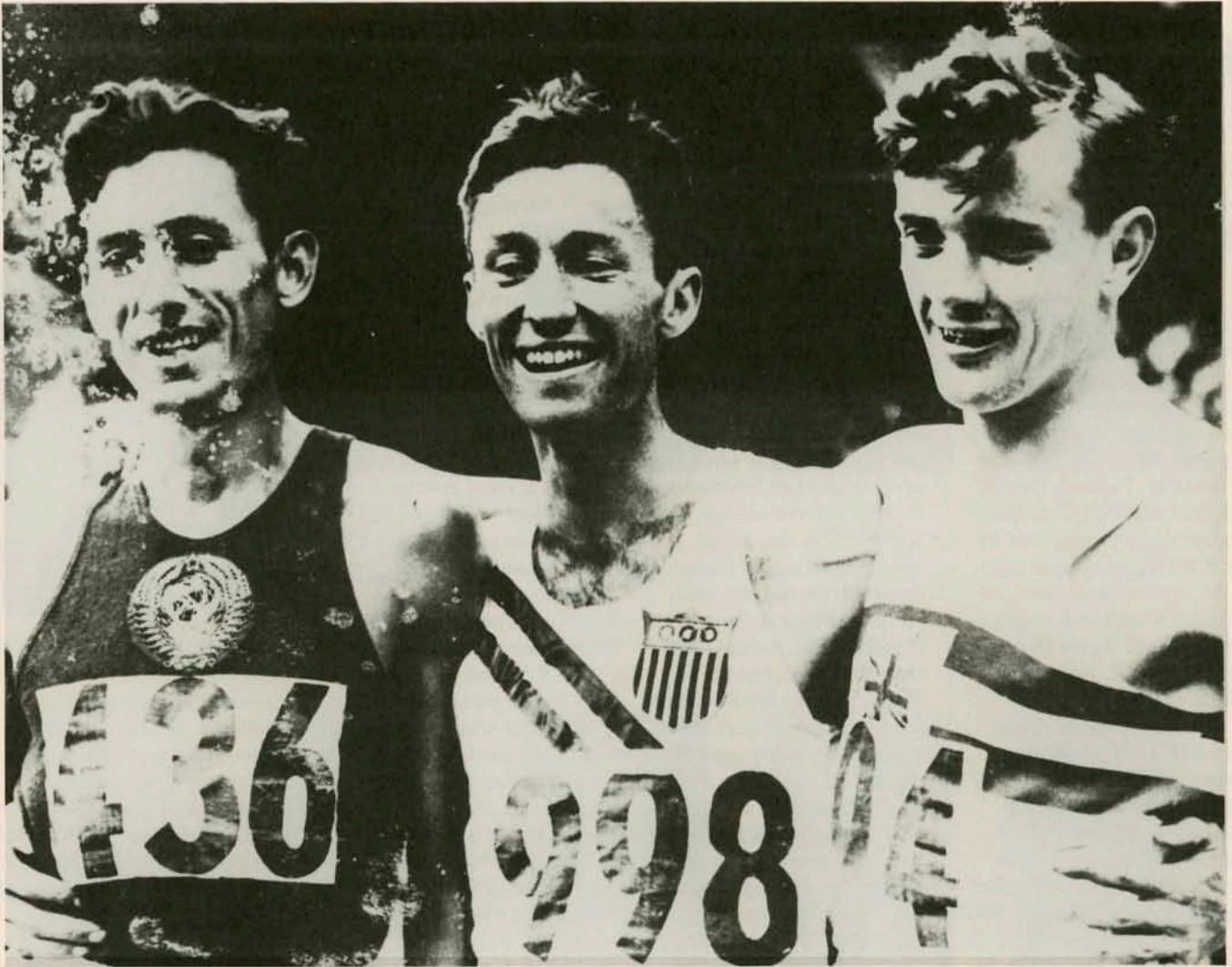
SA Horace Ashenfelter III



mid 1960s. They both left the Bureau however after a few years. Following in his father's footsteps, Russell tried out for the 1964 U.S. Olympic Team in the Pentathlon. Donald Lash, who still lives in Indiana, carried badge #2237, now carried by SA David Kolde, Philadelphia Office.

Frederick L. Wilt (1947-1977), also an Indiana University graduate and long distance runner, attended both the 1948 and 1952 games. In 1952 he set a new world's record for the indoor two-mile run (Lash's record had previously been broken, and later Ashenfelter broke Wilt's record). He also won the AAU National Cross Country Race two years in a row. Recently he retired again, this time from Purdue University where he was one of the track coaches. Wilt carried badge #1884, now carried by SA R. Wayne Weaver, Firearms Unit, Training Division.

