1000 to Compete in 26th Annual Nationals in Provo

More than 1000 athletes from most of the 50 states and five foreign nations will participate in the 26th annual USA National Masters Track and Field Championships on August 11-14 in Provo, Utah.

It’s the first time a national meet has ever been held in the Rocky Mountain area. Provo is the home of Brigham Young University, where the meet will be held in the University’s Track Stadium.

At 4200-feet elevation, the area is one of the most scenic in the USA. Average temperatures are 89°F high and 62°F low, with 20% humidity.

Competition will be held in five-year age groups for both men and women from age 30-34 to age 95+. There are no qualifying standards to enter the meet, except to be at least age 30.

The entry deadline was July 12 with the final deadline July 31. No late entries will be accepted in Provo, with the exception of relay teams, which may sign up on the day of the relay.

Awards to First Three
The first three U.S. finishers in each event will receive an official USATF Championship medal. Duplicate awards will be given to foreign athletes who place. In attendance will be athletes from England, Canada, Germany, France, and Australia.

The Utah Association of USATF, which will stage the meet, is experienced in hosting quality competitions, among them the 1984 Age-Group (Youth) Nationals, and the 1987 National Junior Olympics.

The Brigham Young facility has a nine-lane track, two long jump pits, two discus cages, two shot put rings, two pole vault pits, and three high jump pits. There are five acres of grass warm-up area to the North and East of the facility.

Welcoming Ceremony
A welcoming ceremony will be held Wednesday, the 11th, following the first day’s competition, at the Stadium.

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A Dutch Oven Banquet will be held Friday, the 13th, along with a "Mountain Man" demonstration.

On Saturday afternoon, following the close of competition, the annual athletes' meeting will be held in Cannon Center on the campus. Awards will be presented to the top 1992 athletes-of-the-year. Barbara Kousky, USATF's Masters Track & Field Chair, will lead the meeting in a discussion of items of importance to the masters track and field program. Suggestions are welcome. Everyone is invited.

Transportation

All major airlines fly into Salt Lake City. Delta Air Lines is offering special rates to the competition. Call Delta at 1-800-241-6760; refer to file number E1061.

Avis Rent-a-Car is also providing special rates. Call 1-800-331-1600; use the Avis discount number: Y552649.

Provo is about a 45-minute drive from Salt Lake City. Taxis and limousine service are also available. Amtrak stops in Provo daily. Most of the hotels in Provo are within a mile of the track. There will be no free shuttle service, but the local buses run at 10-15 minute intervals from the hotel area to the Stadium. The BYU dorms are only a 200-meter walk from the track.

No Sunday Competition

Traditionally, the national meet is held on Thursday through Sunday. However, BYU prohibits Sunday competition, thus this year's event is set for Wednesday through Saturday.

No smoking, drinking, coffee, or tea is allowed on the BYU campus. No "short shorts" are allowed in the cafeteria. Non-married couples of the opposite sex are not permitted to stay in the BYU campus dorms.

Packet Pick-Up

Packets consisting of number, t-shirt, and updated schedule and information will be available at the Seven Peaks Resort Hotel, 101 West North, Provo, on Tuesday, the 10th, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and at the track on days of competition from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Other meet information was mailed with entry confirmation, which should have been received by July 27 by those athletes who met the July 12 deadline. If you have not received your confirmation, call 1-801-538-2062.

Massages will be available at the stadium for a nominal donation. Results will be posted promptly. Local newspaper and TV coverage is expected.

Most officials and all head officials will be nationally- or master-ranked USATF certified officials from across the USA.

Declarations

The declaration procedure used in the 1990 and 1991 nationals will generally be used in Provo; namely, all athletes must check in 45-to-60 minutes before the start. The computer will then assign heats based on the signed-in athletes.

For non-competitors, admission to the stadium will be $2 per day, $5 for a three-day pass, or $6 for a four-day pass.

Proof of age and USATF membership will be required of all U.S. nationals at on-site registration. Foreign competitors should provide similar proof of registration from their coun-
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try's governing body.

Special Events

The popular, annual age-graded 100-meter races for men and women will again be staged. Based on the new, revised WAVA age-graded tables, the races will feature the winners of each 100-meter final (see distance handicaps on this page). The races will be held Saturday afternoon and sponsored by the National Masters News, with $200 prize money of $50 (first), $30 (second), and $20 (third) for each race.

The special "regional 4 x 100 relays" will take place on Friday afternoon, following the 200 finals. Each of the seven regions may enter a team in each of four races: 1) women age 50+; 2) men age 50+; 3) women age 30-49; 4) men age 30-49.

The 50+ teams may be composed of any four 50+ runners who live in a region as long as their total ages are 230 or more. The 30-49 quartets may be composed of any four regional 30-49 runners whose total ages are 150 or more. Regional coordinators may sign up their teams in Provo. Entry fees of $40 per team per relay should be given to race director Phil Mulkey.

