



Track & Field Report

by **KEN WEINBEL**

Report from the Chairman

Since my election to the Masters Chair, I have been busy with reorganizing the various committees and areas of responsibility within the Masters Committee. Some changes have been made and others are forthcoming, which I trust will benefit our program and the priorities we have set forth.

My first official act as a member of the USATF Executive Committee was to attend a meeting in Los Angeles on January 18 and 19, where the committee reviewed and agreed on a balanced budget for 1997 and a strategy for selecting a successor to Ollan Cassell, our current Executive Director.

The Executive Committee endorsed a \$7.8 million budget for 1997, based on a forecast of revenue. Further, the committee reaffirmed that producing high quality national and international teams for USA representation is major, and that maintaining quality staff for administrative programs for the entire constituency is a priority.

The revised budget reflects a considerable reduction from the October budget proposal. All committee bud-

gets were affected. Masters Track and Field's budget has been reduced accordingly. We must now adjust our own budget items to comply with the reduction.

A search firm was selected to assist USATF with the selection of a new Chief Executive Officer to succeed Ollan Cassell. Ollan has served the organization for many years and will continue in his present role during the search period. Ollan will also continue to serve in his role as IAAF Vice President through his term of office to 1999.

The Executive Committee concluded the Los Angeles Meeting on a positive note, unanimously expressing optimism for the future of USA Track and Field. □

Indoor T&F Records Update Delayed

Last month, we said the 5-year indoor world and USA masters track and field records would be published in this issue.

Regrettably, the updating of the records list has been delayed, and will

be printed, instead, in our March issue. We apologize for the delay. The Records committees have tightened their verification procedures, so approval of records is taking more time. □

Indoor Nationals Preview

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high jump, long jump, triple jump, and pole vault in addition to practice dash lanes. The facility has a comfortable seating capacity of 3000. An adjacent gym provides an adequate athlete

warm-up and clerking area.

Competition in five-year age groups will get under way on Fri., March 21 at 4:30 p.m. USATF championship medals will be presented to the first three places in each age division in each event. Action will continue at 9 a.m. on Saturday, winding up at 4 p.m., Sunday afternoon.

Discounted air and hotel fares are available from Marathon Tours (800-444-4097).

The entry form is published in this issue on page 5.

Two USATF indoor regional masters championships will be used by many athletes as tune-ups for the Nationals: the Midwest Regional in Warren, Mich., on March 1 (entry form on page 7) and the East Regional in New York City on March 9 (entry form on page 11).

There are also plenty of local meets scheduled for this month and in March (see page 28 for details). □



Payton Jordan



Irene Obera

First Hall of Fame Selections Announced

Charles DesJardins and Barbara Kousky, immediate past chairmen of the USA Track & Field masters committees for long-distance running, and track and field, respectively, jointly announced the election of the following seven members into the first class of the USATF Masters Hall of Fame, which was established under their tenure which ended Dec. 31, 1996:

- Track and Field – male
- Payton Jordan
- Track and Field – female
- Irene Obera
- Long Distance Running – male
- Norm Green
- Long Distance Running – female
- Ruth Anderson
- Toshiko d'Elia
- Miki Gorman
- Racewalking – female
- Beverly LaVeck

Requirements for nomination included:

- 1) Athletes must have been at least age 40 and must have competed as a masters athlete for at least five years.
- 2) Athletes must have met certain achievement prerequisites, consisting



Ruth Anderson

of a combination of world and/or U.S. records and/or world and/or U.S. titles.

3) There was no age requirement for nominees in the "other" category, which was intended to honor contributors to the sport – those who gave of their time and/or money to facilitate events. This category included benefactors, sponsors, coaches, administrators, meet directors, officials and journalists.

4) Only accomplishments after the age of 40 were considered.

The nomination process was established to reflect the nature of USATF masters athletics, which puts emphasis on participation. Selection required at a minimum a majority of ballots cast.

"The USATF Masters Hall of Fame award was intended to be something special, similar to the Baseball Hall of Fame," said Marilyn J. Mitchell, Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee. "So the selection of many candidates was not the objective. The Hall of Fame voters were not required to cast a vote in every category, nor were voters required to rank candidates. If the voter felt no one in a category was truly outstanding, the voter was allowed to bypass that category and go to the next, without having his ballot invalidated."

