

# Track and Field



*Bob Hayes*



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## Bob Hayes

### *A second Jesse Owens*

Bob Hayes, though phenomenally powerful, was by no means a great stylist. Yet this "bull of the tracks" could run at an incredible speed. Some people like to think of him as the greatest sprinter of all time, an opinion shared by Jesse Owens himself. In fact, many followers will forever feel cheated for not having seen him running on a synthetic track or at altitude; then they would have known what he was capable of!

Bob Hayes first began sprinting in 1959. Two years later, at eighteen and a half, he had already matched the world record for 100 yards in 9.3 sec. For the following three years he was dictating the law on American circuits, where top athletes are legion, carrying off three national titles in a row. His performances at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964 were spectacular. He won the 100 m finishing 22 hundredths of a second ahead of the Cuban Enrique Figuerola, who was then at the height of his career. Since Jesse Owen's victory in 1936, no other winner has displayed such superiority. Manual stop-watches recorded his timing as 9.9, 9.9 and

9.8 sec, but it was the electronic device alone which counted. Certainly Hayes would have deserved that day to have been listed as the first man to run 9.9 sec.

Nevertheless the way he ran the last leg of the 4 x 100 m was to be even more impressive. Having taken over three meters behind. Delecour of France and two meters behind Dudziak of Poland, he finished three meters ahead! His performance will remain forever in people's minds as one of the greatest feats in the history of athletics. But this was his last run! On his return to the United States, Hayes immediately turned professional, joining the National Football League's Dallas Cowboys.

#### **BOB HAYES**

Born Dec. 20, 1942, at Jacksonville, Florida.

#### **AWARDS AND RECORDS**

1964 OG: gold medal, 100 m, in 9.98  
gold medal, 4 x 100 m, in 39.0

World records:

100 yd in 9.1 on June 21, 1963, at St.-Louis  
100 m in 10.0 on Nov. 15, 1964, at the Tokyo Olympic  
4 x 100 m in 39.0 on Oct. 21, 1964, at the Tokyo  
Olympic with Drayton, Ashworth and Stebbins

*On Aug. 3, 1963, Hayes won the 100 yards in 9.5 sec, finishing ahead of R. and T. B. Jones (GB)*