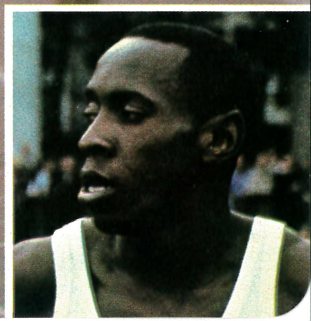
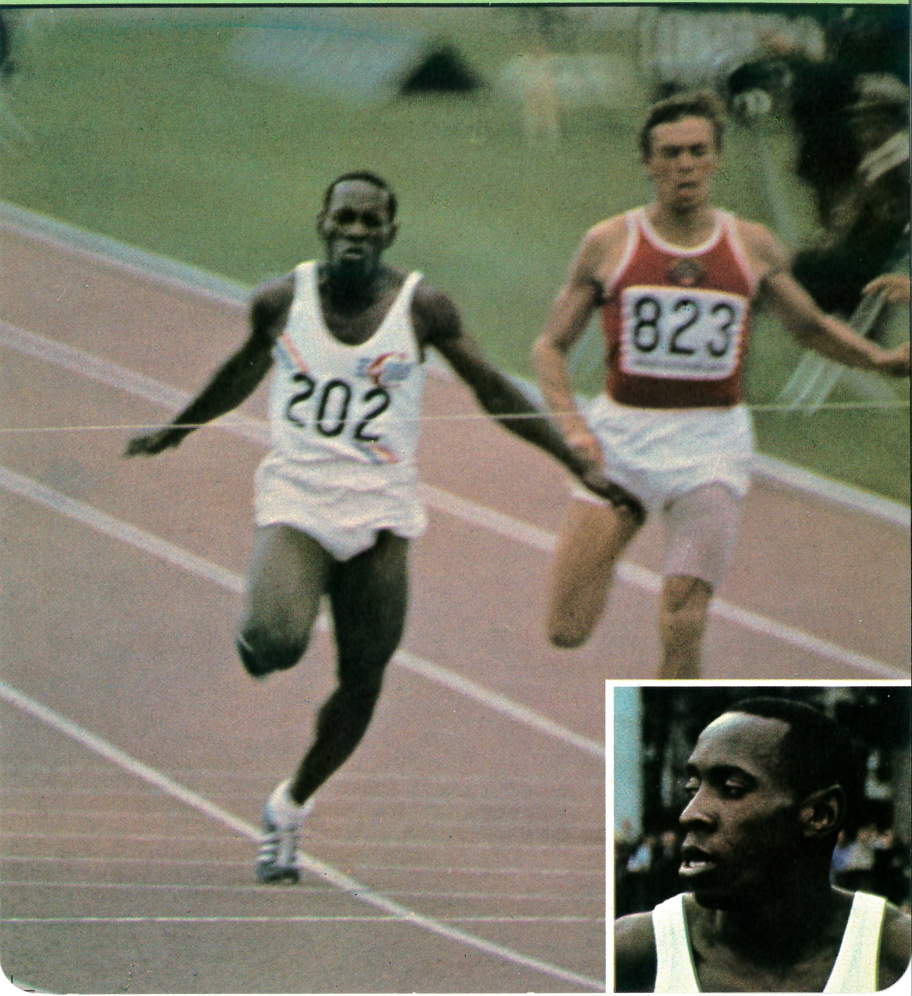


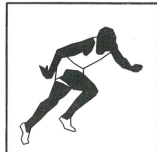
# Track and Field



*Enrique Figuerola*



# Track and Field



## Enrique Figuerola

### *Eight Years at the Top*

His career began before the success of the Castro revolution (1959) and continued till 1968, when he was 30. In other words Enrique Figuerola had a life rich in competitions and met many distinguished champions.

When he attended the Olympic Games in 1960, Cuban athletics, which was subsequently to come to the fore, was only just emerging from a long period of lethargy. Gaining fourth place in the 100 m, behind the phenomenal German Armin Hary, the American Dave Sime and the Englishman Peter Radford, Figuerola obtained the best result of the tiny Cuban delegation of eight athletes.

Three years later, at São Paulo, he took the title of 100-m PanAmerican champion.

In 1964, in the Tokyo Olympics, his way was barred by another phenomenon, the American Bob Hayes, but he beat the Canadian Harry Jerome, one of the three world record-holders of the 100 m at 10 sec.

In 1967, he himself became the sixth of these record-holders, but he was too old to be able to oppose the rise of Jim Hines, the new American star. He therefore

dedicated himself to the 4 x 100-m relay, in anticipation of the Mexico Olympics. Beaten by the Americans, the Cuban team in fact gained second place ahead of France.

An athlete of small build, extremely powerful and with outstanding technique, Figuerola's career spanned the interval between the 1960 and the 1968 Olympic Games, a period rich in exceptional champions. He personally had given to the Cuban revolution its first Olympic medal, which made him extremely popular in his country.

A fervent supporter of Castro, this ex-hair-dresser became President of the National Athletics Commission.

#### ENRIQUE FIGUEROLA

Born July 15, 1938, in Santiago, Cuba

#### AWARDS AND RECORDS

PanAmerican champion in the 100 m in 1963 at São Paulo

1964 OG: silver medal in the 100 m in 10.2 sec

1968 OG: silver medal in the 4 x 100 m in 38.3 sec (on the last leg, with Hermes Ramirez, Juan Morales and Pablo Montes)

World record:

10 sec in the 100 m on 17 June 1967 at Budapest

*Enrique Figuerola: he sounded the reveille for Cuban athletics*