

**George Ker [Highlights] DOB = Jan 15, 1923 [California] [Updated Mar 13, 2023]**

Summer (July) 1968 Masters held its first "Masters Track and Field Meet." **George Ker** was one of the pioneers for Masters Track and Field. Kerr won medals at the 1970 US Masters National Championships and several championship meets later. April 1971 Ker organized the "Grandfather Games" held at Los Angeles Valley College (Van Nuys). Ker's meet helped launch Masters Track and Field to be a successful sporting event. George Ker was meet director from 1971 to 1982. The 1982 meet included 238 athletes. The meet was held annually until 2004 (1983 to 2004 held in Irvine, California). Ker also compete in field events, was a college coach for 31 years (several sports), won US Masters National championships, held four Masters World Records, and six Masters American Records. In 1978 won the US Masters Athlete of Year Award. Ker holds the current meet record for the Masters Southern California Association Championship. Ker's M50 shot put record lasted over 10 years until Olympian Parry O'Brien broke the mark, and Ker's M55 record lasted over 10 years until Olympian Phil Mulkey broke the mark. Ker competed in the second L.A. Senior Games in 1971 (first meet was held in 1970), and competed at the first Masters West Region Championship held in 1975; Winning medals at both meets.

Ker was meet director for many Masters All Comer Meets and Grandfather Games which were the first meet for many athletes including a former Senior Editor of National Masters News, and a women Masters Hall of Fame athlete. Two additional Masters HOFers competed at Ker's All Comer Meets (when open athletes), four of his college athletes later competed in Masters, and two of his assistant coaches later became masters athletes. 1981 Ker served on a TAC Masters Committee for weights and throws.

Story in National Masters News (May 1999; page 8):

A portion of the story by the Senior Editor of the National Masters News, May 1999 issue: "George Ker, one of the pioneers of masters track & field in the late 1960 and early 1970s, and a world-record holder in the shot and discus . . . George Ker was instrumental in getting me and, I'm sure, others into masters track & field . . . His all-comer meets at Valley College were proving grounds for beginners and returnees to track . . . He originated the Grandfather Games . . . I've always felt that Ker didn't receive enough recognition for his contributions to the masters movement . . ."

In his younger years, Ker was a five-sport letterman in high school. Ker competed for Modesto JC setting a stadium record at the JC's Conference Championships, competed for the midshipmen school (Columbia University) (WWII vet; an officer), and was scouted by the New York Yankees. George Ker's two sons were successful in their own fields of work as well. 1944 Ker placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> (SP and DT) at the Penn Relays. Ker placed 3<sup>rd</sup> (SP) at the 1950 US Open National Outdoor Track and Field Championship, and was selected to represent USA versus Sweden. In Sweden, Ker placed 2<sup>nd</sup> (SP) behind the World Record Holder (also from USA).

[Continued next page](#)

### **Records: World, American, and Meet Records:**

American Record: George Ker: Age 49: Shot Put at 49'-1.5" = 14.97m (May 20, 1972)

World Record: George Ker: Age 50: Shot Put at 54'-5.5" = 16.60m (July 7, 1973 at Van Nuys)

World Record: George Ker: Age 51: Shot Put at 54'-6.5" = 16.62m (June 10, 1974)

World Record: George Ker: Age 55: Shot Put at 51'-8" = 15.74m (May 13, 1978)

World Record: George Ker: Age 60: Shot Put at 55'-4" = 16.86m (May 21, 1983)

American Record: George Ker: Age 55: Discus at 151'-6" = 46.17m (June 25, 1978)

Held Former Meet Records at the Masters US National Outdoor Championship.

Current Masters SCA Meet Record: George Ker: Age 52: Shot Put at 52'-4.5" = 15.96m (June 7, 1975 at Fullerton)

Meet Records at the Grandfather Games.

### **Below is a partial list of George Ker's Meet Results:**

#### **George Ker at Masters World Championship:**

1975: Age 52: 2<sup>nd</sup> SP at 15.54m and 3<sup>rd</sup> DT at 44.24m (Aug 1975 Toronto)

1977: Age 54: 2<sup>nd</sup> SP at 15.26m and 4<sup>th</sup> DT at 45.14m (Aug 1977 Sweden)

#### **George Ker at International Meet:**

1974: Age 51: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 15.85m and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 44.43 m (June 29-30, 1974 at Vancouver)

#### **George Ker at Masters National Championship:**

1970: Age 47: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 45'-4.75" = 13.83m (July 1970 at San Diego)

1971: Age 48: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 46'-4.25" and 4<sup>th</sup> DT at 131'-5.25" (July 1971 at San Diego)

1972: Age 49: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 47'-4.25" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 146'-0" (July 1972 at San Diego)

1973: Age 50: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 52'-4.5" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 150'-11" (July 1973 at San Diego)

1974: Age 51: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 53'-5.5" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 148'-7.5" (July 5-7, 1974 at Gresham, Oregon)

1975: Age 52: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 50'-10.5" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 149'-0" (Aug 1975 at White Plains, New York)

1981: Age 58: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 45'-5.75" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 136'-2" (TAC: Aug 15-16, 1981 at Los Gatos)

#### **George Ker at Masters Pan Games:**

1981: Age 58: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 43'-11" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 138'-2" (Aug 1981)

#### **George Ker at Masters West Region Championship:**

1975: Age 52: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 52'-1.5" (1975)

1976: Age 53: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 14.33m and 2<sup>nd</sup> DT at 131'-2" (1976)