Finally, all three of these fine athletes were, at one time in their career, honored with the prestigious James E. Sullivan Award. The AAU awards this annually to the most outstanding amateur athlete in the United States.



(Above) In this damaged photo, Ashenfelter is in the center with Kasantsev on the left. John Disley of Great Britain who placed third, is on the right.



(Left) Donald R. Lash, original Bureau application photo.



(Right) Frederick L. Wilt, original Bureau application photo.

Obituaries

Frederick L. Wilt



Frederick L. Wilt (1947-77), Anderson, IN died on September 5, 1994. He was 73.

He was born in Pendleton, IN. He received a B.S. degree from Indiana University and attended the University of Tennessee Law School.

Frederick L. Wilt During WW II he served in the U.S. Navy with the rank of Lt. (j.g.).

In the FBI he served in Atlanta, Seattle, New York and Indianapolis, where he was assigned to the Lafayette (IN) RA. Veteran former Seattle Office Agents will recall Fred Wilt preferring to cover leads on foot rather than in an automobile. Former New York Office Agents will remember his track and field prowess while assigned there.

Fred Wilt had a spectacular national and international track record. While attending Indiana University he set the NCAA 2 mile and cross country records in 1941. Representing the New York Athletic Club, he won 8 national titles in cross country, 5000 and 10,000 meters and the U.S. indoor mile. He ran the 10,000 meters race in the Olympics in London in 1948 and at Helsinki, Finland in 1952. In 1950 he set the American outdoor record of 14 minutes and 26.8 seconds in the 5000 meters.

In 1952 he set a world record of 8:50.7 for the 2-mile race in the New York Intercollegiate A.A.A.A. meet and thus shattered the 9-year record set by Greg Rice. After the race, Mr. Wilt credited his win to the heated competition from fellow SA Horace Ashenfelder of the Newark Office, who was second, and the latter's brother, Bill. Also in 1952 Fred Wilt won the Baxter Mile at the New York Athletic Club Games at Madison Garden in 4:10.4 in an eye-lash finish over Don Gehrmann. In 1950 he received the Amateur Athletic Union's James Sullivan Award as the nation's



SA Fred Wilt of the New York Office sets new world record for the 2-mile race in 1952 at Madison Square Garden.

outstanding amateur athlete. He was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1975. He was a past track coach of Purdue University.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor; and three daughters, Barbara Bustion, Christina Lipka and Candace Barnett.

Paul W. Gibbs

Paul W. Gibbs (1942-77) of Del Mar, CA died in a convalescent home on August 6, 1994 after a brief illness.

He was a graduate of the University of Illinois. He served in the Los Angeles Office from 1942 until 1974, when he was transferred to San Diego. Most of his Bureau experience involved automobile theft rings and he was well known for his wit and expertise in minutia. He was an active member of the San Diego Chapter.

His wife Vivian died in December 1993. They had been married for 50 years. He is survived by his sister, Jane Gibbs, of Escondido, CA, and nephew Brian Gibbs of Los Angeles.

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Olympic Gold Medalist Horace Ashenfelter Remembers *by Steve Gould*

Horace Ashenfelter doesn't need a calendar to tell him when it's an Olympic year. The mail carrier in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, where Ashenfelter and his wife, Lillian, have lived since 1951, does it for him.

As each four-year Olympiad approaches, the steady trickle of two or three letters a month requesting a picture or an autograph becomes a solid stream of three or four a week.

Ashenfelter answers every one. Like the farm boy he once was, dutifully doing his chores, he autographs the cards and the pictures, and he and Lillian save the stamps and send them to a friend.

It is more than forty-four years since Ashenfelter's 1952 Olympic victory over a Soviet world record holder in the 3,000-meter steeplechase made him an overnight Cold War hero in the United States.

Running in only the eighth steeplechase of his life and in his first major international meet, the 29-year-old Ashenfelter beat heavily favored Vladimir Kazantsev decisively in one of the most stunning upsets in track and field history.

What made it even more dramatic was the fact that to many Americans that Olympic race was a microcosm of the Cold War: Ashenfelter, the straight-arrow young FBI agent and simon-pure amateur, versus Kazantsev, a product of the Soviet system of state-subsidized athletes, a system whose objective was to demonstrate the superiority of the Communist system through victories in international sport.

It was also David and Goliath: the inexperienced Ashenfelter, coming into the Games as only the 17th fastest steeplechaser of 1952, with a personal best of

9:06.4; versus Kazantsev, one of the strongest favorites in the Games, who in the last 12 months had taken the world record down from 8:59.6 to 8:48.6.

Kazantsev had underlined his superiority a month before the Games at a meet in Kiev, defeating Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia at 5,000 meters to set a new Soviet record. The next day, Kazantsev knocked a second off his steeplechase world record.

