

16 Athletes Elected to USATF Masters Hall of Fame at Annual Convention in Los Angeles

Eleven active and five old-timer masters athletes and administrators have been elected to the USATF Masters Hall of Fame.

The actives are Mary Bowermaster, Dan Bulkeley, Jerry Donley, Joanne Grissom, Hal Higdon, Claude Hills, Helen Klein, Pearl Mehl, Gary Miller, Larry Stuart, and Warren Utes.

The old-timers are Thane Baker, Ted Corbitt, Edith Mendyka (deceased), Al Oerter, and Alex Ratelle.

The Hall now contains 16 women and 29 men, of whom 25 represent the discipline of T&F, 17 LDR, and three race-walking.

Mary Bowermaster, 82, Fairfield, OH, is a sprinter, jumper, and thrower who still holds four world records and four American records of the 20 she set. Mary has won numerous championship events since 1983 and was named age-group athlete of the year on six occasions.

Dan Bulkeley, 82, Phoenix, OR, is a versatile athlete with eight firsts in national decathlons since 1988 and seven current world records. He has 18 wins in WAVA championships and 33 firsts in U.S. national championships.

Jerry Donley, a 69-year-old pole vaulter from Colorado Springs, Colo., has dominated his event, winning the Indoor Championship 13 of the past 15 years. He is a six-time WAVA vault champion and as an administrator served the Masters T&F Committee as secretary (1982-83) and chair (1983-89). He led the successful drive that brought the WAVA games to Eugene in 1989.

Joanne Grissom, 61, Indianapolis, Ind., has usually won the events she entered across the past 19 years. She holds eight U.S. and one world record currently, while 19 others have subsequently been superseded. She is a four-time age-group field event athlete of the year.

Hal Higdon, 68, Long Beach, Ind., is the long-time Senior Editor of *Runners World* and columnist for *National Masters News*. Hal is equally at home on the track (steeplechase) and roads (records at 12K to half-marathon). He won the WAVA steeplechase three times and the U.S. marathon once. Author of 32 books and co-founder of RRCA, Hal has had a major impact on our sport across the past three decades.

Claude Hills, 87, Flourtown, Penn., has had an outstanding career for more than 25 years, excelling in hurdles, jumps, and vaults. He set 19 American and world records, won the U.S. decathlon six times, the outdoor pentathlon seven times and the indoor pentathlon four times. A co-organizer of the Philadelphia Masters Track Association in 1970, Claude has served as its only treasurer.

Helen Klein, 77, Rancho Cordova, Calif., was selected in the ultra runner category. Beginning at age 55, she holds about 75 records and has completed 121 ultramarathons; no woman 20 years her junior comes even close. She is the oldest person in the world to finish a 100-mile trail run. She co-directs the Western States 100 Miler and the Sun-Mart Texas

Trail 50 miler.

Pearl Mehl, 85, Boulder, Colo., in her long career has often won five or six events in a single meet. She set 34 American and world records, still holding 11 of them. She is strongest in the middle distances and has had a successful career at both the indoor and outdoor national championships. Pearl is a nine-time age-group track athlete-of-the-year.

Gary Miller, 62, Glendale, Calif., still holds three world pentathlon/decaathlon records set a decade or more ago, while three others have now been superseded. He has won 27 national and world titles across the past 21 years. Gary was the first to propose the Masters Hall of Fame concept and originated the All-American standards program featured in *National Masters News*.

Larry Stuart, 62, Lake Forest, Calif., has the distinction of being a once-beaten javelin specialist in 21 years as a master. His world records at age 46, 55, 57 and 60 exceeded 100% on the WAVA age-grading tables — the most notable being 65.74 meters at age 57 in 1995 for 111.75%.

Warren Utes, 79, Park Forest, Ill., held eight American road records before he burst on the world scene at the WAVA championships in Turku, Finland, winning and breaking the world record in the 10,000 meter event and setting a world record in the 5000 meter semifinal, then sustaining an injury in his next event. He currently holds 12 American road records and has been the LDR runner of the year in seven of the past 10 years for age-groups M70 and M75.

Thane Baker, 68, Dallas, Texas, had a 15-year career as a sprinter and still holds the M45 100m world record of 11.0 after 19 years. Thane won seven national sprint titles and three world titles by 1983.

