

HD
HISTORICAL DICTIONARY of
**TRACK AND
FIELD**



PETER MATTHEWS

Historical Dictionary of Track and Field

Peter Matthews



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HISTORICAL DICTIONARY

The historical dictionaries present essential information on a broad range of subjects, including American and world history, art, business, cities, countries, cultures, customs, film, global conflicts, international relations, literature, music, philosophy, religion, sports, and theater. Written by experts, all contain highly informative introductory essays of the topic and detailed chronologies that, in some cases, cover vast historical time periods but still manage to heavily feature more recent events.

Brief A–Z entries describe the main people, events, politics, social issues, institutions, and policies that make the topic unique, and entries are cross-referenced for ease of browsing. Extensive bibliographies are divided into several general subject areas, providing excellent access points for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more. Additionally, maps, photographs, and appendixes of supplemental information aid high school and college students doing term papers or introductory research projects. In short, the historical dictionaries are the perfect starting point for anyone looking to research in these fields.

HISTORICAL DICTIONARIES OF SPORTS

Jon Woronoff, Series Editor

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Track and Field, by Peter Matthews, 2012.

Editor's Foreword

Track and field, as we know it today, is a relatively recent sport, or collections of sports, going back only a century or so. But there is no doubt that the origins reach further back, certainly to the Ancient Egyptians and Greeks, and usually well before, and actually beyond recorded history in a sense. Running, jumping, and throwing were basic human activities even before they became sports. And over time they have been refined into racing, for various distances and in various forms (sprint, relay, race walk, marathon); jumping, this including long jump, pole vault, and other variations; and throwing, which takes the form of, among other things, shot put, discus, and hammer. There are also combinations, such as racing and jumping in hurdles and jumping and throwing in the pentathlon and heptathlon. These were once strictly amateur; indeed, doing this professionally was heavily penalized by the purists, until recently when nearly all sports have gone professional. They are also extremely popular, not only in the sense of drawing huge crowds or being watched by the masses on television, but in perhaps the healthiest sense of being practiced and enjoyed by vast numbers of people at school; at the national, regional, and world levels; or just going out and doing it on their own.

Historical Dictionary of Track and Field, of course, deals mainly with the more recent period, although it does trace the origins and especially the early days of amateur and professional competition on an international level, following events up to the present day. It is chock full of entries on top athletes of all nationalities, male and female, since this arena has long included both sexes, although not competing against one another, in most cases. And it has other entries on major sporting nations, not only the top ones whose athletes have come out ahead most often, but others that are particularly strong in one aspect or another, and some that have not achieved much in the way of titles but are still broadening the field. As per usual, the bulk of the information on sports, nations, and athletes can be found in the dictionary section. But it builds on a selective chronology, covering several millennia, the past century and a half most densely. The introduction provides an overall view of track and field. And, in this case, it is good to take a look now and then at the list of acronyms and abbreviations, which identifies the major associations and

nations. The bibliography includes a detailed listing of sources for those who want to read and find out more.

It is hard to think of anyone who knows more about track and field than Peter Matthews, who has been following the sport since he was 10 and covered it for the media for more than 35 years. This was done on the radio, mainly for the BBC, and then on television, for the BBC, ITV, and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), but also in print, as editor of the *International Athletics Annual*, then editor of the *Guinness Book of Records* and *Guinness Book of Athletics Facts and Feats*, and more broadly the *Guinness International Who's Who of Sport*. More recently, he has been co-producing *Athletics International*, which provides a regular stream of information on athletics. During this long and full career, Matthews has also gotten to know the sports from inside, covering seven Olympic Games, including a stint as media information manager in Atlanta in 1996 and part of the Sydney Organization Committee in 2000. He is set to provide athletics commentary on the world feed from the London Olympics in 2012. Building on this experience and insight, he has been able to gather an amazing range of information, present it in a coherent and often interesting form, and help the reader develop a deeper knowledge.

Jon Woronoff
Series Editor

Reader's Note

While the essence of sport is competition between individuals and teams, track and field athletics is essentially measurable, with athletes being judged on their performances in terms of time or distance. For many years, measurements have been made almost exclusively in the metric system universally, except in the United States. Great Britain, for instance, switched from imperial to metric measurements in the sport in 1969, so most distances are expressed in metric terms and are marked km for kilometer and m for meter in this book. Relatively few use miles (m), feet (ft), inches (in), or yards (y). Times are indicated in minutes, seconds, and fractions of seconds, thus 12:23.18, or for long distances, such as the marathon, as hours, minutes, and seconds, thus 2:03:59. Weights are expressed as kilograms (kg) or grams (g), with some references to pounds (lbs).