The races will be scored by points (10,7,5,4,3,2,1). Unfortunately, Holiday Inns dropped its two-year sponsorship of the races, so there's no prize money this year. But the 16 winning team members will each receive a special patch. Medals will be awarded three-deep to runners in each relay. Each participant will receive a t-shirt. The winning region will receive a plaque.

The USATF National Championship relays (4 x 100, 4 x 400, 4 x 800) will be held Saturday following the age-graded 100s. Teams may be composed of members of a single club or a single region (based on a rule change at last year's convention). For a state-by-state breakdown of each region, see the schedule pages.

Sightseeing

In Utah and the surrounding Rocky Mountains are some of the most outstanding vacation spots in the USA. Within driving distance are four national parks: Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Zion, and Capitol Reef. Within a day's drive are Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Canyon. Utah contains six national monuments, including Dinosaur Monument, which contains the largest quarry of Jurassic Period dinosaur bones ever discovered. The Amtrak train ride from Denver to Provo is among the most scenic in the world.

Salt Lake City is the U.S. choice to host the Winter Olympics in either 1998 or 2002. Salt Lake's metropolitan area is the western U.S. hub for Delta Air Lines and handles some 10 million passengers a year.

Nearly half of all Utahans are bilingual or multilingual. The Mormon Church broadcasts programs worldwide in as many as 29 languages simultaneously.

The Great Salt Lake is the largest lake west of the Mississippi; the state of Rhode Island could easily fit within its shores. The lake is about eight times saltier than the ocean. The water has such buoyancy that swimmers, reportedly, can float in a standing position. Other Salt Lake attractions are Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Bingham Canyon Mine, and the Heber Creeper, one of the last active steam-engine trains.

Results

The complete results of the meet — including all heats and finishers — will be published in the September issue of NMN. □
BYU plays host to top masters track athletes

By BOB HUDSON
Assistant Sports Editor

BYU has been the site of plenty of outstanding track and field action over the years.

Great competition is expected again this weekend when the USA Track and Field Association's Masters National Championships come to town.

Action begins Wednesday and continues through Saturday. Competition will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday; from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday; from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday; and from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

Price of a ticket is $10 for all four days or $3 per day.

Approximately 1,000 competitors will be on hand to provide the thrills.

In reality, there will be 25 meets going on simultaneously as masters competition is broken down in age divisions for men and women. The men will compete in 13 classifications from age 30 while the women will compete in 12. Both men and women will be able to show their skills in 22 different events. For the women, that includes the pole vault, the hammer throw and the steeplechase, events not offered to them in most other meets.

The oldest athlete registered is Buell Crane of Twin Falls, Idaho. The 93-year-old man plans to compete in the shot put, discus, javelin, hammer throw, long jump, triple jump and high jump.

While the meet is primarily for American athletes, it will also draw a contingent from France and entries from Canada, Great Britain, Brazil and Puerto Rico.

One individual whose name any track and field buff would recognize is the Rev. Bob Richards. He was the Olympic pole vault champion in 1952.

"Another one that people may remember is Glen Passey, who won the NCAA discus championship for Utah State in 1960 or 1961," noted Ben Stowell, the president of USATF-Utah. "And Paul Cummings, who won an NCAA mile championship at BYU in the 1970s, is entered."

While the athletes entered may be past their prime, they are capable of outstanding marks. Richards will be attempting to set a world age group record in the pole vault. And Doug Nordquist of La Habre, Calif., has high jumped 7-feet-4, making him the favorite in that event in his age group. He could win many college meets even today with such a mark.

According to Stowell, bringing the meet to Utah offers three benefits. "For one thing, people here get an opportunity to see some great athletes. For our organization it means we get to expose track and field to some recognition. We've got some local athletes who will do very well.

"Then I like to show off Utah and BYU's fine facility to people. Plus, the economic impact on Provo with 1,000 people coming here for four days is substantial."

Stowell continued, "In a sense, this is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. We may bid for the meet again, but there's no guarantee (that the bid would be successful). People ought to come and see some of these people."
Ex-Olympians take stage at Masters track meet

By Doug Robinson
Deseret News sports writer

PROVO — The Masters National Track and Field Championships resumed today in Provo with a trio of former Olympians expected to take center stage on Day Two of the four-day competition.

The meet, for athletes 30 years old and older, began Wednesday with a schedule dominated by the plodding business of preliminary heats. The bulk of the finals will be held Friday and Saturday. Meanwhile, Olympians Doug Nordquist, Paul Cummings and Bob Richards were to compete today.

Nordquist, who finished fifth in the 1984 Olympic high jump and twice medaled in the Goodwill Games, is still a strong performer in the open competition. At 34, he has cleared 7-4½ this year — and 7-6½ as recently as three years ago.

"I had knee surgery a year and a half ago, and I'm still recovering," he said.

Nordquist came to Provo looking for meet competition and the chance to jump off BYU's famed high-jump apron, which has been the site of several record performances.