Ted Corbitt, 80, New York, NY, has completed 199 marathons and ultras, established the road course measurement program, and served for many years as the national certifier. As a master, he won overall 21 ultradistance races from 30 to 50 miles length between 1959 and 1972. He was a co-founder and first president of RRCA and was elected to its hall of fame in 1971.

Edith Mendyka, Tujunga, Calif., died at the age of 85 following a career that spanned 1971 to 1992. She still holds five U.S. throwing records of the 32 she set across a 20-year career. She excelled in long and triple jumps, shot put, discus and javelin. She was the field age-group athlete of the year for W70 in 1985 and W75 1986 through 1989.

Al Oerter, 63, Estero Beach, Fla., an Olympian in the discus throw, and already a member of the USATF open Hall of Fame, set three world and three American records between ages 41 and 62, three of them exceeding the 100% mark on the WAVA age-graded tables. His 62.74 meter discus throw at age 52 was the Outstanding Single Performance of 1989 and the current world record.

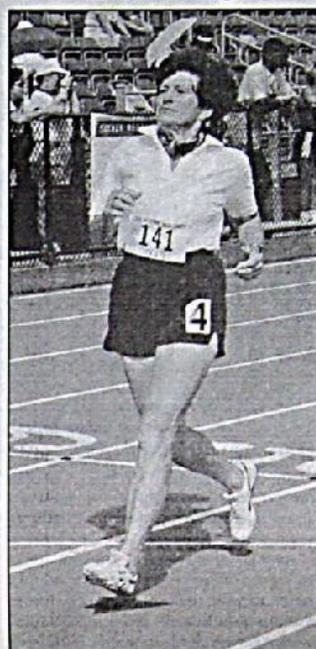
Alex Ratelle, 75, Grand Marais, Minn., excelled on road and track from distances of three miles to 50 miles. This

retired anesthesiologist was widely sought as a pre-race speaker. In his career, he set 20 national records of which six still stand. A five-time LDR runner-of-the-year for M50, M55, and M60, his name is spread widely in the all-time rankings for 15K through the marathon for M50 through M65 age-groups.

The results of this year's balloting were announced by Norm Green on behalf of Ruth Anderson, Bob Fine, Dudley Healy, Len Olson, and Louise Mead Tricard of the Masters Hall of Fame Committee supplemented by Jerry Crockett, Al Sheahan, Ken Weinbel, and Evelyn White on the Old-Timers Committee. The announcement was the highlight of the joint meeting of Masters T&F and Masters LDR held December 2 at the annual USATF convention in Los Angeles, Calif.

Green reported that 153 ballots had been distributed to listed members of the two masters committees plus previous Hall of Fame honorees. Seventy-eight returned ballots, casting 722 votes. Each person elected received a majority of the votes cast. Green proposed, and the committees accepted, that a similar process be followed in 2000, and he shared the names of the nominees for 2000 in both the actives and old-timer categories. □

— Norman Green



JERRY WOJCIK
Mary Bowermaster, shown winning the W80 100 (19.42), broke her W80 high jump record with a 0.94, National Senior Games, Orlando, and was elected to the Masters Hall of Fame.

Master Board

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RACES

MARCH 18 - Shamrock Sportsfest Marathon, 8-K, Masters 8-K & 5-K Walk, Virginia Beach, VA. Contact: Jerry Bocrie, 2308 Maple St., Virginia Beach, VA 23451. Telephone #: (757) 481-5090. Fax #: (757) 481-2942.

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Field - Los Angeles - Nov. 30 - Dec. 4, 1999

Minutes of Masters LDR Committee Meetings

Tue., Nov. 30-8:30 p.m.

Jerry Crockett, Chair Presiding
Chairman's Report

Masters LDR has shown growth in 1999. The circuit, championships, world and U.S. records have been excellent. Some great names of the past have returned to the roads as masters: Dick Buerkle, John Tuttle, Priscilla Welch among them.

Indianapolis Life has stopped its sponsorship of our circuit due to changes in federal life insurance law. USATF is in conversation with two possible sponsors, either of which would provide more support than in the past.

All championship events in 1999 offered a minimum of \$5000 in prize money and expense support for many masters. We staged four good cross-country events and need to develop that part of our sport more fully in the middle part of the nation.

We have thrown three venue sports into a single subcommittee - mountain, ultra, and trail running (MUT) - with three reps each from men's, women's and masters committees.