Going into the Olympics, there was no way *anyone* was going to beat Vladimir Kazantsev, much less Horace Ashenfelter III.

How and why it happened is one of the classic stories of American sport.

The Ashenfelter family has lived in the same corner of Pennsylvania since the first Eschenfeldter ("field of ashes") arrived from Germany in 1742. Lillian Ashenfelter grew up in the house which her family, the Wrights, built in 1740.

When the original Horace Ashenfelter married Elizabeth Hunsicker in 1853, they built the farmhouse where Horace grew up as the son of Horace Ashenfelter II, who inherited the farm in 1914.

Horace III, the Olympic champion-to-be, arrived in January 1923, the first child. He was followed in the next four years by Jane, Bill and Don. Don still lives in the same house and farms the same land.

Horace, called "The Little Nipper" by his father, quickly became known as "Nip," the nickname he still answers to today.

General farming has all but disappeared today in many parts of the country, but in the Twenties and Thirties there were thousands of farms like the Ashenfelters' 140-acre spread near Collegeville, Pa., twenty-

five miles northwest of Philadelphia. Bill Ashenfelter recalls the life he and his brothers grew up in. "We raised sweet corn, tomatoes, beans, chickens—some weeks we killed three or four hundred chickens—anything and everything you could sell. We had about 40 acres of fruit trees—apples, peaches, plums, cherries."

Like most farmers' sons, the Ashenfelter boys grew up doing chores and learning to handle just about anything that came along. "On a farm," says Bill, "you had to learn how to fix a tractor and things like that. We weren't mechanics, but anything you could do with nails and a saw, or with a screwdriver, we could do."

And the boys all played sports. Says Horace, "Baseball, I pitched, played first base, hit .340. Basketball. Football, I was a linebacker. We ran track the last two years, but we only had one meet every year. My senior year I high jumped and ran the mile. My best mile was about 5:20, but my 5' 4-1/2" high jump was the meet record."

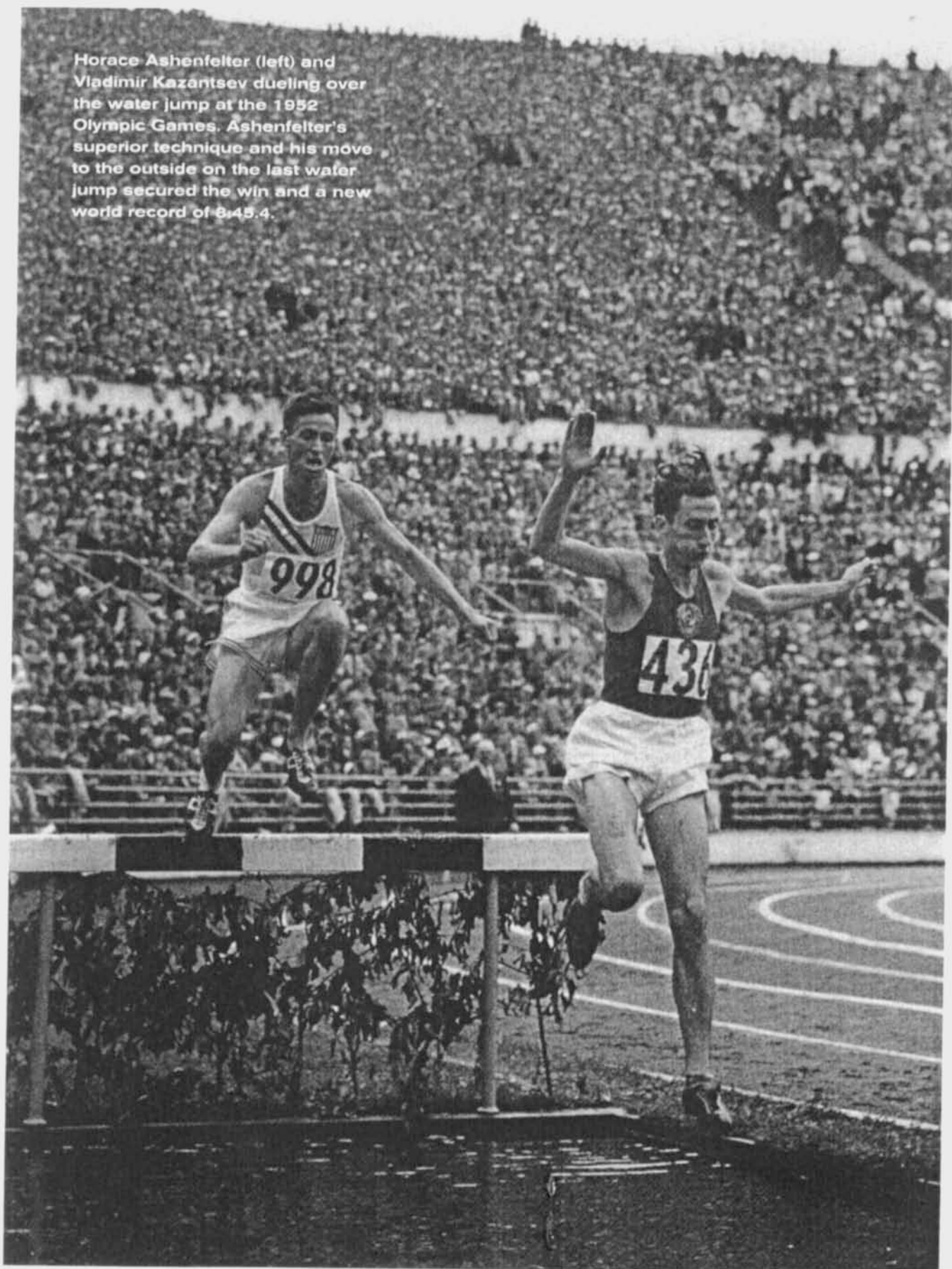
Something else happened in his senior year. He and Lillian Wright, a classmate at Collegeville-Trappe High School, started dating. Soon they were going steady.