The international governing body for the sport was founded in 1912 as the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). To keep pace with the change for elite athletes to professionalism, it dropped the word *Amateur* and changed its name rather subtly to the International Association of Athletics Federations in 2001. Frequent references to the organization in this book are simply IAAF, rather than spell out the full title as used at the time. Similarly acronyms, like AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) and NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), are used within the sport in the context of titles won, and so the names have not been given in full in the text of this book.

To facilitate the rapid and efficient location of information and to make this book as useful a reference tool as possible, extensive cross-references have been provided in the dictionary section. Within individual entries, terms that have their own entries are in **boldface type** the first time they appear. Related terms that do not appear in the text are indicated in the *See also*. *See* refers to other entries that deal with this topic.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

NATIONAL ABBREVIATIONS

ALG	Algeria
ARG	Argentina
ARM	Armenia
AUS	Australia
AUT	Austria
AZE	Azerbaijan
BAH	Bahamas
BAR	Barbados
BDI	Burundi
BEL	Belgium
BER	Bermuda
BLR	Belarus
BOT	Botswana
BRA	Brazil
BRN	Bahrain
BUL	Bulgaria
CAN	Canada
CAY	Cayman Islands
CHI	Chile
CHN	People's Republic of China
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States (former republics of the USSR in 1992)
CIV	Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)
CMR	Cameroon
COD	Democratic Republic of Congo
COL	Colombia
CRO	Croatia
CUB	Cuba
CYP	Cyprus
CZE	Czech Republic
DEN	Denmark
DJI	Djibouti

DMA	Dominica
DOM	Dominican Republic
ECU	Ecuador
EGY	Egypt
ERI	Eritrea
ESP	Spain
EST	Estonia
ETH	Ethiopia
FIJ	Fiji
FIN	Finland
FRA	France
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany (1948–1990)
GBR	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
GDR	German Democratic Republic (1948–1990)
GEO	Georgia
GER	Germany (prior to 1948 and from 1991 onward)
GHA	Ghana
GRE	Greece
GRN	Grenada
GUY	Guyana
HAI	Haiti
HUN	Hungary
IND	India
IRL	Ireland
ISL	Iceland
ISR	Israel
ITA	Italy
JAM	Jamaica
JPN	Japan
KAZ	Kazakhstan
KEN	Kenya
KGZ	Kyrgyzstan
KOR	Korea, Republic of (South)
KSA	Saudi Arabia
LAT	Latvia
LTU	Lithuania
LUX	Luxembourg
MAR	Morocco
MAS	Malaysia
MEX	Mexico
MON	Monaco
MOZ	Mozambique
NAM	Namibia
NED	Netherlands

NGR	Nigeria
NOR	Norway
NZL	New Zealand
PAK	Pakistan
PAN	Panama
PHI	Philippines
POL	Poland
POR	Portugal
PRK	North Korea (DPR Korea)
PUR	Puerto Rico
QAT	Qatar
ROU	Romania
RSA	South Africa
RUS	Russia
SEN	Senegal
SKN	St. Kitts and Nevis
SLE	Sierra Leone
SLO	Slovenia
SOM	Somalia
SRB	Serbia
SRI	Sri Lanka
SUD	Sudan
SUI	Switzerland
SUR	Surinam
SVK	Slovakia
SWE	Sweden
SWZ	Swaziland
SYR	Syria
TAN	Tanzania
TCH	Czechoslovakia (to 1991)
THA	Thailand
TJK	Tajikistan
TPE	Taiwan (Chinese Taipei)
TRI	Trinidad and Tobago
TUN	Tunisia
TUR	Turkey
UGA	Uganda
UKR	Ukraine
URS	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) (to 1991)
USA	United States
VEN	Venezuela
YUG	Yugoslavia (to 2002)
ZAM	Zambia
ZIM	Zimbabwe

OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

AAA	Amateur Athletic Association
AAAA	American Amateur Athletic Association
AAC	Amateur Athletic Club
AAU	Amateur Athletic Union
ABAF	Balkan Athletics Federations
AIAW	Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women
AIMS	Association of International Marathons and Road Races
ATFS	Association of Track and Field Statisticians
BAAB	British Amateur Athletic Board
BLE	Bord Lúthchleas na hÉireann
CAC	Central American and Caribbean
CBA	Confederação Brasileira de Atletismo
CCAI	Cross-Country Association of Ireland
FIDAL	Federazione Italiana di Atletica Leggera
FISU	Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire
FSFI	Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
IAAA	Irish Amateur Athletic Association
IAAF	International Association of Athletics Federations (formerly the International Amateur Athletic Federation)
IAAU	Irish Amateur Athletic Union
IAAUS	Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States
IAU	International Association of Ultrarunners
IC4A/ ICA AAAA	Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America
ICMR	International Committee for Mountain Running
IOC	International Olympic Committee
ISTAF	Internationales Stadionfest
ITA	International Track Association
JAAF	Japan Association of Athletics Federations
LBFA	Ligue Belge Francophone d'Athlétisme
N4A	National Association of Amateur Athletes of America
NACA	National Athletic and Cycling Association
NACAC	North American, Central American, and Caribbean Athletic Association
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association
NUTS	National Union of Track Statisticians
NYAC	New York Athletic Club
RRC	Road Runners Club
RWA	Race Walking Association
TAC	The Athletics Congress
USATF	USA Track & Field

VAL	Vlaamse Atletiek Liga
WAAA	Women's Amateur Athletic Association
WADA	World Antidoping Agency
WAF	World Athletics Finals
WAVA	World Association of Veteran Athletes
WMA	World Masters Athletics
WMRA	World Mountain Running Association
WUG	World University Games

EVENTS

CC	cross-country
Dec	decathlon
DT	discus
h	hurdles
Hep	heptathlon
HJ	high jump
HMar	half marathon
HT	hammer
JT	javelin
LJ	long jump
Mar	marathon
Pen	pentathlon
PV	pole vault
R	relay
SP	shot
St	steeplechase
TJ	triple jump
W	walk
Wt	weight

Chronology

BC

3800 The earliest evidence of organized running is recorded in Egypt at Memphis, where ritual races around the walls of the town may even have pre-dated 4100 BC. Races were normally held between two pillars c. 800 meters apart and were normally of four lengths.

3300 A form of high jumping is practiced, with children jumping over the linked arms of other children.

2650 The earliest representation of a runner is created, a stone relief in the pyramid temple at Saqqara, of King Djoser of Egypt, running a race.

c. 1600 Evidence indicates that the sport of running takes place in Crete, Greece.

c. 1250 A vase is created in Cyprus that depicts athletic sports.

c. 800 Homer's funeral games take place.

776 The first recorded ancient Olympiad is celebrated in Olympia in Ancient Greece. The first known Olympic champion is Coroibos of the *stadion* race of c. 190 meters.

c. 500 Tailteann Games originate in Ireland.

490 The Battle of Marathon and subsequent run to Athens, Greece, by Pheidippides takes place.

c. 324 The first indoor athletics is held in a large marquee erected in India by two generals of Alexander the Great.

c. 50 The first known association of professional athletes is formed in Greece.

AD

3rd Century High jumping tests for the military are held in Ireland.

393 The ancient Olympic Games are abolished by decree of the Roman emperor Theodosius I.

5th Century Athletics tests are celebrated in Germanic literature (Brunhilde).

7th Century St. Cuthbert is noted for running and leaping.

1035–1040 Harold I, king of England, becomes known as “Harefoot” due to his speed.

1180 William Fitzstephen describes sporting events at Smithfield (Smooth Field) in London.

c. 1275 The poem “Havelock the Dane” includes the earliest reference to putting the weight in England.

13th/14th Century The earliest Highland Games are staged in Scotland.

1530 An international match is held between England and Scotland at St. Andrews in Scotland.

1584 Evidence indicates the existence of running footmen.

1589 Sir Robert Carey walks from London to Berwick (c. 340 miles/550 km) for a bet.

1612 Robert Dover starts the Cotswold Games. These rural sports were held annually, except during the Civil War (1642–1660), until 1852.