Crockett introduced Steve and Joy Edwards of RunningUSA. Steve's background is 22 years in motor sports. RunningUSA is now incorporated, thanks to the good work of David Coyce. Its purpose is to make our sport like other sports; our demographics are strong.

Crockett noted the fine work of Charles DesJardins on the Indy Life Circuit, John Boyle on our Championships, Barbara Arveson for athletic bios and media publicity. Norm Green for ideas offered for runners who don't win, and race directors who support us.

Board of Directors

Bob Hersh said there will be a new style to IAAF following Primo Nebiolo's death. IAAF, USATF, USOC and IOC are all trying to get out of the drug testing business by employing independent firms.

Green noted RunningUSA had been voted membership by the Board, giving it 10 delegates and a seat on the Board. Crockett added the National Senior Games Assoc. (NSGA) was also voted into membership. DesJardins noted NSGA has a policy of no prize money. Don Lein said NSGA held its national games at Disney in 1999 just as USATF did and was likewise victimized by Disney policies.

Indy Life Circuit

DesJardins said Bob Schnell of Indy Life has been supportive of the circuit and hopes that, following a company merger, Indy Life might return some time in the future to support our sport.

WAVA

Ruth Anderson stated the women's committee is now an official committee of WAVA and not just an assembly. Our NCCWAVA region has good input from women through our representative, Monica Tang Wing of Trinidad & Tobago.

DesJardins said he was kept busy as co-team manager in Gateshead, since the USA delegation had 560 athletes. He handled the non-stadia events and backed-up the T&F events. He said WAVA's drug testing, which

produced no positive tests at Buffalo or Durban, turned up positives in Gateshead.

IAAF Veterans Committee

DesJardins said he was re-elected to a new four-year term. Herb McKenley of Jamaica and Danny Daniels of Canada now also represent North America.

Championship Statistics

Green said copies of his Championship Stats report were available. His full database for 1979-99 now generates a 65-page report and exceeds the capacity of a 1.44mb floppy disk.

Rule 270 Issues

Crockett said race directors look to our committee for leadership. He appointed DesJardins, Boyle, Mary Rosado and Barbara Leininger as a subcommittee to amend Rule 270 dealing with issues arising among foreign athletes who cannot prove their birth date, and athletes who fail to wear back numbers in our championship/circuit races. A proposed amendment was tabled and remanded to the subcommittee.

Thu., Dec. 2 - 7:30 a.m.

During the meeting 18 individuals attended.

Awards

(See separate story on page 1.)

Budget

Crockett said we have enough funds to finish 1999. He is engaged in a debate with the Chief Financial Officer and the Budget Committee re surplus Indy Life Circuit funds. We are trying to have such funds carried forward to 2000. We have purchased needed office equipment. Our 2000 budget will be the same as in 1999 (\$30,000). We had requested \$57,000. We do not have a Treasurer's report because we don't have valid accounting from Indianapolis.

Athletes' Communication Center

Barbara Arveson said she now has about 40% of the Indy Life Athletes in her bio database. She provides circuit races with appropriate bios. We need to coordinate with RRIC a possible web page on Masters LDR.

Joint Meeting Masters T&F and Masters LDR

Thu., Dec. 2 - 1:00 p.m.

Ken Weinbel, Masters T&F Chair, opened the meeting and introduced Jerry Crockett, Masters LDR Chair, and Norm Green, Masters LDR Secretary.

Masters LDR Business: Otto Essig Award

The LDR committee voted to award its 1999 Otto Essig Award to John E. Kelley (the elder).

National Masters News

Jerry Wojcik, senior editor of the NMN, the official publication to both USATF and WAVA, noted the NMN receives funding from WAVA, though no longer from USATF. NMN has about 7300 subscriptions. The editorial office is in Eugene, Ore. Layout and printing is done in Tujunga, Calif. Wojcik, Suzy Hess, administrative editor, and Al Sheahen, publisher, were all in Gateshead to cover the WAVA Championships. NMN was also present at the Masters T&F Championship, at the National Senior Games, and at other meets.

