

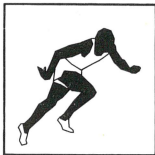
Track and Field



Bob Schul



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Michel Jazy's Nightmare

For the French, Bob Schul is the runner who, having risen from obscurity, at the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games cruelly defeated Michel Jazy in the finishing straight of the 5,000 m final. For the Americans, he is only one Olympic champion among so many others. Time and time again, athletics experts have gone back over the race. It was strongly asserted that the sodden race-track (synthetic materials did not yet exist) had hindered Jazy's powerful stride. It was firmly maintained that if he had made his burst 350 m from the finish and not 150 m, the Frenchman would not have been caught 80 m from the tape. But at the end of the day, there was no denying that a hot favorite had been beaten by an outsider. It was forgotten a little quickly that Schul was not just anybody.

Having made his competitive debut at the age of 14, Schul, who was 27 at the time of Tokyo, had come to the twilight of his career. But what a twilight! An honest miler, having endeavored to make a name for himself in the 3000-m steeplechase (8 min 47 sec), his destiny took an unexpected turn when the famous Hungarian coach Mihaly Igloi, exiled in the United

States, became interested in him. So, from 1961 to 1963, Schul underwent the tough preparation which, up to 1956, had been so successful for Sandor Iharos, Lazlo Tabori and Istvan Roszavolgyi. The results of this punishing "interval training" were to be known in 1964. That year Schul for the first time ran the mile in less than four minutes (3 min 58.9 sec). He set a new world record for 2 miles. During the American Olympic trials, he won the 5,000 m in 13 min 38 sec, a new American record, just 3 sec outside the world record of the Soviet Union's famous Vladimir Kuts. Not bad for an outsider!

In June 1965, in Helsinki, Jazy took his revenge in beating Kip Keino, Ron Clarke, Billy Mills and Schul, far behind, in a race exaggeratedly called "the 5,000 m of the century".

BOB SCHUL

Born Sept. 28, 1937, in West Milton, Ohio

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1964 OG: gold medal for the 5,000 m in 13 min 48.8 sec

World record:

8 min 26.4 sec in the 2 miles on 29 Aug. 1964 in Woodlan Hills

Bob Schul and his "victim" in Tokyo, the Frenchman Michel Jazy