U.S. Masters Track International Team

LAURIE O'HARA IMPRESSIVE DOUBLE WINNER

The 6th annual All Masters Track and Field championships were held in San Diego on July 6-8th, perhaps for the last time, were privileged to host a fine British team of veteran athletes headed by one of the finest, just turned 49, Laurie O'Hara.

A harbinger of what O'Hara would do at the Masters were his performances a week earlier in Los Angeles, where he won open division in the mile and the 880 yard running 2:00.79, 5 seconds faster than the current U.S. Masters record. He was presented with a belt buckle that is rumored to be a real hippy-hippy fob of Indiana, who missed the 72 Masters due to a fall off a horse. Because of the absence of Jerry Smith, and Ray Hatton (72, 10, 94000), dominated the meet. The 31-mile week, O'Hara held his earlier pace and filtered - at 1:31.3 - to a convincing victory of 3:10.95, knocking nearly a minute off Hatton's record, and in so doing, pulling a fiddle-Hippie to an excellent 31:00.2, which exceeded the old U.S. Masters record by some 33 seconds, and in doing, set a new U.S. age 42 standard.

The next day, O'Hara impressed again as he set a Masters record in the 5,000-meter of 15:59.3 with Ditmar Williams (40 MTC), who was no impressive earlier in the year, a distant 2:51.9, well off his potential. Ditmar was admitted to the medical offering from a leg ailment, which could do no better than 3:06.3, fourth in the 900-meter.

It was apparent that O'Hara was at his time in either race, his 10,000-meter time was. For him, an all-time F.B. O'Hara's best performances as a Vet are still ahead of him.

The diminutive, but well-proportioned Belgrave Harrier started running at the relatively late age of 28, after giving up major league football (soccer), and has run for the same club all these years. He is in brilliant condition and positive to running even better as a Veteran than he ever did earlier in life, which should give some comfort to those of us still struggling along at the back of the pack.

Of most significance, however, was the fact that O'Hara's efforts scored higher on the point tables than any other athlete who has competed in the Masters since its inception in 1966. He has outscored the now legendary Masters' effort of Dad Holford in 1970 of 229.2 and Howard Payne's prodigious 1971 hammer throw of 222.1-1/4.
1973 Masters Results

Gookin
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Gookin, Hidalgo and Allen covered the first 16 miles in 56 minutes.

Distance star Laurie O'Hara of England, the record setter in the 10,000 and 5,000-meter runs, was named the outstanding track competitor in Division I with David Jackson taking the field honor off record performances in the long and triple jumps.

Buckingham and shelf putter-thrust thrower George Ker were honored in Division II, Bill Amberg and Bud Deacon in Division III and five-event gold medalist Ralph Huggins in Division IV.

Dr. Seymour, 52, Javelin Star, Dies Of Heart Attack

Dr. Steve Seymour, 52, former American record holder in the javelin died here June 18 from an apparent heart attack, it was learned Saturday.

Dr. Seymour set a U.S. record of 248-10 in the javelin in 1947 representing the Los Angeles Athletic Club. He was the silver medalist in the 1948 Olympic Games.

Dr. Seymour, an orthopedic surgeon, practiced at the Rose-Loo Medical Center in Los Angeles.

He leaves two daughters, Stephanie, 23, and Mrs. Dinah Hudson, 27, and a son, Ronal, 20.

At 41, best is yet to come for Pratt

Two weeks ago, the 390 seemed as if it were all uphill and, as David Pratt scratched his disappointing streak, he couldn't help but wonder if he might be a trifle over the hill.

He had run a prosecute 2:36, landing all the way and that 1:58.4 he ran in high school seemed as far away on New York, where he was second in his prep state meet.

Pratt, 21, figures he has been running off and on, ever since he was a bigger kid first chased me.

As one of his teammates on the Northern California Track Club said yesterday, "The big kids are still chasing him and he's still beating us."

Praatt won the Division I (40-49) 800 meters in a meet record 1:57.6 yesterday at the U.S. Masters Championships at Balboa Stadium. Pratt, it was believed, defeated defending champion and record holder Carl Bissinger, who was second in 1:59.6.

It was that 2:01 he ran two weeks ago that seemed as far away as New York.

Pratt moved into the lead and held it over the final 500 after Poland's Henry Kupczyn had set the pace through a 1:59 first quarter.

"I can't be in too good a shape," said Pratt, "I only run three or four times a week, mostly 22s. It amounts to maybe 15 miles a week.

"I have five or six sessions, as seven miles but I'm pretty feeble at that distance."

Pratt is a professor of bacteriology at UC-Davis. He's been running years four years ago.

"Last year, Professor Bower ran right on by me in the stretch. It was just plain not to get caught at the end of the day. I heard somebody coming."

The somebody was Fritz Goodman, who made his move too late. Kupczyn began to fade on the second lap and settled for a 1:59 in fourth. He claimed a gold medal.

Third was England's Lloyd Norman in 1:59:11. It was one of the best events of the afternoon.