

# Track and Field



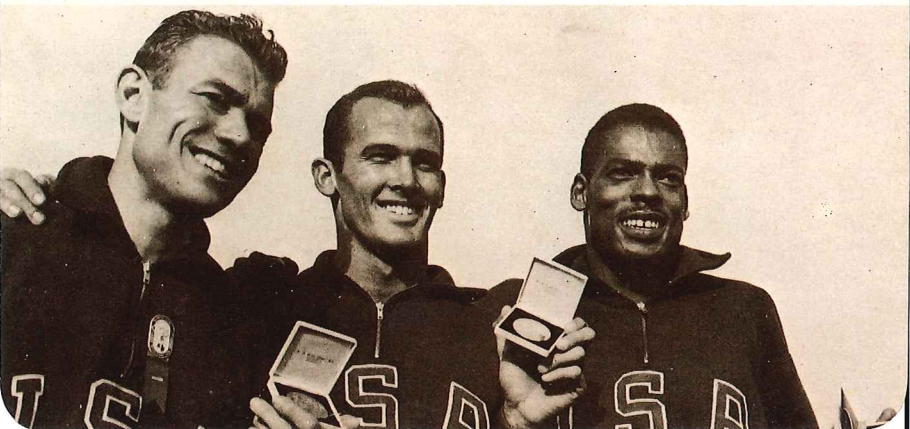
*Bobby Morrow*



*Bobby Morrow prepared his new olympic record (20.6) during the U.S. selection runs*

## **200 m at the 1956 OG**

*Left to right: Walter Baker (3rd), Bobby Morrow (1st), Andy Stanfield (2nd)*



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## Bobby Morrow

### *The Texas White Lightning*

Since 1951 the International Athletics Federation has recognized two kinds of 200 m record: on the straight and on a normal 400-m track which would include a bend.

If Blacks have often dominated the event (the most famous being indubitably Jesse Owens), Whites have also provided some exceptional champions. Bobby Morrow is one of these.

His selection for the 100 m and 200 m for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games had been a matter of controversy. Over 100 m it had been at the expense of two world-record men, Willie Williams and Leamon King (the latter was to run only in the relay). Over 200 m, Dave Sime, who had just broken the world record on the straight, in 20 seconds, was left out (he was injured at the time of the selection trials).

His natural relaxed running and his good finish enabled Morrow, however, to confirm his superiority when he became olympic champion in the 100 m (10.5 with a strong head-wind), in the 200 m in 20.6 (equalling the world record) and in the 4 x 100 m relay in 39.5 (world record).

Before the 1956 Olympic Games, Morrow, who was to be called the "Texas white lightning" after his triple win in Melbourne, carried off 34 consecutive victories in the 100 yards. His first defeat was inflicted on him by Dave Sime in April 1954 and it proved useful. The race had been filmed from start to finish and, when Morrow watched it in slow motion, he found that his start was not good enough. For six weeks he lived with his starting blocks. The result: clear revenge over Sime in the US championships and then, at the end of the year, the triple victory in Melbourne.

#### BOBBY MORROW

Born Oct. 15, 1935, in Harlingen, Tex.

#### AWARDS AND RECORDS

1956 OG: gold medal in the 100 m, 200m, 4x100 m relay

Has equalled the world record for the 100 yds (9.3, 14 June 1957), 100 m (10.2, 22 June 1956 and 29 June 1956) and 200 m (20.6, 27 Nov. 1956). World record 4 x 100 m in 39.5, 1 Dec., 1956 with Ira Murchison, Leamon King and Thane Baker  
Only had one championship defeat between 1955 and 1958