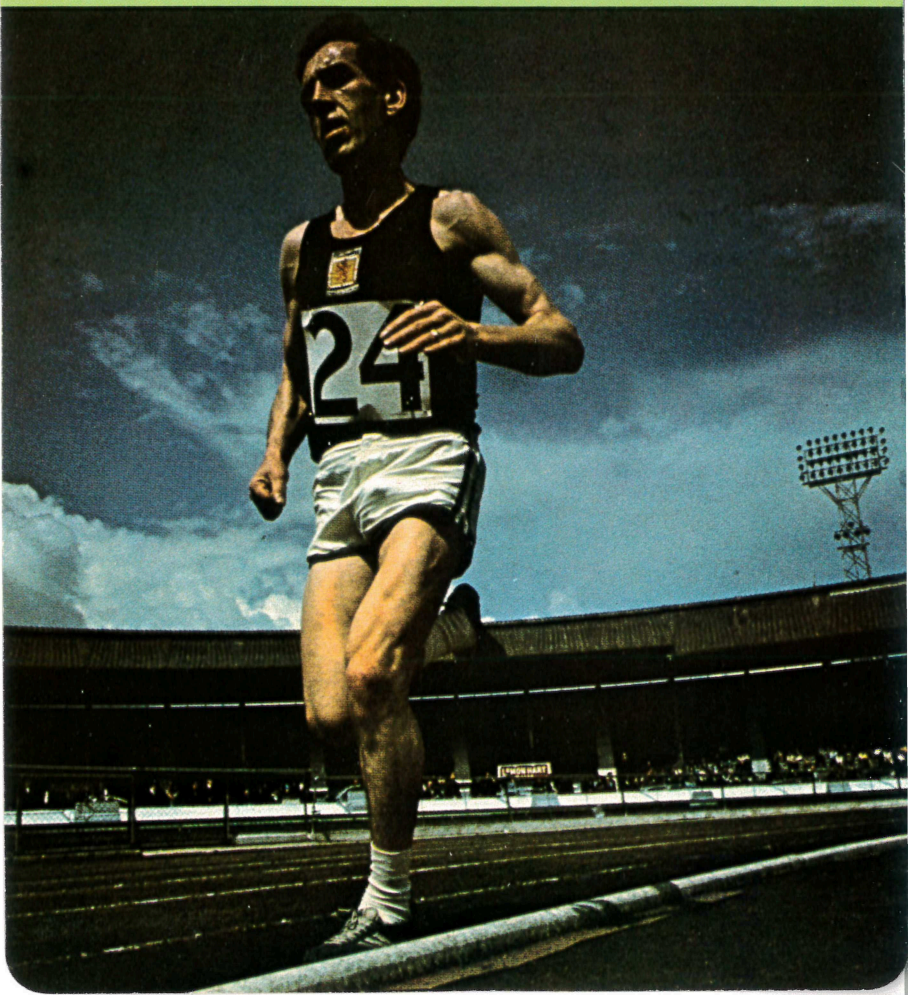


# Track and Field



*Jim Alder*



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## Jim Alder

### *No Short Cut to Fame*

Taking account of the tropical heat in Kingston, Jamaica, the organisers of the eighth Commonwealth Games in 1966 timed the start of the marathon at 5.30 a.m. Even at that hour the shade temperature was 27°C (81°F), a deal too hot for comfort especially for runners like Scotland's Jim Alder, used to more bracing weather.

Alder was another of those marathon greats who found his ultimate only after bitter disappointment. In 1964 a knee injury had thwarted his hopes of making the Tokyo Olympics. Now he was ready. For 15 miles Australia's Ron Clarke, holder of many world records, was in the lead but the heat finally stopped him and at 17 miles he retired. On the approach to the stadium Alder was ahead of England's Bill Adcocks by about 50 yards, but mistaking the route the English runner took a short cut and arrived in the arena ahead of Alder. Fortunately the tireless Alder had enough left to pass Adcocks again and win comfortably, averting what would have been a very difficult problem for officials to sort out. A few days before his marathon triumph Alder had captured a bronze medal in the 6 miles behind Kenya's Naftali Temu.

The defence of his title in 1970 was easily the fastest marathon of Alder's career. Running this time in the more equable atmosphere of the country of his birth, he ran the fastest time ever achieved by a Scot, a good ten minutes faster than in Jamaica. But now England's Ron Hill had risen to his zenith and broke the Commonwealth record to win a gold medal. It was Alder's third major marathon medal. He also collected a bronze medal in the 1969 European Championship in Athens behind Hill and the Belgian ace, Gaston Roelants. A prolific runner in all manner of road and cross country events, Alder still runs for his club, Morpeth, at the age of nearly 40.

#### JIM ALDER

Born June 10, 1940, in Glasgow, Scotland

#### AWARDS AND RECORDS

1966 CG: gold medal, marathon, 2 hr 22 min 07 sec, Kingston

1966 CG: bronze medal, 6 miles, 28 min 15.4 sec, Kingston

1969 ECH: bronze medal, marathon, 2 hr 19 min 05 sec, Athens

1970 CG: silver medal, marathon, 2 hr 12 min 04 sec, Edinburgh

World records:

30 km: 1 hr 34 min 01.8 sec, 1964

30 km: 1 hr 31 min 30.4 sec, 1970