After graduation in June 1941, Horace got a job in a war plant, working 50-hour weeks at 50 cents an hour, and saving enough in a year (\$550) to pay for a year of college. He entered Penn State in September 1942 as a "two-year aggie," a practically-oriented course for farm boys who intended to stay on the farm.

In November, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. "I figured they wouldn't call me up until next spring, and I'd have a pretty good chance of getting in a full year of school," he says.

Meanwhile, he continued to fool

Horace Ashenfelter (left) and Vladimir Kazantsev dueling over the water jump at the 1952 Olympic Games. Ashenfelter's superior technique and his move to the outside on the last water jump secured the win and a new world record of 8:45.4.



A free towel and a locker...

Continued from page 26

around with the high jump—not on the Penn State track team (two-year olds were not eligible), but in gym classes. He recalls getting up to 5' 11-3/4", pretty good for a freshman in 1942.

Inducted into the Air Force in May 1943, Ashenfelter trained at half a dozen Southern air bases before getting his wings at Keesler Field, near Biloxi, Mississippi, and becoming an aerial gunnery instructor.

Trained as a fighter pilot, he never fired a shot in anger. But he was shot at regularly.

Twice a day, six days a week, the young second lieutenant took off from a field near Panama City, Fla., in a P-63 King Cobra fighter and headed out over the Gulf of Mexico. He simulated enemy fighters making runs at American bombers—B-17s, B-24s and sometimes B-29s—while their waist, turret and rear gunners fired live ammunition at him. The P-63, heavily armored to protect its pilot, had sensors built into the armor and connected to a light in the nose. When a bullet landed, the nose lit up. Not surprisingly, the P-63s were known as "Pinballs."

"It was a very interesting year," says Ashenfelter.

While Horace was being a flying target, Lillian had been attending Ursinus College, which had given Collegeville its name. In 1945, she received her B.S. degree in Biochemistry. Shortly after that, she and Horace were married.

Discharged from the Army Air Force early in 1946, Ashenfelter re-entered Penn State. With returning GIs flooding the small town of State College, he couldn't find an apartment. So he rented a room there while Lillian stayed home in Collegeville. Every weekend, Horace drove a 400-mile round trip to spend time with her and also help out on the farm.

During the war, Ashenfelter had regularly taken part, with some success, in an

Air Force fitness program called "The Burma Roads." Rather like cross-country, it pitted teams from different units in three- to five-mile runs over roads and fields.

So it was natural that, back at Penn State, when his weekday classes were over, Ashenfelter would go for a run on the Penn State golf course, just off the campus, "to get some exercise."

One of the people he met while running was Curt Stone, a pre-War distance star returning to Penn State after four years in the Army. Says Stone, "I was just getting back into shape. I didn't run for the team that spring because I wasn't ready to run well. Ash started running with us. I could see that he was pretty good, and he

The indoor circuit was booming then, with sellout meets every weekend from early January to mid-March, sometimes as many as eighteen in a season.

certainly was in better shape than I was."

One day Stone said, "Why don't you go out for track and get a free towel and a locker?"

Ashenfelter picks up the story. "Curt pointed out Chick Werner, the track coach, and I went up to him and said, 'My name is Horace Ashenfelter. How do I go out for track?' And Werner said, 'What can you do?' And I said, 'Do you have a two-mile?' And he said, 'Can you run two miles?' And I said, 'Yes.' And he said, 'You've just made the track team.' It was as simple as that."