Richards, the 1952 and '56 Olympic pole vault champion who went on to Wheaties fame, was expected to compete in his old specialty today. Cummings, the 1974 NCAA mile champion for BYU and a 1984 Olympian at 10,000 meters, will run the 1,500-meter trials today.

Wednesday's competition included only a handful of finals in each of the 26 age groups (men and women). Ric Rojas, one of the country's top distance runners in the 1970s, flew to Utah from Colorado and stayed just long enough to win the 5,000-meter run in the 40-44 age group with a time of 15:42.37.

But perhaps the most impressive performance in the 5,000 was turned in by Vic Heckler of Chicago. He covered the distance in 17:00.79 — at the age of 51.

That notwithstanding, distance events might prove to be one of the meet's weak events, just as they were in last year's meet — all of which is a little baffling considering the vast number of good road racers throughout the country. But most of those road racers — most conspicuously, those from Utah — were absent Wednesday.

"I think road racers are afraid to get on the track," said one meet official. "I could name a bunch of road racers in this state who could have done very well here, but they didn't even sign up."

The three Utah distance runners who did show up came away with medals on Wednesday. Ken Velasquez, a 30-year-old Logan resident, won the 5,000 with a time of 15:21.58. Darrell Natter, a 56-year-old Salt Lake man, was second in the 5,000 with a time of 18:23.51.

Ed Murrell, a 37-year-old Cottonwood High School teacher and coach, also showed up for Wednesday's 5K. Murrell was one of the state's top road racers from 1978 to '82, but knee injuries forced him out of the sport for years. On Wednesday, after a few months of injury-interrupted training, he covered the 5,000 in 16:37.

"It's too bad local road racers didn't come to this meet," said Murrell. "The bottom line is that they were afraid of getting on the track. There aren't too many guys around here making money on the road, so why weren't they in this meet. This is a national championship."

Another Utahn, Orem's Dick Legas, won the 45-49 pentathlon with a score of 3,400 points.
By BOB HUDSON  
Assistant Sports Editor

PROVO — Wednesday was a good day for the Dick Legas family of Orem.

Legas beat an old friend, defending champion Rex Walters, to claim the men's pentathlon title in the 45-49 year-old age group at the U.S. Track and Field Association National Masters Championships at BYU.

And, his son Tad was there to see him do it. Tad was scheduled to report to the LDS Church's Missionary Training Center to begin two years of service earlier in the day. But, he received special permission to report late.

Legas credited his sons — Tad and Adam — with the victory. Two weeks ago he suffered a hamstring pull. As a result, his championship aspirations appeared to be in trouble.

"A week ago I called (meet director) Ben Stowell I didn't think I could compete," Legas said.

"Then my sons gave me a blessing and told me I wouldn't be ashamed of my performance."

He wasn't.

Legas scored 3,400 points in the five-event competition, edging Walters by just 34 points. He entered the final event — the 1,500-meter run — needing to beat Walters by 30 seconds. He won by 38, running 5:18.53 to Walters' 5:56.16.

The two men have known one another since they competed together on the U.S. Air Force team in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"I'm very grateful," Legas said as he savored his victory. "I'm extremely satisfied. My main competition was one of my very best friends. He got me into my first multi-events years ago."

And, when the two met at a TAC (The Athletics Congress) convention in December, Walters gave Legas the incentive to train seriously by pointing out the meet was in Provo. Legas, a retired Air Force officer, is now an assistant women's track coach at BYU.

Things were going well until the injury two weeks ago.

"To be perfectly honest, I didn't think there was a chance I could win," Legas said. "I came intending to do as well as I could in the long jump and 200 and see where I stood after that."

Legas' marks were respectable for a 47-year-old man. He long-jumped 17-feet-71/2, threw the javelin 179-1, ran the 200 in 27.55 and threw the discus 106-11. Then, with the title on the line, he dug deep and turned in that solid 1,500.

Walters appeared to be on target to successfully defend his title as he long-jumped 18-3/4, tossed the javelin 145-6, ran 25.15 in the 200 and threw the discus 121-5. He had a 2,933-2,776 lead heading into the final event.

That championship came in one of six events competed on the first day of the four-day meet. Titles were possible in 13 different age groups for men and another 13 for women.

Three American records fell during the meet. All came in the hammer throw.

Eighty-year-old James York of Modesto, Calif. won the men's 80-84 division with a new record of 89-9. The old mark of 87-3 had been set by Paul Narcess of Rhode Island earlier this year.

Betty Jarvis of Tahlequah, Okla. bettered her own mark in the women's 75-79 division with a throw of 59-61/4. She set the previous mark of 58-4 last year.

And, Joan Terry Grissom of Indianapolis, Ind. added five-plus feet to the old record in the women's 55-59 division. She threw 99-1 to erase the 93-10 record Sally Polk of Sandia Park, N.M. established in 1988.

Grissom was surprised at her record.

"I throw at the hammer," Grissom said with a chuckle. "I haven't learned how to spin."

