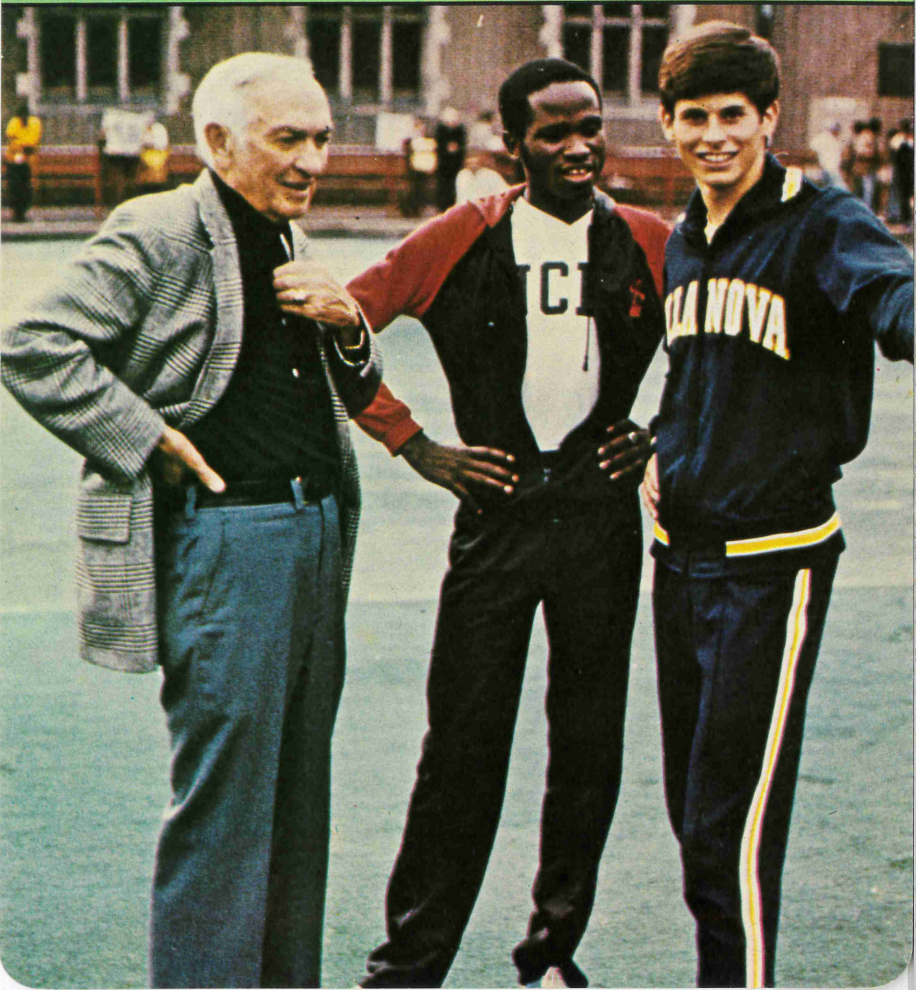


# Track and Field



*Jumbo Jim Elliott*



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## *Jumbo Jim Elliott*

### *A Giant Among Coaches*

In his first 45 years at Villanova, through the 1979 season, Jumbo Jim Elliott coached 25 Olympians, 18 world outdoor record-holders, 43 American indoor record-holders and 65 national champions. Yet he is more a legend than any of his athletes.

Jumbo Jim truly is a giant of track and field, and he is as well respected as any coach in America, not alone for his teaching skills but also for his ability to develop character and leadership qualities among his charges. Says one of his best-known former athletes, Marty Liquori, "He knows how to handle people, how to sell things and he teaches you how to be quick on your feet, how to think on your feet. You have a feeling that he just doesn't let you be anything but a winner."

Although he is known to all as Jumbo Jim, the nickname is a misnomer, dating back to 1931 when Elliott was the first scholarship track athlete at Villanova and there was another Jumbo Jim pitching for the Philadelphia Phillies. Elliott is a trim 170 lb. and is addicted to custom-made suits and shoes. He is also a wealthy businessman, dealing in heavy equipment, and has often played golf

with such celebrities as Bob Hope, with whom he helped found a country club in Florida.

Elliott grew up near Franklin Field in Philadelphia, site of the annual Penn Relays, and as a youngster sold programs at the competition. Now, as coach of Villanova, he has seen his teams win some 70 races in the country's biggest track and field extravaganza. Under his tutelage, the Wildcats also have annexed eight NCAA championships and 36 IC4A titles.

Among the star athletes Elliott has coached are Liquori, Ron Delany, Dick Buerkle, Charlie Jenkins, Don Bragg, Frank Budd, Paul Drayton, Dave Patrick, Larry James, Eamonn Coghlan, Mark Belger and Erv Hall, and his latest prodigy is Don Paige. Elliott, who believes in doing things first class, both for himself and his athletes, has said, "What I like to have them feel is that at the end of four years they can go on a track and run and that they're masters of the situation."

#### **JIM ELLIOTT**

Born July 8, 1914, in Philadelphia

*Jim Elliott with Amos Korir (c.) and Don Paige*