Ashenfelter's talent didn't take long to assert itself. He won the two-mile in a couple of dual meets, and by the fall of 1947 finished second in the NCAA cross-country championship; he probably would have won it if he hadn't taken a wrong turn while leading. He and brother Bill ran on

Penn State teams which won three straight four-mile relay titles at Penn, and Horace won the 1949 NCAA two-mile championship in 9:03.9.

He also discovered the joys of amateurism. In the summer of 1948, Ashenfelter was offered a job working for a sporting goods store in a town near State College at \$1.50 an hour. A few weeks later at the AAU championships, he asked Dan Ferris, executive secretary of the AAU, if it would be all right to take the job. Without hesitation, Ferris replied, "No sir, mister. That will make you a professional."

In May 1949, a month before Horace was graduated from Penn State, the Ashenfelters had their first child, Horace IV, nicknamed, not surprisingly, "Tuck."

"The best job I could find was as a teacher in Pennsylvania at \$2,700 a year," says Ashenfelter. "Not much for a man with a wife and a new baby." He decided to stay and get a master's degree and keep on working out with Stone, who had become circulation manager of the local newspaper.

The indoor circuit was booming then, with sellout meets every weekend from early January to mid-March in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Cleveland, Chicago and Milwaukee, sometimes as many as 18 in a season. With Stone to introduce him, Ashenfelter quickly became a regular, and the two became good friends with Fred Wilt, an FBI agent who had been a teammate of Stone on the 1948 U.S. Olympic team.

Wilt recruited Stone and the Ashenfelters to join the new York Athletic Club, which had the strongest track team in the country in the 1940s and 1950s.

Says Stone, "We would kind of divide up the races—one race for you, one race for me, one race for him—so that each of us would run two or three races, and each

Continued on page 32

Ashenfelter's first steeplechase

Continued from page 30

would win one, and the A.C. would get maximum points."

They were devastating. From 1949 through 1956, Stone, Wilt and the two Ashenfelters, running for the N.Y.A.C., won: 7 out of 8 AAU indoor 3-mile titles; 6 out of 8 AAU outdoor 3-mile/5,000-meter titles; 6 out of 8 AAU outdoor 6-mile/10,000-meter titles; 5 out of 8 AAU outdoor 3,000-meter steeplechase titles; 6 out of 8 AAU cross-country individual titles. In all, 32 of 40 possible national championships.

In that 8-year period, the foursome was largely responsible for the N.Y.A.C. winning 6 indoor AAU team championships, 4 AAU outdoor team championships, and 7 AAU cross-country team championships...17 of a possible 24.

In August 1950, a few days after Ashenfelter had completed work for his masters degree, Fred Wilt helped Ashenfelter line up a job with the FBI.

"Compared with school-teacher's pay, the FBI looked pretty good at \$5,000 a year," recalls Ashenfelter. He went into the FBI training program in October 1950, and eight months later he was assigned to the Newark office, where he stayed until he left the Bureau in 1959.

Cops-and-robbers it wasn't. "Most of my job was making background checks on applicants for government positions," says Ashenfelter. "In addition, we were always on the lookout for a few fugitives. Some were servicemen who were AWOL or deserters. They were the only people I ever arrested."

He and Lillian bought a house in Glen Ridge, a suburb ten miles from Newark. "It was the smallest town we could find. When we moved there in 1951, our furniture was Early Orange Crate. But it was close to two parks and the FBI office in Newark, and only 15 miles to New York

if I had to go in there. I never went into New York City unless I had to."

The two parks were Ashenfelter's training ground. One was a three-acre playground—the size of a city block—where he could run on the grass. The other, much larger, had a 1/5 mile cinder track.

Despite his growing family—a second son, James, was born soon after the move to New Jersey—Ashenfelter managed to work out almost every day. "I did most of my training in the evening after work, so I only had about an hour a day to train. I never especially kept track of my mileage, but it was certainly almost never more than 30 or 40 miles a week. I never wore spikes except in a race. I usually trained in high-

"I did most of my training in the evening after work, so I only had about an hour a day to train. I never especially kept track of my mileage but it was certainly almost never more than 30 or 40 miles a week."

top sneakers.

"I ran mostly ins and outs—quarters, halves, three-quarters. I ran each one as hard as I could, and then I'd walk the same distance between each repeat.

"I would plan to be as exhausted as possible in the time I had available. If I only had half an hour, I'd plan for that—and so on."

A typical in-season week: "Sunday would be a recovery day, an easy six- or seven-mile. Monday, a hard distance workout, a long, hard run. Tuesday and Wednesday, I'd do speed work—ins and outs. Thursday would be an easy workout, and Friday, another hard one. Saturday, competition.