Grissom said that fault in her technique is her own fault since she hasn't taken the time to practice.

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"I had no idea I was going to do anything in the hammer," Grissom said. "My asthma started kicking up and I hurt my knee; I didn't expect to do well in anything here except the shot put."

She will compete in that, as well as the discus, javelin, long jump and triple jump before the meet ends Saturday. Other records could follow.

Ken Velasquez of Logan gave Utah its first championship of the meet when he won the 30-34 men's 5,000. His time was 15:21.58. Ed Murrell of Sandy, the track coach at Cottonwood, finished second in the 35-39 division with a time of 16:37.43. Darrell Natter of Salt Lake City was second in the 55-59 division at 18:23.51 after leading for about half the race.

And, Terry Harris of Orem finished third in the 45-49 age group with a time of 17:32.37.

Brady Walker of Orem placed third in the men's 70-74 hammer throw with a toss of 121-10. He received a silver medal as the second American finisher as Marcel Batby of France won the event.

Not many Utah women competed in Wednesday's events. Kathy Bastian of South Weber was second in the women's 30-34 pentathlon with 1,650 points.

Today's highlights were expected to be world record assaults by the Rev. Bob Richards in the pole vault and by Fred Sowerby in the 400. The 400 record is 48.44 in his age group and Sowerby ran 49.43 in Wednesday's trials.

Friday and Saturday the meet begins about 7:30 a.m. and runs all day.
Sexism Keeps Women From Track Equity

Top Masters Women Say Men in Charge at Fault

By Chris Schulte
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PROVO — Sexism at the top level of track and field is keeping women from participating with men, say the best women pole vaulters at the masters level.

Only masters women — those 30 and older — compete in all the events men do.

The events “aren’t accessible to women [at all levels] because of the restrictions men place on women,” said Pat McNab, who won the 50-54 age group pole vault at the USA National Masters Track and Field Championships on Thursday at Brigham Young University.

“It’s your typical male chauvinism and sexism,” McNab said. “It’s time the IAAF [the international governing body of track and field] takes up the challenge and gets men and women doing the same events.”

McNab cleared 8-feet-6½ for her victory, off her world record of 8-10¾.

Allowing only masters to compete equally makes no sense, said Phil Raschker, the overall winner in the women’s 50-54 division with a 10-4¼ vault.

“It’s difficult to develop women in these events when women aren’t allowed in them at the junior and open levels,” said Raschker. “Track and field is controlled by men, most of them older, and they don’t think women can do all the events men can. We’re proving that it’s not true.”

High school girls in Germany compete in the pole vault and California will experiment with the event for prep girls.

“The other problem is the men

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Sexism Keeps Women From Track Equity

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who run the organizations expect women to be good at it right from the start," Raschker added.

Barbara Stewart, who finished second to Raschker in the 50-54 group, joked: "I guess they figure once we’ve had a couple kids and raised a family we’re tough enough to do the pole vault, but until then we’re still too weak."

Ironically, Raschker and McNab were slowed Thursday by minor injuries.

Raschker, who was trying for a world record vault of 10-6, sprained her ankle on her failed first attempt.

"I wanted to rest it because I still have to do the high jump and hurdles," Raschker said.

McNab was bothered by a recurring hip injury.

"I felt fine in warmups, but on my first attempt I felt something give and after that I couldn’t get the push I needed," said McNab.

The athletes were quick to add that injuries occur to men and women at all levels in all events.

Raschker doesn’t expect women to compete in the pole vault at the Olympics anytime soon. "It will probably be the year 2000." The meet continues today, beginning at 7 a.m. with the women’s 10,000 meters. Other events include the 10,000 for men, 300 hurdles for women, 400 hurdles for men, 800, 200, discus and long jump.

Edwin Lukens soars to a victory in the 70-74 triple jump at the Masters Track and Field meet.
Joe King of Alameda, Calif. heads to the finish line in the men’s 65-69 5,000-meter run at the U.S. Track and Field Association’s Masters Nationals Wednesday. King ran 20:05.88 to beat Robert Malain (80) and Gunnar Linde (665) in the race at BYU.
Another Orem resident claims master's track title

BY BOB HUDSON
Assistant Sports Editor

PROVO — Seventy-two-year-old Brady Walker became the second Orem resident to win a championship at the U.S. Track and Field Association's National Masters meet at BYU Thursday.

Walker won the men's 70-74 high jump with a leap of 4-feet-7½ to join Dick Legas, who won the men's 45-49 pentathlon on Wednesday, in the winner's circle.

"That was kind of unexpected," Walker said of his victory. "I figured if these other guys didn't do too well, I'd have a chance," Walker continued.

"I did these things for the Y (BYU) way back in 1948," he noted. "Then I played basketball, too, and played with the (Boston) Celtics for four years."

The 6-foot-7 Walker said he has only been competing in masters meets the past few years.