1630 Regular running matches are held in Hyde Park, London.

1664 Running matches at Newmarket are regularized.

1680 The first athletics “calendar” is produced at Newmarket, giving the results of leading races.

1750s The Artillery Ground, in London, becomes the first enclosed ground to be used for foot races at which an entrance fee is charged.

1766 The site of the ancient Olympic Games is rediscovered at Olympia by Richard Chandler.

1773 Foster Powell runs from London to York and back, 4,023 miles in 5 days, 18 hours. Twenty years later, at the age of 59, he does it again in 5 days, 15¼ hours.

1793 J. T. F. Guts Muths publishes *Gymnastik für die Jugend*, with hints on athletics techniques from the founder of German gymnastics.

1809 1 June–12 July: Captain Barclay runs 1,000 miles in 1,000 hours at Newmarket.

1813 William Thom's *Pedestrianism*, an account of the performances of celebrated pedestrians, is published.

1820s Athletics begins to be practiced at Shrewsbury School in England.

1828 The St. Ronan's Club of Scotland is formed to organize an annual athletics meeting.

1834 Donald Walker's *Manly Exercises* is published.

1837 Crick Run is first held at Rugby School, in England; originally c. 12½ miles, later c. 11 miles/18 km. Interclass athletics is first held at Eton College, in England. The first track specifically for athletics was laid at Lord's Cricket Ground, in London. This was a five-foot-wide gravel path all around the ground, which was already well-established as a venue for foot running matches. Earlier paths had been set aside for races, but these hardly qualify as tracks in the modern sense.

1838 The first track meeting known in North America is held, at Hoboken, New Jersey.

1839 The first athletics meeting in Canada is held at Caer Howell grounds near Toronto.

1842 The Olympic Club of Montreal is founded in Canada.

1845 The first amateur hurdle race is run at Eton College.

1849 The Royal Military Academy, in Sandhurst, England, stages its first athletics meeting.

1850 22 October: The Much Wenlock Olympic Games are held for the first time with five athletics events (high jump, long jump, and three races). The games are initiated by Dr. Penny Brookes to encourage outdoor recreation and are based on Greek ideals. The Exeter College athletics club, in Oxford, is formed and remains the oldest surviving club.

1854 Professional jumper John Howard jumps 9.01 m/29 ft 7 in using weights.

1857 The first sports meetings are held at Cambridge University and Trinity College, in Dublin.

1859 17 January: The first amateur indoor meeting is held at Lambeth Baths, in London.

1860 The first Oxford University sports are held.

1862 The chronograph is patented by Adolfe Nicole (SUI).

1863 Mincing Lane AC (London AC from 1866) is founded. An Olympic festival is held at Mount Vernon Parade Ground, in Liverpool, the most popular of a series of such festivals in the 1860s; a crowd of 12,000–15,000 attends.

1864 5 March: The first Oxford versus Cambridge athletics match is held at Oxford. The first Civil Service Sports is held. The first artificial steeplechase course (as opposed to cross-country) is constructed at the Royal Military Academy, in Woolwich.

1866 23 March: The first national championships, English, are organized by the Amateur Athletic Club at Beaufort House, in Welham Green, London.

1 August: The National Olympian Society holds its first games at Crystal Palace, in London.

1868 11 November: The first indoor meeting in the United States is organized by the New York AC.

1871 21 July: The first open-air competition was held in the United States, organized by the New York Athletic Club.

1873 7 July: The first Irish national championship is held in Dublin.

1874 First U.S. university competition was held at Saratoga. Edward Weston becomes the first man to walk 500 miles in 6 days, at Newark, New Jersey.

1875 14 December: The Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America (ICAAAA or IC4A) is formed in the United States.

1876 The first English cross-country championship is held in Epping Forest. The starting gun is first used; previous races started with the beating of a drum, the speaking of the word *Go*, or the waving of a white handkerchief. London AC (actually an England team) visits Ireland. **20–21 July:** The first ICAAAA championship takes place. **30 September:** The first American championships are held at the Mott Haven Track in New York.

1877 Stamford Bridge Stadium, in London, opens and becomes the home of British athletics, which continues for the first 30 years of the twentieth century.

1880 24 April: The Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) is founded in Oxford. **3 July:** The first AAA Championships held at Lillie Bridge, in London.

1886 The straight-leg hurdling style is pioneered by Arthur Croome of Oxford.