"As I got older," he grins, "it took

longer to recover, so there were fewer hard workouts and longer between them.

Ashenfelter doesn't remember when he ran his first steeplechase, but it was probably at the 1950 or 1951 New York A.C. Spring Games, held on the five-laps-to-the-mile crushed clam-shell track in Travers Island, N.Y., which, when it was built in the 1890s, was the fastest in the country. "They had no water jump, so they set one up using a mattress instead of the water," he recalls.

(He had gotten his feet wet in the water jump, though. In the 1948 AAU championships 10,000 meters, which served as the Olympic Trials for the event, Ashenfelter was running a strong third with less than a mile to go when a combination of heat stroke and foot blisters slowed him. After finishing sixth, he says, "My feet hurt so much I went over to the water jump and sat on the edge with my feet in the water."

Herman Goffberg, a former Penn State distance runner, passed Ashenfelter in the last mile to finish third and make the Olympic team. Ashenfelter still introduces Goffberg as, "the man who beat me in the 1948 Olympic Trials."

A week later, Ashenfelter, still recovering from his 10,000 meter ordeal, finished fifth in the 5,000 at the Olympic Trials, his last chance to make the 1948 U.S. Olympic team.)

At some point after his 9:24.5 victory in the 1951 AAU championships, Ashenfelter decided that the steeplechase was going to be one of his Olympic races.

He added something to his workouts in the park. "I made a crude steeplechase hurdle five or six feet long, with a four-by-four on top so I could put my full weight on it when I was practicing the water jump. Between workouts I hid the hurdle in the bushes."

H.S. physics leads to a new water jump technique

Continued from page 30

He concluded that the key to running a steeplechase was the water jump. "I was a pretty good jumper, so the hurdles didn't bother me. But the water jump is different. When you're going over the water jump, you've got to be thinking about what you're going to do."

What he did was develop a new technique. The water jump is three feet high—the same as the other steeplechase hurdles—but there's a hedge in front of it, so you have to step on the hurdle, and then jump off the hurdle over the 12-foot pool of water. Unless the runner wants to clear the water entirely, the way he lands in the sloping water jump can either maintain his speed or slow him down.

Ashenfelter noticed that most runners reached out with their lead foot as they came off the top of the water jump hurdle.

"If you do that," he explains, "your foot will land in front of you, and that will slow you down. What you want to do is keep your leading foot *under* you when you come off the top of the water jump. Then when you land, your center of gravity will be ahead of your foot and it'll throw you forward."

"I worked that out from the high school physics I remembered. I tried it, and it worked. So I practiced it a lot."

On March 6, 1952—Lillian's birthday—Horace gave her the down payment on the TRACK & FIELD NEWS Olympic Tour to Helsinki.

He was confident of making the Olympic team. The New York A.C. four-some was at its peak, and just about unbeatable.

In the AAU meet in Long Beach, California, Stone won the 10,000, which again was the Olympic Trial for that event, with Wilt and Horace also making the team. A week later in the Olympic Trials,

Stone won the 5,000, while Horace won the steeplechase in the American record time of 9:06.4, with brother Bill second and fellow Pennsylvanian Browning Ross third.

The Olympic final was four weeks away.

Princeton, New Jersey, was the assembly point for the Olympic track and field team. The FBI had a small field office in Princeton, and Ashenfelter was temporarily assigned to the Princeton office.

He was able to train nearly full-time there for two weeks before the team left for Finland. It was the most intensive training he had ever done.

Arriving in Helsinki, Ashenfelter had just over a week until the 10,000 meters,

**"What you want to do
is keep your leading foot
under you when you come
off the top of the water jump.
Then when you land,
your center of gravity will be
ahead of your foot and it'll
throw you forward."**

and another couple of days until the steeplechase. He took advantage of the time to train even harder.

"My normal weight was 143 pounds," he says, "but in those three weeks I got down to 128 by working out two or three times a day and getting an equivalent amount of rest."

Sometime that week, coaches Brutus Hamilton and Werner suggested that Ashenfelter scratch from the 10,000 and concentrate on the steeplechase.

"I thought it made a lot of sense," says Ashenfelter. "If I'd have run the 10,000, I'd have gotten hammered—because Zatopek was not going to be whipped."

Lillian arrived in Helsinki two or three

days before the Games started. On the trip coming over, USC coach Dean Cromwell had given the T&FN tour group his predictions.

He summed them up this way, "We'll do all right, but we might as well have left anything from the 1,500 meters up home."

On the first day of competition, Zatopek won the 10,000 easily (he later won the 5,000 meters, and in his first-ever attempt, the marathon).