"I didn't know these things went on until about three years ago," he said. "It was kind of fun."

Walker will compete in the discus today and in the javelin on Saturday.

"Discus used to be my good event," he said. "And now I'm having trouble with the javelin. I used to throw 190 (feet), but now I can barely get the critter 100 feet. Of course, that was 40 years ago," he said of his top marks.

Athletes from around the United States, with a sprinkling from other nations, toppled six world records and tied a seventh during a busy second day of competition.

In addition, a number of other athletes eclipsed U.S. masters records. That list quickly began to be too lengthy to mention in light of the world marks.

Sixty-five-year-old Leonore McDaniels of Virginia Beach, Va., claimed two of the world records in her age group. She high-jumped 4-1½ to erase the old mark of 4-0¾ and also triple-jumped 24-11¼ to eclipse the old mark of 24-9.

Marilla Salisbury of San Diego, Calif., competing in the 85-89 women's division, threw the shot over a foot further than the previous record. Her put of 9-3½ was 12½ inches better than the old mark of 8-3.

Phil Rascher of Marietta, Ga., who has a pending world mark of 10-3, pole vaulted 9-10 to better the listed mark in that event in the women's 45-49 division. Patricia Ann McNab of St. Albans, England, in the 50-54 division, vaulted 8-6¼ to dash the old mark of 7-
(Continued from Page B1)

3%. She, too, has a pending mark.
however. Her best is 8-10%.

Greg Miguel of Manhattan
Beach, Calif. established a new
pole vault record in the 45-49
men’s class with a leap of 15-5½.

And, finally, Deby Sweezy of
Los Angeles, who competed inter-
nationally as Deby LaPlante a dec-
ade or more ago, tied the world
record of 11.78 seconds in the
women’s 40-44 80-meter hurdles.

Most of those who set world
records Thursday competed in a
variety of other events. Contes-
tants may enter as many as seven
events. People like Raschker and
McDaniels have collected several
gold medals with the potential for
more before the meet is over.
Ken Popejoy can remember the pain as if it were yesterday. "I was running second to Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan in the Millrose Games in Madison Square Garden and there was this terrific pang in my stomach." That was back in February. Turns out Popejoy, the former Big 10 mile champion, had a hernia pop through his intestinal wall during that 1,500-meter race. "I kept pushing [the hernia] back in and finished second with an American record of 4 [minutes] 14 [seconds]."

So running in the bright sunshine and scenery of the Wasatch Mountains Friday in the USA Masters National Track and Field Championships seemed like a piece of cake for Popejoy as he won the 40-49 age group 800 meters in 1:55.40.

There was a slight problem and it wasn't the hernia or the parasite infection that plagued the 1991 World Champion in late May.

"I kept thinking I was going to run into one of those mountains every time I went into the No. 2 and No. 3 turns," said Popejoy. "I've never run amid such breathtaking scenery."

The native of Wheaton, Ill., hasn't been running into anything but gold medals lately. After the 800 win, he'll be the favorite in his age group in the 1,500 meters Saturday, closing this four-day festival.

The defending world and national champion at 1,500 meters.

Now his competitive spirit is rekindled twice each year when the masters get together indoors and outdoors. "These are family reunions. I may win, but I'm pulling for every one of those competitors in each event."

Phil Mulkey of Marietta, Ga., competing in the 60-64 age group, was one of the 1,000 athletes here Friday hearing the cheers of his colleagues — lots of cheers.

The 60-year-old Mulkey, a scholarship basketball player and graduate of the University of Wyoming, was on the U.S. Olympic track and field team as a decathlete in 1960. He collected seven gold medals Friday.

One of the golds was from Wednesday's pentathlon, for his 3,217 points. But among Mulkey's wins (high hurdles, high jump, pole vault, long jump and triple jump and shot put), heaving the 11-pound shot that gave him the most satisfaction.

The 169-pound Mulkey said, "I was competing against guys who weigh 100 pounds more than me. Same thing in the discus where I took second. I was the littlest guy out there."

He's likely to be the biggest guy in Japan Oct. 7-12 when he takes his world leading decathlon point total of 8,387 into the world championships. "Defy anyone to beat me," said Mulkey. It's not likely. His nearest competitors from around the world have barely topped 7,000 points.

Debbie Hanson of Pleasant Grove won the women's 10,000 meters in the 35-39 age group with a 39:36.44 effort. Irene Obera of Fremont, Calif., the world champion in the 400 and 200 meters in both the 50 and 55 age groups, won the 200 meters in 30.33 seconds.

Saturday's finale will be highlighted by former NCAA mile champion Paul Cummings of BYU. He'll be the favorite in the 1,500 meters (55-39).

Another popular event is the age-graded race where all the 100 meter winners compete in a men's and women's race for cash prizes. The race is staggered with slowest runners taking off first. Last year, 80-year-old Polly Clark of Estes Park, Colo., won the women's top prize of $50.
Masters Duo Earns Gold Medals
In 100 at National Track Meet

8-15-93
By Joe Baird
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PROVO — Bill Weinacht and Phil Raschker aren’t the fastest human beings on the planet. But for one day, the 76-year-old from Cleveland and the 46-year-old from Atlanta were swift enough.

