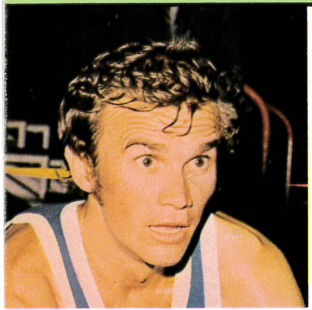


Track and Field



Jürgen Haase



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Jürgen Haase

An Irresistible Finisher

It was his mathematics professor who aroused his enthusiasm for cross-country running. At the time, Jürgen Haase, aged 16, was training to complete a certain distance in shorter and shorter time. Without realizing it he was using Arthur Lydiard's New Zealand technique. He didn't abandon it until Günter Buttner, a research scientist at the famous high school in Leipzig, brought him to the town and took charge of his training. Under his instruction Jürgen Haase began to improve. This was in particular demonstrated in 1964 by a world record in the junior 1,000 meters. Twenty to thirty kilometers a day, winter and summer, this was the foundation of his training. At the time of the 5,000 meters in Helsinki, which in 1965 gave Michel Jazy the chance to take a startling revenge after a setback in Tokyo, no one paid much attention to the young man who nevertheless beat the Olympic champion, Bob Schul.

A year later at Budapest, scarcely recovered from illness and only 21 years old, Haase became the youngest European winner of the 10,000 meters in the history of these championships. He was able to retain the title at Athens thanks to

an amazing final sprint which enabled him to complete the last 200 meters in 27.4 sec. This is the speed for a good 1,500 meters win, or even the 800 meters. Capable of following an express train, Haase was unbeatable in the final circuit. Troubled by the heat and the altitude, he was very cautious in the Mexico Olympics. Later, he was to find that the final of the 10,000 meters in the European Championships at Helsinki in 1971 was too much for him. By covering the last 200 meters in 26.7 sec, Juha Vaatainen prevented Haase from achieving a treble.

JÜRGEN HAASE

Born Jan. 19, 1945, in Friedersdorf, Germany

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1966 ECH: gold medal in 10,000 m in 28 min 26.7 sec

1968 OG: 15th in 10,000 m in 30 min 24.2 sec

1969 ECH: gold medal in 10,000 m in 28 min 41.6 sec

1971 ECH: silver medal in 10,000 m in 27 min 53.4 sec

Winner of 10,000 m in Europe v. America matches, 1967, 1969

European record:

10,000 m in 28 min 04.4 sec, 21 July 1968, Leningrad

Jürgen Haase (No 2): youngest European champion in the 10,000 m