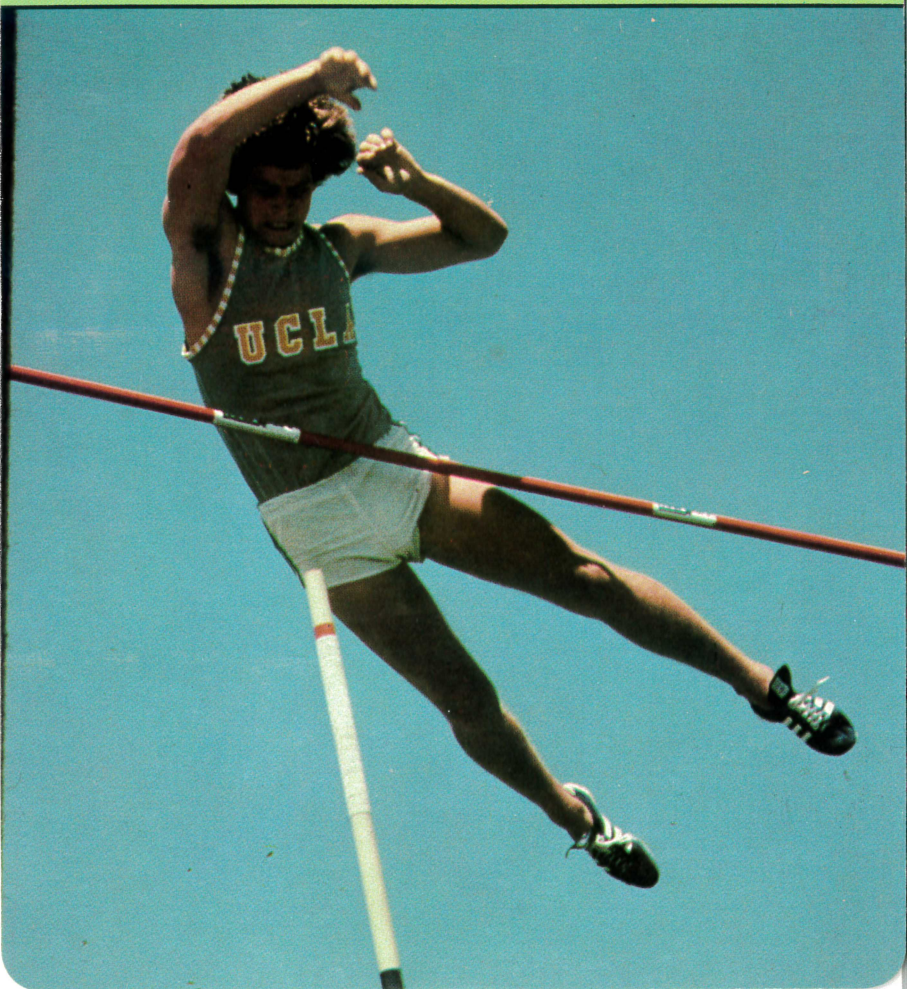


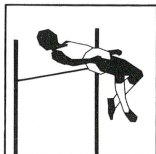
Track and Field



Mike Tully



Track and Field



Mike Tully

He Kept His Promise

Scarcely had Dave Roberts beaten the world pole vault record on 22 June 1976, in Eugene, Oregon, with a vault of 5.70 m, than the Americans had already picked out his successor: Mike Tully. In the USA there is no shortage of aspiring pole vault specialists. However, this man had quality of the first order. On 3 May of the previous year, had he not improved by 3 cm (5.43 m against 5.40 m) the world junior record set by François Tracanelli of France on 26 July 1970 in Colombes? Tall and powerfully built, this energetic Californian surfer was afraid of nothing. He could just about be reproached with having a relatively slow run-up, which was amply compensated for by his strength and his temperament. He was seen at his best on 3 September 1977 in Düsseldorf where, during the first World Cup meeting, he beat the formidable Wladyslaw Kozakiewicz of Poland by improving his own personal best from 5.55 m to 5.60 m. At that time Tully would tell everyone within earshot that he was soon going to beat the world record. It did not take him long to achieve this.

In Corvallis, Oregon, during the first meetings of the 1978 season, Tully in

fact vaulted over 5.71 after having raised himself successively to 5.18 m, 5.28 m, 5.43 m and 5.48 m. He had, however, brushed against the bar on his ascent, and it fell down two seconds after his record vault. It was replaced, measured again and found to be at 5.70 m. Since the rules of the International Amateur Athletics Federation state that the height must be measured before the attempt, the world record stayed as it was. In addition, since the rules of the American University Federation state that the height must be measured before and after, this vault by an UCLA student could not even be recognized as the U.S. record. In the end, it was not officially recognized by the IAAF.

MIKE TULLY

Born on April 1, 1954, in Marsciano, Italy

AWARDS AND RECORDS

1977: gold medal in the first World Cup with 5.60 m

World records:

Juniors: 5.43 m on May 3, 1975, in Los Angeles

Seniors: 5.71 m on May 19, 1978, in Corvallis, Oregon (result not officially recognized)

Mike Tully: he partially erased his American defeat at the Montreal Olympic Games