The duo capped the USA Masters National Track and Field Championships at Brigham Young University Saturday with triumphs in the age-graded 100-meter dash.

Weinacht finished a big week by winning the men’s 100 in 10.36 seconds, while Raschker proved a point in taking the women’s 100 in 11.06.

“What people need to know is that even at a later age, it’s still possible to come out, learn an event and compete,” said Raschker, who ran in her native Germany, but struggled to find competition stateside until discovering the masters circuit in 1980.

“The masters is a wonderful thing,” she added. “The biggest problem is, not enough people know about it.”

But those who do revel in it.

Weinacht competed as a youth, then gave it up for more than 50 years. He began running again 11 years ago, and he hasn’t looked back.

“I was city champ in Buffalo as a boy, then didn’t begin running again until I was 65,” he said. “Now, I train three times a week and I’m on three world-record relay teams.”

His next goals?

“I want both world records in the 100 and 200 meters,” he said. “And I’m getting really close.”

Weinacht and Raschker advanced to Saturday’s dash by winning their age-group races earlier. In the age-graded finale, the competitors are staggered at the start according to seniority. In addition to medals, the winners also netted a modest cash prize.

Several Utahns also helped close the masters show.

Paul Cummings cruised to victory in the men’s 35-39 1,500 meter run with a time of 4:08.79. Later, he anchored a 3,200-meter relay team that won in 8:10.25.

But the team, which included Doug Robinson, Jay Woods and Terry Thomas, was not particularly happy with the time — which fell about eight seconds short of the age-group record.

“I thought we could break it,” said Cummings.
Lehi man claims pair of national masters titles

By BOB HUDSON
Assistant Sports Editor

PROVO — Paul Cummings of Lehi, just a shade under 40 years old, easily won the 1,500-meter run in the 35-39 men's age division Saturday.

Cummings' victory came in the U.S. Track and Field Association's masters nationals at BYU.

To Cummings, the ease of the victory was frustrating.

"I was a little disappointed in the competition," Cummings said. "I thought there would be more people (stiffer competition) here."

The former BYU All-American ran 4:08.78 while Norman Roper of Norman, Okla. was second at 4:12.63.

The 40-44 men's division race, which preceded Cummings' event, was a better race as Ken Popejoy of Wheaton, Ill. slipped past Edmund Spinney of Eugene, Ore., 4:02.60 to 4:02.84.

"I wish I were 40," lamented Cummings, who reaches that age in a couple of months. "That was a competitive race. It was fun to watch."

At the end of the meet, Cummings teamed with Jay Woods and Terry Thomas, both of Provo, and Doug Robinson of Draper to win the 3,200-meter relay in the 30-39 age group (relay teams can compete in a 10-year spread rather than the five-year window open competitors have). They ran 8:10.25 while the California Coast team of Mark Cleary, Peter Mogg, Nolan Smith and Tyrone Bennett used a strong final leg to close to within 8:16.48 after trailing badly most of the race.

Cummings said he intends now to become more involved in the masters track program. "I feel like the times I ran last year will put me right up there in the masters," he said.

But, to be as competitive as he wants to be, Cummings must change his training somewhat. "I haven't really run any track stuff for a long time. It's a little different. I'll start doing my training that way a bit."

He has been a highly-successful road racer for the past decade or more. In addition, he has coached many of Utah's better distance runners.

The meet wound down with just one American masters record. Joann Grissom of Indianapolis, Ind., who started with a record in the hammer throw, picked up another in the shot put.

She threw 39-feet-10½ to win the women's 55-59 division and erase the old mark of 31-9¼ set by Anne Cirulnick in 1990.

One of the final events of the meet was a specialty race. In the age-grade 100-meter dash, the champions of the various age divisions were handicapped and started at different points on the track. Phil Raschker of Marietta, Ga., the 45-49 winner, won the women's race in 11.96 seconds while Bill Weinacht of Rock River, Ohio, won the men's race in 10.36. Each athlete started according to a formula which predicts how much an athlete loses off his or her prime. A 20- to 30-year-old, for example, would run the full distance. A 31- to 35-year-old might run 98 meters, et cetera.

About the only disappointing aspect of the meet was the lack of spectators other than the families of those competing.
Masters star runs foes into ground

Buell Crane has literally run his competition into the ground. Crane, age 93, from Twin Falls, Idaho, will be favored to win nearly all the events he enters in the USA Track and Field Masters National Championships which begin Wednesday at BYU.

In his age group, Crane is the man to beat.

Trouble is, there are not enough able-bodied men left in the world to compete against.

Crane could conceivably compete in six events this week. And he could be favored to win gold medals in all six.

One thing Crane won't do is run.

