

Track and Field



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The Glorious Month of June

Selected to go to Melbourne in 1956 while still almost untried, young Michel Jazy found himself sharing a room with Mimoun, who gave him a lot of valuable advice. During the following seasons, his progress was followed by the press who made much of his rivalry with his compatriot Michel Bernard. During the winter of 1958, when he had just started work as a typesetter with the sporting newspaper *L'Equipe*, his training and his life in general were taken in hand by a trio composed of Gaston Meyer, Marcel Hansenne and René Frassinelli. A complete transformation resulted, and at the Rome Olympics, in 1960, he won the silver medal in the 1,500 m, finishing second behind Herb Elliot.

European 1,500 m champion in 1962 in Belgrade, Jazy then moved on to long-distance events. But the Tokyo Olympics were to prove a terrible disappointment. Under driving rain, he put on a tremendous spurt in the first lap of the 5,000 m, only to collapse on the final straight. The race was won by Bob Schul of the USA. But the glorious month of June 1965 brought its rewards for so many years of effort. Be-

tween June 2 and 30 he broke: 4 world records, including the mile at Rennes in 3:53.6 on the 9th; 9 French records; and chalked up the important 5,000 m in the World Games at Helsinki.

In 1966, now aged 30, he decided to retire, but not before he had won his second European championship title in Budapest, this time over 5,000 m, and only 48 hours after coming second in the 1,500 m. On the evening of October 12, he stood at the starting line at Saint-Maur. When he passed the finishing line for the last time he had brought the world 2,000 m record down to 4:56.2. It was not to be broken again for nearly 10 years.

MICHEL JAZY

Born June 13, 1936, at Oignies, Pas-de-Calais (FRA)

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1960 OG: silver medal in 1,500 m (3:38.4)

1962 ECH: 1st in 1,500 m

1966 ECH: 1st in 5,000 m; 2nd in 1,500 m

Has been world record holder of: the mile, the 2,000 m, the 3,000 m, the 2 miles and the 4 x 1,500 m

Has held the European record for all distances between 1,500 m and 5,000 m.

Ron Clarke allowing Michel Jazy (144) to make athletics history in June 1965