Two days later, three heats of the steeplechase were run. Kazantsev won the first heat in 8:58.0, an Olympic record. Bill Ashenfelter tried to stay with the Russian, but had to drop out halfway through. "I was inexperienced, and I blew it," he says.

John Disley of Britain won the second heat in 8:59.4, with Browning Ross last.

In heat three, Ashenfelter faced the Soviet Number Two, Mikhail Saltikov. "I just went out and ran," says Ashenfelter, who set a new American and Olympic record of 8:51.0, the fourth fastest time ever run, just 2.4 seconds behind Kazantsev's month-old world record. Saltikov was second in a good

8:55.8.

"I wasn't pushed, and I felt fresh," says Ash. "I remember saying to myself, 'Hey, you can do a lot better.'"

That night at dinner, he told Lillian, "I'm gonna win this thing."

Two days later, the twelve finalists toed the starting line.

In the stands, Lillian was sitting between Cordner and Bert Nelson of TRACK & FIELD NEWS. "They showed me a piece of paper with the time Nip had to run to win the race," she recalls. "It was faster than the world record."

Saltikov led the field out fast, passing

Continued on page 34

"Nobody'll remember you if your're second."

Continued from page 33

1,000 meters in 2:49.8 (an impossible 8:30 pace), with Ashenfelter fourth and Kazantsev fifth. When Saltikov slowed, Ashenfelter quickly took the lead, with Kazantsev just behind him.

Ashenfelter recalls: "Kazantsev ran right with me, on my right shoulder. Occasionally our arms bumped, and I was wondering, 'Why are you running an extra yard and a half a lap?'"

The two ran together for the next three laps, gradually pulling clear of the rest of the field. With a lap to go, they were 20 meters up on third-placer John Disley of Britain.

In the press box, American reporters were joking about the fact that a Russian was following an FBI man for a change.

Down the backstretch with just over half a lap to go, Kazantsev struck. He shot past Ashenfelter and was three meters in front as they moved off the track toward the water jump.

Bert Nelson wrote in *TRACK & FIELD NEWS*: "It looked like the beginning of the end. All the experts knew that Ashenfelter had no kick, that if he couldn't run his rivals into the ground before the last lap, he was doomed. And here was the greatest of all time starting to run away from him with half a lap to go."

As they came up to the last water jump, Ashenfelter moved to the outside. He had noticed that after six laps the grass next to the curb had been chewed up pretty badly, and the ground was soft. Kazantsev, staying close to the curb, was slowed slightly by the poor footing. It wasn't much, but it was enough. Coming off the barrier, Kazantsev had lost enough momentum that he couldn't come out of the jump cleanly. Meanwhile, Ashenfelter had used the better footing outside to reach the hurdle at full speed, and his superior technique—the legacy of his high school physics plus all those hours in Carteret Park—carried him past the Russian as they came out of the water.

Ashenfelter said to himself, "Hey,

nobody'll ever remember you if you're second. So you have to do it."

And he did. Sprinting the next 25 meters, he opened up a five-meter lead. Kazantsev, his energy spent, had nothing left. Ashenfelter looked back, eased off slightly, and cruised home almost 40 meters in front, while the dog-tired Soviet barely held off the fast-flying Disley for the silver medal—8:51.6 to 8:51.8.

It was the first time since 1908 that an American had won an Olympic gold medal in a distance race. Ash's time, 8:45.4, was a new world record, 3.2 seconds faster than Kazantsev's month-old 8:48.6.

As he jogged around the track, taking a victory lap to the enthusiastic applause of the Finns—who had no love for their

"I didn't want to beat Kazantsev because he was a Russian. I wanted to beat him because he was a competitor."

giant neighbor, the USSR—Horace suddenly darted off the track and ran up 30-odd rows of seats to where Lillian was sitting, handed her the flowers he had been given, and kissed her.

Cordner Nelson, who was seeing the first of his twelve Olympics, says, "Ashenfelter's winning was one of the big pleasant surprises I've ever had in a track meet. In the last couple of laps we were pleased that he was going to get a medal. Then, going into the last water jump we were pleased that he was going to get a silver medal. And after the water jump he just blasted away from Kazantsev and we were delirious."

Next day, Ashenfelter awoke to find he was a national hero. The *New York Times* called him "a symbol for Americanism, a true model for young Americans." Newsreels of the race were cheered wildly in movie theaters. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover sent him a telegram of congratulation.

When they came home, Colledgeville held a parade for the local hero. Horace and Lillian rode down Main Street in a convertible, with their parents behind them in another one. Flags, bunting and red, white and blue crepe paper were everywhere.