Eight months ago Crane was hospitalized for a viral infection which permanently destroyed some heart muscle. After making a full recovery and cautiously getting himself back into shape, Crane's physician cleared him to compete this week in Provo.

In fact, his medical clearance came just last Friday.

"The doctor just told me not to run. He said if I ran, he'd saw my legs off," said Crane.

In 1917 Crane was a track athlete at Washington State University, a high jumper.

He quit school after his freshman year and never participated in track and field again. Until 20 years ago.

Ever since then Crane has outlived and outperformed his peers. He currently owns 23 national and world records in the 85-89 age group and the 90-94 age classification.

In a capsule, Crane is the world's top track athlete over age 90.

Crane is scheduled to compete this week in the shot put, javelin, hammer throw, long jump, triple jump and high jump.

"I don't know how many events I'll do," said Crane from his home in Twin Falls Monday. "I'll have to see how it goes."

At age 93, you have to wake up and see how it goes every day.

A year ago Crane ran in Finland, earning four gold medals and a silver. He finished second in the 100 meter dash. "I ran with a case of pneumonia or I'd have won that too."

Crane appears to be in top physical condition. His booming voice is not only strong and full of vitality, but carries an air of confidence about it.

Crane's wife passed away seven years ago. He lives alone.

Crane will be on stage Wednesday through Saturday at the BYU track facility on Canyon Road in Provo. Hundreds of track athletes from throughout the country will gather in Provo this week for the national competition.

Crane spends most of his time watching the stock market. He has what he describes as "a couple of hundred thousand bucks" invested and he buys more than he sells.

"I haven't competed at all this year," said Crane. "I've just crawled around for a while, then worked on getting back in shape since the heart problem in November."

Crane admits his competition is not that strong. "There isn't much out there, to be honest with you."

Crane competes for the fun and pride in the sport. He receives some reductions in fares, travel and receives some athletic shoes.

Other than that, he's on his own in Provo.

That is, until some Utah Valley widows get wind he's in town, plays the stocks, lives alone and is a great athlete.

Then maybe he will have to run.

The meet is worth a look. At $10 for a four-day pass, it's a bargain.

"In 1990 Crane broke his age group's world record by an astounding five feet in the triple jump. He currently owns four high jumping records and is being considered for nomination into the Seniors Track and Field Hall of Fame."

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By Dick Rosetta
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PROVO — Buell Crane says he's a "late bloomer" in track and field.

At 72, the Twin Falls, Idaho, athlete won his first USA National Masters title. He set a world record in the 5,000-meter walk that same year in Los Angeles.

That was 21 years ago.

At 93, the 6-foot, 175-pound Crane is still pumping iron and pumping out national masters titles.

Wednesday, at the 1993 USA National Masters Track and Field Championships at Brigham Young University, he added another title by throwing the 8-pound hammer 38 feet, 3 inches.

"I hate the hammer," he said. "But they let us enter seven events and I didn't want to miss one."

Crane was alone in the 90-plus age group, but threw with athletes from other divisions.

A heart attack last November slowed Crane only momentarily. "The doc won't let me run anymore," he said. "At least I can't let him find out. I did run the 40-yard dash in eight seconds the other day. If the doc found out he'd cut off my leg."

Born in 1900 in St. John, Wash., just south of Spokane, Crane went on to Washington State University, where he competed track for two years. "I got tired of track," he said. "I concentrated or school." After graduation, he spent 25 years as an agronomist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He lived for 25 years in Salt Lake, where he was a wholesaler.

Retirement brought boredom. "I entered one of these meets in 1972. I beat some old goat in the javelin and got all excited," he said. "In that same meet, I won the 5,000-meter walk and beat the world record by three minutes."

From there, Crane has been a fixture at the national and foreign competitions as a 15-time All-American. He was Masters athlete of the year in 1982.

Crane once weighed 230 pounds, but "dropped to my playing weight of 175 when I developed a digestive problem 24 years ago. Thank God, I've never gained it back."

His advice to those who would like to join him in the athletic arena: "Drink lots of liquid, eat two meals a day and lift some weights. And watch the pulse rate closely."

They'll be watching Crane as he competes this week in the long jump, triple jump (about 15 feet), high jump (3-foot-5) shot put, discus and javelin. "That's when I have my fun," he said.

Another happy winner Wednesday was Joan Grissom, of Indianapolis, who set a masters record of 99-1 in the women's 55-59 hammer throw.

The two-time U.S. Olympic hurler — Seoul in 1980 and Tokyo in 1964 — said she was "lucky" as she surpassed the old record of 93-10. "I don't practice and I don't [throw] it right. I don't spin."

In addition to the Olympic appearances, Grissom won the Pan American gold medal in the 80-meter hurdles in 1967.

Since 1979, she has set more than 116 records. "This is my hobby. Instead of gifts, I ask my husband to give me money on special occasions. I save it for the airplane travel to these meets."