The project eventually involved about 50 candidates, 150 voters and 17,000 pieces of paper. Eligible voters included all voting members of the USATF Masters Track & Field and



Norm Green

Aimee Basile Agency Shot

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WORLD VETERANS' ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
17 - 27 JULY 1997
DURBAN
 KWA-ZULU NATAL
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Hall of Fame

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Long Distance Running committees for the 1996 year.

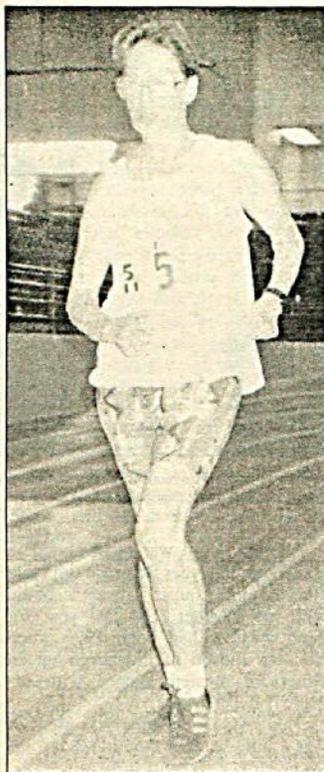
Analysis of the voting indicates truly outstanding candidates were successful, although a maximum of three could be selected from among 13 candidates in the male athlete T&F category, with no runoff permitted. Payton Jordan, nonetheless, managed to obtain more than a majority of the votes.

Mitchell said: "I am very, very pleased with the results and have but one regret: that the voters failed to select anyone in the 'other' category, which seems to indicate the voters, most of whom are athletes, do not properly appreciate the efforts of contributors and other non-competitors, who make it possible for the athletes to compete. There was one situation in which the vote was close, but, in most cases, fewer than half the voters cast votes in the 'other' category. So under the existing rules which limited a voter to one selection from among seven candidates and which required a majority of cast ballots for election, it was virtually impossible for any candidate in the 'other' category to be successful."

Mitchell asked that all inquiries be directed to her at 212-697-8216 or to Kousky at 541-687-1989.

Mitchell said the original plan was to post a plaque at USATF headquarters in Indianapolis, listing the names of each inductee.

As to the future of the Hall of Fame program, new Masters Chairmen Ken



Beverly LaVeck. Photo by Suzy Hess

Weinbel (T&F) and Jerry Crockett (LDR) will shortly announce the formation of a new Hall of Fame Committee which will carry on the program, probably with new rules and guidelines. □

National One-Mile

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With Fetherston in the race, San Diego's Kim Campo, 41, had someone to set the pace. The race quickly settled into a four-woman pack led by Fetherston, followed closely by Campo, Marcella Teran, W40, and Beverly Robson, W40. By the time the final turn had been made, the race was between Campo and Fetherston. A surprised Campo was first to the line, winning in 5:07 (87.1%), a second faster than Fetherston.

"I never thought I'd win this race," said Campo, who hadn't done any track work for months and, like Fetherston and Teran, is pointing to the National Masters Half-marathon Championships in Las Vegas next month. "This was totally unexpected."

Fetherston, meanwhile, is heading to Las Vegas buoyed by her second-place mile finish (5:08; 87.5%) and the hope that she may be in shape to challenge the course record of 1:13:54 she set in Vegas two years ago.

If their fast mile times are any indication, it could be some rematch for Campo and Fetherston. □

