



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

Continued from page 1

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

Continued on page 21

WORLD VETERANS' ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
17 - 27 JULY 1997
DURBAN
 KWA-ZULU NATAL
 SOUTH AFRICA