On a typical day, Hess gets on the internet early in the morning at home, picks up the mail and comes to the office to assume her other duties, such as answering the phone, filling book orders, preparing All-American certificates, etc. Jerry works primarily at home on the schedule, compiling results, and editing T&F and LDR material and other copy. Jane Dods handles racewalking and shares LDR editing. Each month after the deadline of the 10th, articles, pictures, results, and other columns are forwarded to Angela Egremont, who does the layout, final editing, proofing and advertiser invoicing. Hess requested that advertising inquires be sent to her.

Wojcik said most subscribers are T&F, LDR is next, and walkers at about 20%, and suggested that the proportion of retirees is larger than we think, and baby boomers in their 50s are a large market. Asked what role Rodale Press has in marketing NMN, Wojcik said that it inserts a tear out in each monthly issue of *Runner's World*, and solicits advertisers. Jerry reported that the internet complicates race results because often race data are not sorted into easily accessible categories that fit NMN needs.

Hall of Fame

Norm Green noted that in the past two years, we elected seven and then 10 honorees. This year, 11 exceeded our 50% minimum, and the committee agreed to suspend its 10-person limit, so all 11 could be elected. (See separate story on p.5).

The following will be Active nominees for 2000, carried over from 1999: Grace Butcher, Carolyn Cappetta, Anne Clarke, Jane Hutchison, Ruth Leff, Ed Lukens, Roy Pirming, Bruce Springbett, Ed Stabler, Elaine Ward, and Wen-Shi Yu. The following are being added for 2000 consideration: Dave Romansky, Jim Sutton, Louise Adams, Tom McDermott, Cherie Sherrard, Joan Ottaway, Rex Harvey, Bernice Holland, Shirley Kinsey, Mel Larsen, Leonore McDaniels, Phil Mulkey, Stan Whitley, and Jerry Wojcik. Bill Bangert, Wendell Palmer, and Stew Thomson have been dropped from the ballot for 2000 because they had reached their three-year limit but are eligible for consideration again in the future.

The Old-Timers carried forward for selection by that committee are Dan Aldrich, Bill Andberg, Ernie Billups, George Braceland, Norm Bright, Bill Fitzgerald, James Hartshorne, Bess James, Don Johnson, Dick Lacey, Jay Sponseller, and Bob Watanabe. Bud Deacon, Marcie Trent, Arling Pitcher, and Buell Crane have been added.

Ken Stone reported that David Pain wants to have the Hall of Fame located in San Diego. Norm Green responded that now the hall does not exist anywhere - honorees receive their portrait plaque but no central listing exists. Weinbel added that the "open" Hall of Fame is presently being packed for shipment to an unknown site. Our plan is to "piggy back" on the open site. Weinbel believes there is no funding to support such a hall.

Carole Langenbach expressed appreciation to Green and the committee for its work. Weinbel added after serving on many USATF committees, this was the most satisfying experience. To George Madhews' suggestion that the Master Hall of Fame be located at a major site such as Eugene, Ore. Weinbel replied that the Masters should be with the open site. Graeme Shirley proposed that our Hall might be a series of panels that could be transported to national championships.

WAVA Report

Sandy Pashkin, team manager for Gateshead, stated that we had 541 entrants, with 494 competitors who won 192 medals. Our teams did well, with all but one female RW team winning gold. Those who supplied age proof for Gateshead are now in the WAVA data base and will not have to submit such information again. The NCCWAVA Championships will be at Kamloops, British Columbia, Aug. 17-20, one week after the U.S. nationals in Eugene.

Pashkin noted that two issues arose in Gateshead. First is the team manager expense reimbursement, which might be covered by a small surcharge on the WAVA championship fee. Arveson proposed that a sponsor be found to cover the expense; athletes should be informed as to how their

Continued on page 18

USATF NATIONAL MASTERS LDR CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2000

January 23	One Mile Road	Santee, CA
February 26	12K Road	Orlando, FL
March 25	100K Road	Pittsburg, PA
April 2	5K Road, Men	Carlsbad, CA
May 6	Half-Marathon	Indianapolis, IN
May 13	50 Mile Trail	Whitewater, WI
June 3	5K Road, Women	Albany, NY
August 26 (pending)	10 Mile	Flint, MI
September 16-17	24-Hour	Sylvania, OH
October 8	Marathon	Minneapolis, MN
October 28	15K Road	Tulsa, OK
November 4	8K X-C	Richland, WA
November 19	5K X-C	Holmdel, NJ
November 25	10K X-C	Boston, MA