In the weeks to follow, Ashenfelter met, as he puts it, "A whole lot of people I never would have had an opportunity to meet." Two he remembers in particular were Jack Kelly and his sister Grace. And early in 1953, he had lunch in the White House with President Eisenhower.

And of course, he kept running, and winning...another six national championships. He made the Olympic team again in 1956, and ran well in Melbourne, but not well enough to make the final. He retired in 1957, explaining, "The aches and pains were building up on me. And with three growing kids I had more demands on my time."

Ashenfelter left the FBI in 1959 for a job with Engelhard Industries, a precious metals refining and processing company and remained in the precious metals industry until he retired in 1993. He still works a couple of days a week for his last employer.

He and Lillian still live in Glen Ridge, in the same house they bought in 1957 when their fourth son was on the way. He still runs two or three miles, three times a week: "It's actually more of a trot-walk-run since I tore a knee cartilage a few years back."

Four-and-a-half years ago, a reporter interviewing Ashenfelter on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his victory asked to see the gold medal. Ashenfelter went upstairs to to get it as Lillian explained, "It's in the sock drawer."

Since then, Herman Goffberg, who has become the keeper of Penn State's track heritage, has had the medal embedded in a block of lucite. It now resides on a shelf in the Ashenfelter's living-room bookcase, along with other bric-a-brac. ▲



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

FBI Academy
Quantico, Virginia 22135

May 22, 2000

Mr. Horace Ashenfelter
5383 Southeast Miles Grant Road
Apartment B 206, Phase II
Stuart, Florida 34997

Dear Mr. Ashenfelter:

On behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), I would like to thank you for taking the time to travel to the FBI Academy to assist with the physical fitness video project. I would also like to thank you for sharing your wisdom and experiences with our New Agent and National Academy students. Your achievements as an Olympic athlete and your dedication to physical fitness are an inspiration to all. Your comments on the video will provide insight to FBI Special Agents on the importance of physical fitness as a lifelong endeavor.

Enclosed with this letter are several 8 x 10 photographs taken during your visit to the Academy. The group photograph taken during the run and the group photograph taken after the run are for you to keep. Also, enclosed are two photographs of you with Supervisory Special Agents (SSAs) William "Bill" McSalis and Charles "Butch" Greathouse. SSAs McSalis and Greathouse would be honored if you would sign one copy for each of them. Also, enclosed are two photographs of you with Director Freeh. We would greatly appreciate it if you would sign one copy for Director Freeh and one copy for the Academy, which copy will be placed on the Academy gymnasium wall next to your signed Olympic photograph. Please return all of the signed photographs in the enclosed, self addressed mailer to SSA Greathouse at the FBI Academy.

For your information, SSA Greathouse has provided Director Freeh's Office with five copies of the 8 x 10 photograph of you and the Director, along with the names of your sons, for the Director's signature. Once the photographs are returned to SSA Greathouse at the Academy, he will forward them to you.





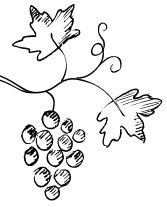
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Flying G-Man Did Jersey Proud

by Peter J. Barnes, Jr. (1954-80)

With all the coverage of the U.S. Olympic team's glories and disappointments, does anyone remember the Flying G-Man, Horace Ashenfelter of Glen Ridge, NJ?

Ash would get up early and run the streets of Glen Ridge preparing for the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland. He would work out before reporting for duty as an FBI Special Agent in Newark, and he would resume training following his workday.

They tell of a Glen Ridge woman calling police early one morning to report a man running in his underwear. It was Ash in his white workout shorts. During FBI firearms training days, when other Agents were eating lunch, Ash was running.



▲ Horace Ashenfelter.

For Ash and other Olympic athletes of that era, there was no year-round workout site in Colorado Springs or all-day skating at the Montclair University ice rink or concern about multimillion-dollar endorsements if they won a gold medal. They were proud to represent the U.S.

Ash made history by beating the Russian Vladimir Kazantsev to win the gold in the steeplechase. Following his victory, Ash did what many other Olympians did then — he returned to his job. Those were the days! †



▲ Horace Ashenfelter beating Russian Vladimir Kazantsev for the Gold in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland.

Editor's Note: This article was originally printed in the Star Ledger on March 5, 2006 in Newark, NJ.

Photo Identifications:

Shown on the front cover is the Brooklyn Bridge, copyright Jeff Greenberg/NYC & Company, Inc.; inside front cover are Mia Hauhhorst with Bron and Christa Mogenis. Mia is from the town of Hartenstein in Bavaria, and she has been a friend of the Mogenis family since his Legat days in Bonn in the late 1970s; inside back cover theater programs provided by Katie Connelly of Broadway Inbound; the back cover photos used courtesy of the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Remember the two 2006 Tri-Regionals