1977: Age 54: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 42'-6.25" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 138'-5" (1977)

1979: Age 56: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 42'-0.5", 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 132'-4" (1979)

1983: Age 60: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 51'-7" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 151'-3.5" (1983)

[Continued next page](#)

**George Ker at Masters SCA Championship:**

1975: Age 52: 1<sup>st</sup> Shot Put at 52'-4.5" = 15.96m, and 1<sup>st</sup> DT (June 7, 1975 at Fullerton)

1977: Age 54: 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 132'-6" (1977)

1979: Age 56: 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 134'-8" (1979)

1981: Age 58: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 44'-10.5" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 40.64m (1981)

1983: Age 60: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 51'-3.75", 2<sup>nd</sup> DT at 135'-2" (July 9, 1983)

**George Ker at Mt Sac Relays:**

1977: Age 54: 2<sup>nd</sup> Masters DT at 133'-2" (April 23-24, 1977)

**George Ker at Grandfather Games:**

1973: Age 50: 1<sup>st</sup> Shot Put at 54'-5.5" = 16.60m World Record (July 7, 1973 at Van Nuys)

1974: Age 51: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 53'-7" (April 6, 1974)

1975: Age 52: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 52'-2.75", 3<sup>rd</sup> HT at 70'-3" (1975)

1977: Age 54: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 44'-6.25" and 2<sup>nd</sup> DT at 131'-6.5" (1977)

1978: Age 55: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 51'-8" (12-Lb), 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 150'-7" (1978)

1979: Age 56: 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 138'-2" (1979)

1981: Age 58: 2<sup>nd</sup> SP at 46'-1" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 133'-9" (May 9, 1981)

1982: Age 59: 3<sup>rd</sup> SP at 42'-8.5" and 3<sup>rd</sup> DT at 120'-5" (May 8, 1982)

1983: Age 60: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 55'-4", 2<sup>nd</sup> DT at 138'-2" (1983)

**George Ker at Corona Del Mar Relays:**

1975: Age 52: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 50'10" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 150'-11" (June 14, 1975 at Costa Mesa)

(The 150'-11" is better than Ker's 143'-6" from 1974)

**George Ker at Senior Games:**

1971: Age 48: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 47'-1" (16-Lb) and 2<sup>nd</sup> DT at 150'-3" and 1<sup>st</sup> HT at 79'-7" (16-Lb) (June 1971 Senior Games LA)

1972: Age 49: 1<sup>st</sup> SP at 46'-8" and 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 139'-3" (June 1972 Senior Games LA)

1975: Age 52: 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 151'-9.5" (June 1975 Senior Games LA)

1978: Age 55: 1<sup>st</sup> DT at 151'-6" (June 1978 Senior Games Irvine)

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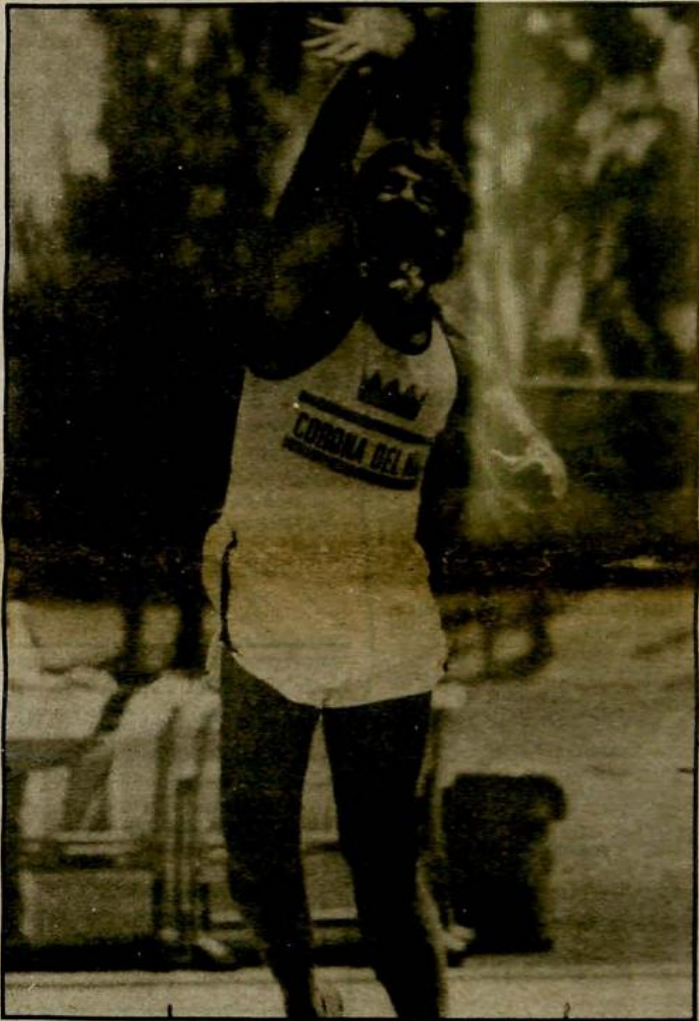
**US Masters Track and Field Rankings:**

US Ranked # 1 Shot Put: 1972 through 1978, and 1983

US Ranked # 1 Discus: 1974, 1975 and 1978

**Picture per July 1981 National Masters News:**

national publication devoted exclusively to track & field and long distance running for men and women



**George Ker, 58,** directed the popular Grandfather Games last month in Van Nuys, Calif. Ker is the U.S. record-holder in the shot put in the 45-49, 50-54, and 55-59 age brackets.