Utah winners included Ken Velasquez of Logan, who won the 5,000 meters in the 30-34 division with a time of 15:21.58, and Dick Legas of Orem, who won the 45-49 pentathlon with 3,400 points.

The four-day meet continues today with the first events — five divisions of women's race walks — at 8 a.m. Of interest on the program will be appearances of former Olympic pole vault gold medalist Bob Richards; BYU's former NCAA mile champion Paul Cummings and California high jumper Doug Nordquist, the current 50-64 world record holder at 7-49/2.

Saturday, August 13, 1993

By David Sivertsen
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PROVO — Winners of Wednesday's finals in USA track and field National Masters Championships at Brigham Young University, by age group:

MASTERS TRACK WINNERS 8-12-93

Men


75-79 - John Henon, Phoenix, 1:34.3: 8044 - Thomas Gage, Billings, Mont.

80-84 - William Sizemore, St. Louis, 1:53.3: 8044 - Thomas Gage, Billings, Mont.


Women


The Salt Lake Tribune
SPORTS
THURSDAY, August 12, 1993

'The Late Bloomer' Settles for Mastering the Hammer

'Bloomer' Settles for Mastering the Hammer

--- Continued From C-1 ---

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--- See C-3, Column 1 ---
### Women's results

**U.S. MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

at Brigham Young University

Saturday's results

Women

Shot put


1,500-meter run


10,000-meter road race


4x100-meter relay


Men

1,500-meter run


30,000-meter road race


4x100-meter relay


4x100-meter relay


Age-graded 100-meter dashes

- Merc Bill Weinacht, 76, Rock River, Ohio, 10.36 seconds; women: Phil Raschler, 46, Marletta, Ga., 11.56.
MASTERS TRACK AND FIELD WINNERS 8-15-93

PROVO — Saturday's results from the Masters Track and Field championship at BYU:

Saturday's Results
Women
Shot Put
(35-39) Carol Fenner, Austin, Texas, 36-8; (30-34) Angela Nealy, Indianapolis, Ind., 26-8; (45-49) Lurline Stupper, Baton Rouge, La., 31-3; (40-44) Joan Statton, Carmichael, Calif., 36-7; (55-59) Joann Gissom, Indianapolis, Ind., 29-10; (50-54) Karen Huff, Wilmette, Ill., 32-3; (65-69) Bernice Holland, Cleveland, Ohio, 26-5; (75-79) Betty Jarvis, Takie- quah, Okla., 17-0; (70-74) Margareth Hinton, Baytown, Texas, 22-4; (60-64) Sally Poik, Sandia Park, N.M.

1,500 Meters

Age-Grade 100 Meters
Phil Raschler, Marietta, Ga., 11.06.

400 Meter Relay
(30-34) Sheila Mitchell's team (Julie Seely, Lori Cielesiewicz, Sheila Mitchell, Debbie Venturino), 58.80.

10,000 Meter Racewalk
(30-34) Victoria Herazo, Las Vegas, Nev., 5:33.6; (35-39) Cindy Patruini, San Mateo, Calif., 5:42.9; (40-44) Sally Richards-Kerr, Evergreen, Colo., 5:50.5; (45-49) Donna Cunningham, Sierra Madre, Calif., 5:55.40; (50-54) Joann Nedeau, Southfield, Calif., 5:55.8; (55-59) Shirley Copps, Atascadero, Calif., 1:07.55; (50-64) Ruth Eberle, UFlorissant, Mo., 1:04.50; (65-69) Joann Beers, Lakewood, Calif., 1:10.01.

Men
(40-44) Dennis Umshier, Albuquerque.

N.M., 151-3; (35-39) Dan John, Murray, Utah, 164-4; (30-34) Martin Jaqua, Portland, Ore., 141-8.

Javelin

1,500 Meters

Age-Grade 100 Meters
Bill Weinacht, Rock River, Ohio, 10.36.

400 Meter Relay
(70-74) Nameless W40 (Betty Clair, Wendy Coppello, Cathy VanLeuen, Paul Dickson- Taylor), 1:03.79.

(30-34) Deseret News Track Club (Doug Robinson, Jos Woods, Troy Thomas, Paul Cummings), 1:04.25.

3,200 Meter Relay
(60-64) Southern California Stiders (Brian Sanchez, Alan Escobosa, Al Sheehan, Hugh Cobb), 4:37.74; (50-54) Unknowns, 4:36.03; (40-44) West Valley Track Club (Paul Raymond, Dennis Duffy, Searcy Barnett, Matt Pratt), 3:38.34.


3,200 Meter Relay
(60-64) Southern California Runners (Bob Holmes, Phil Williams, Robert Cull- ing, Gunnar Unde), 10:54.55; (50-54) Southern Old-Timers (Charles Wimblesby, Bailey Abemathy, Henry Hawk, Michael Bourdous), 10:00.07.

Javelin

20-Kilometer Racewalk

Prickey's Late Results
Men
200 Meters

10,000 Meters