MEMBERS OF MASTERS HALL OF FAME

NAME	INFORMATION
Ruth Anderson female athlete long distance running	67 years old, Oakland, CA, long distance runner, all distances, including ultra distances (which exceed the 26.2 mile marathon distance). Numerous national records, world and national championship titles. 1976 time of 5:09:47 at age 47 for Pike's Peak round-trip run is still overall women's course record. First place in that race in 1976, 1980 and 1990. Has twice completed the Western States 100 Miler run. Has completed more than 66 ultra-running events and 100 marathons. Retired scientist from Livermore Laboratories, has contributed heavily in administration and organization of masters running, receiving national awards from the USATF for meritorious service in 1977 and 1991.
Toshi D'Elia female athlete long distance running	67 years old, Ridgewood, New Jersey, long distance runner, from 5,000 meters up to and including the marathon; 3rd woman overall at age 46 in New York City Marathon October 1976 (3:08:11); first woman over 50 years old to record sub-3 hour marathon (Glasgow, Scotland in 1980); 15-time winner of New York Road Runners Annual age group award 1978 through 1995; autobiography, <i>Running On</i> , published in Tokyo, Japan and subject of docu-drama production based on above autobiography produced by TV-Asahi of Tokyo and shown nationwide in Japan and Hawaii. Former communications skills specialist at the New York School for the Deaf. Currently produces annual special track and field events for students (nursery school through 6th grade) at New York School for the Deaf to promote physical fitness and to encourage good sportsmanship.
Beverly LaVeck female athlete racewalk	60 years old, Seattle, WA, racewalker; numerous world and national outdoor age-group records; set two open track records at age 46 (100 miles, 21:42) and 47 (100 k, 11:56); numerous world and national championship titles; in 1984, oldest track and field qualifier for 1984 Olympic trials at age 48 but decided to not compete. Certified USATF track and field official and racewalk judge. Although Hall of Fame selection recognizes Beverly's athletic ability, she has contributed heavily for years in coordinating masters track and field awards (all events) and in coordinating masters racewalk competition and awards. Volunteer racewalk official at 1984 Olympic Trials and Olympic Games. Volunteer fitness, health and racewalk instructor in hospitals, colleges and the public school system. Also, does volunteer work for the Red Cross in Disaster Relief and went to Hawaii on assignment for the hurricane several years ago.
Irene Obera female athlete track and field	63 years old, Fremont, CA, track and field, sprints up through 400 meters and long jump; undefeated in age-group masters national competition from 1975 to present. Indoor national champion at 60 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters; world record holder at 60 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters (no world indoor championships held at this time); 1995 outdoor national and world champion, national and world record holder in 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters. Retired school principal.
Miki Gorman female athlete long distance running	61 years old, Los Angeles, CA, long distance runner, running all distances up to and including the marathon; winner of New York City Marathon in 1976 (age 41, time of 2:39:11) and 1977 (age 42, time of 2:42:10); winner of Boston Marathon in 1974 at age of 39 years 8 months (2:47:11) and 2nd woman Boston Marathon in 1976 at age of 40 (time of 2:52:24); first woman overall in 1975 and 1976 (ages 40 and 41) in at least 10 races of varying distances; winner of numerous national masters championships and holder of various national records. Two New York City Marathon times are still two fastest masters performances by an American in that race. Had a feature film made about her life, entitled <i>My Champion</i> and someone also made a documentary about her life. Currently working in a law firm in Los Angeles.
Norman Green male athlete long distance running	64 years old, Wayne, PA, long distance runner, all distances. Numerous world and national records and championship titles. First American over age 50 to break 2:30:00 at the marathon distance (2:29:11, 1984). Since age 50 has won age-group in 189 road races, placing second only six times. Of those 6 times, the competitors were younger in each case with one exception. Recently retired minister, heavily involved in administration and organization of masters athletics on world and national level.
Payton Jordan male athlete track and field	70 years old, Los Altos, CA, track and field, sprints up through 400 meters and 4x100 meter and 4x400 meter relays. Holder of numerous world and national records and championships titles, selected outstanding masters athlete by various organizations and publications including USATF Masters Track and Field Committee and <i>California Track News</i> . Was outstanding athlete in his age group in every year in which he competed. In 1994 featured on cover of <i>Parade Magazine</i> as an example of outstanding fitness in senior citizen population. Recently retired from active track and field competition, some feel, in order to give others in his age category a chance to be acknowledged. Handsome, courtly gentleman, well-liked by the athletes. Former track and field coach at Stanford University, was coach of 1968 USA Men's Olympic Track and Field team which triumphed in Mexico City.

CLOSE OUT!

1995 U.S. Masters Outdoor T&F Rankings Book

- Men's and women's 1995 U.S. 5-year track & field age-group rankings.
- 60 pages, over 100-deep in some events.
- All T&F events.

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