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Harvard's Hewlett Runs to Fame

Walter Hewlett, 19 last June 23, was an obscure sophomore at Harvard until last week. Before his 20th birthday he could be nationally famous.

Hewlett is a runner and a tireless one. He does 100 miles a week, a routine followed by only the most dedicated of marathoners, men like Johnny Kelley, Jimmy Green and Fred Norris.

Fact is, though Hewlett is a member of Harvard's varsity track team, marathoning is an obsession with him, and his future is geared to hill and dale.

He already has competed in one marathon (Cherry Tree) and plans to run another next Patriots' Day from Hopkinton to Boston. And he is so far above the average at this stage of the game he may eventually regain for America the Olympic marathon prestige it held in the days of Johnny Hayes, Clarence De Mar and Joie Ray.

Trained in New Zealand

This boy wonder, from Palo Alto, Cal., is the first sophomore in 30 years to win a cross country race for the Crimson. He already has won two and will have a chance to win his third Friday when Harvard traipses to New York to take on Penn and Columbia.

He led the field home against Providence College in the opener and on Tuesday, Oct. 8 did something that is still being talked about.

Harvard had a dual meet with Boston U at Franklin Park that afternoon and, as a warm-up, Hewlett ran from Dillon Field House to the scene of the race, six miles as the crow flies. He proceeded to go out then and lower the course record to 24:44, erasing the mark set by '61 IC-4-A champion Steve Machooka.

In the tri meet with Brown and Cornell on Columbus Day he was second to Cornell



Walt Hewlett

captain, Jim Byard, but winds of gale force were blowing and Hewlett's 140 pounds were no match for the weather and Byard, who is built like a fullback. But in the process he defeated Dave Farley, second in the '62 Heps, and Machooka.

This lad is something special. "He's the boy to match strides with Jim Keefe of Central Connecticut State," enthused Boston U coach Billy Smith.

Keefe, he it said, did 8:56 for two miles and 4:04 for the mile in the New England's last spring, then proceeded to set U. S. 5000 and 10,000 meter records vs. Russia in Moscow.

Hewlett unquestionably has the stuff to give Keefe all he can handle, but his ambitions lie in the distance races.

Upon graduation from Palo Alto High School in '62 he took off for New Zealand to train under Arthur Lydiard, who brought out the best in Peter Snell, Murray Halberg and Hugh Baille. Lydiard is a disciple of distance and prescribed for Hewlett the 100-mile ritual he follows conscientiously.

Wears White Cap

Thus, the 'H' soph can be seen daily in bone glasses, white cap and blue pullover sweater, taking to the roads for a 10 or 20-mile jaunt — AFTER he completes his work with Bill McCurdy's squad. He does all this while carrying a full schedule in physics and math.

He eschews short work, the repetitive quarters and repetitive miles that brought Ron Delany and Dyke Benjamin to the forefront he finds boring. Yet he's fast enough to negotiate the quarter in 53, something Gil Dodds found it difficult to do.

His school marks were 1:58.5 for the 880, 4:19.6 for the mile and 9:32.9 for two-miles. Now two years later they're talking of four flat and nine flat. The back-breaking schedule seems to be agreeing with him.

Johnny Kelley, Gordon McKenzie and Bob Breckenridge were collegiate two-mile headliners before turning to marathoning; but here's a lad who is pointing to the marathon while still an undergraduate.

By the time he's 25 he could be the best America ever has produced, a match for the Finns, Czechs, and Ethiopians . . . if he adheres to his training regimen, that is.

The return-meeting with Byard, at the Heps Nov. 9, will provide a key to his future, which, at the moment is lined with silver.

Conefrey's Twin Win

GEORGE CONEFREY won the 15-kilometer (9½ miles) N. E. championship at Manchester, N. H., on Columbus Day and 24 hours later, won the ten-mile race at Brockton. At Manchester he took 40 seconds off Jimmy Green's course record, and at Brockton he cut eight seconds off Fred Norris' record.

At Manchester Green was third, fast as the day he set the record, at Brockton Conefrey, only 20, defeated Johnny Kelley the Younger. It was said that Kelley had a leg infection but if so he didn't use it as an alibi.

Conefrey is a comer. He is married but is being tutored by pedagogue Jimmy Green in the hope of going to college. He graduated from Brockton High, now lives in Whitman.

Judges Start Hoop Drills

The first step in the rebuilding of Brandeis basketball program was taken at 22 candidates reported to coach Irv Olin for the start of six weeks pre-season conditioning.

The Judges will meet most of the teams in New England as well as such strong outside clubs as New York University and Kings Point.

Stu Paris and Ed Sukenick, both of Brooklyn, are the only seniors on the team. Other lettermen include Dave Epstein, New York City; Mel Siegal, Syosset, N. Y.; Steve Smith, Presque Isle, Me.; Gary Goldberg, Brooklyn; Stephen Heller, New York City.

Two other sophomores coming out for the first time are Michael Leiderman, Great Neck, N. Y., and Joseph Perkins, Roxbury.

Pairings Named For Hoop Tourney

NEW YORK (UPI) — Utah will meet St. Johns and Dayton will play Villanova in the opening afternoon doubleheader of the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Christmas basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden Dec. 26.

The same evening, Minnesota will meet Cornell and Providence plays St. Josephs (Pa.) in first round games.

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Boston Celtics admit they'll miss Bob Cousy but have no intention of releasing their stranglehold on the National Basketball Association title.

The Celtics opened their quest for a sixth straight crown Wednesday night against Baltimore with key man Bill Russell answering the tap-off.

"In Cousy we lost one of the great ones of the game, but don't forget we still have the NBA's most valuable player in Russell," said Coach Red Auerbach. "I'd say that he's a pretty good base to build from."

We'll miss Cousy. We cannot find anyone to take his place. We'll just go along and readjust our style to the type of players we have this year.

"We were fortunate to grab Willie Naulls who's better than any draft choice we could get. He's an experienced cornerman, who will give us added offensive strength at that position — a weakness of ours over the last two years."

Following this game, the Celtics invade Thursday night where the powerful Royals have been strengthened by the addition of Jerry Lucas.

For the first time in its 18-year history Boston did not retain its top draft choice. Indications are that the bench may prove stronger than ever considering the retirement of Cousy to the college coaching ranks.

The Celtics, says Auerbach, never have had a super scorer. Now their super playmaker is gone.

But their defensive genius, Russell, is still around. The Celtics think Bearded Bill plus pride and teamwork will pay off again.



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