**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 2nd and 3rd (SP and DT) at the Penn Relays. Ker placed 3rd (SP) at the 1950 US Open National Outdoor Track and Field Championship, and was selected to represent USA versus Sweden. In Sweden, Ker placed 2nd (SP) behind the World Record Holder (also from USA).

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**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: 2nd SP at 15.54m and 3rd DT at 44.24m (Aug 1975 Toronto)
1977: Age 54: 2nd SP at 15.26m and 4th DT at 45.14m (Aug 1977 Sweden)

**George Ker at International Meet:**
1974: Age 51: 1st SP at 15.85m and 1st DT at 44.43 m (June 29-30, 1974 at Vancouver)

**George Ker at Masters National Championship:**
1970: Age 47: 1st SP at 45’-4.75” = 13.83m (July 1970 at San Diego)
1971: Age 48: 1st SP at 46’-4.25” and 4th DT at 131’-5.25” (July 1971 at San Diego)
1972: Age 49: 1st SP at 47’-4.25” and 1st DT at 146’-0” (July 1972 at San Diego)
1973: Age 50: 1st SP at 52’-4.5” and 1st DT at 150’-11” (July 1973 at San Diego)
1974: Age 51: 1st SP at 53’-5.5” and 1st DT at 148’-7.5” (July 5-7, 1974 at Gresham, Oregon)
1975: Age 52: 1st at SP at 50’-10.5” and 1st DT at 149’-0” (Aug 1975 at White Plains, New York)
1981: Age 58: 1st SP at 45’-5.75” and 1st DT at 136’-2” (TAC: Aug 15-16, 1981 at Los Gatos)

**George Ker at Masters Pan Games:**
1981: Age 58: 1st SP at 43’-11” and 1st DT at 138’-2” (Aug 1981)

**George Ker at Masters West Region Championship:**
1975: Age 52: 1st SP at 52’-1.5” (1975)
1976: Age 53: 1st SP at 14.33m and 2nd DT at 131’-2” (1976)
1977: Age 54: 1st SP at 42’-6.25” and 1st DT at 138’-5” (1977)
1979: Age 56: 1st SP at 42’-0.5”, 1st DT at 132’-4” (1979)
1983: Age 60: 1st SP at 51’-7” and 1st DT at 151’-3.5” (1983)

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**George Ker at Masters SCA Championship:**
1975: Age 52: 1st Shot Put at 52’-4.5” = 15.96m, and 1st DT (June 7, 1975 at Fullerton)
1977: Age 54: 1st DT at 132’-6” (1977)
1979: Age 56: 1st DT at 134’-8” (1979)
1981: Age 58: 1st SP at 44’-10.5” and 1st DT at 40.64m (1981)
1983: Age 60: 1st SP at 51’-3.75”, 2nd DT at 135’-2” (July 9, 1983)

**George Ker at Mt Sac Relays:**
1977: Age 54: 2nd Masters DT at 133’-2” (April 23-24, 1977)

**George Ker at Grandfather Games:**
1973: Age 50: 1st Shot Put at 54’-5.5” = 16.60m World Record (July 7, 1973 at Van Nuys)
1974: Age 51: 1st SP at 53’-7” (April 6, 1974)
1975: Age 52: 1st SP at 52’-2.75”, 3rd HT at 70’-3” (1975)
1977: Age 54: 1st SP at 44’-6.25” and 2nd DT at 131’-6.5” (1977)
1978: Age 55: 1st SP at 51’-8” (12-Lb), 1st DT at 150’-7” (1978)
1979: Age 56: 1st DT at 138’-2” (1979)
1981: Age 58: 2nd SP at 46’-1” and 1st DT at 133’-9” (May 9, 1981)
1982: Age 59: 3rd SP at 42’-8.5” and 3rd DT at 120’-5” (May 8, 1982)
1983: Age 60: 1st SP at 55’-4”, 2nd DT at 138’-2” (1983)

**George Ker at Corona Del Mar Relays:**
1975: Age 52: 1st SP at 50’10” and 1st 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: 1st SP at 47’-1” (16-Lb) and 2nd DT at 150’-3” and 1st HT at 79’-7” (16-Lb) (June 1971 Senior Games LA)
1972: Age 49: 1st SP at 46’-8” and 1st DT at 139’-3” (June 1972 Senior Games LA)
1975: Age 52: 1st DT at 151’-9.5” (June 1975 Senior Games LA)
1978: Age 55: 1st 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:**

