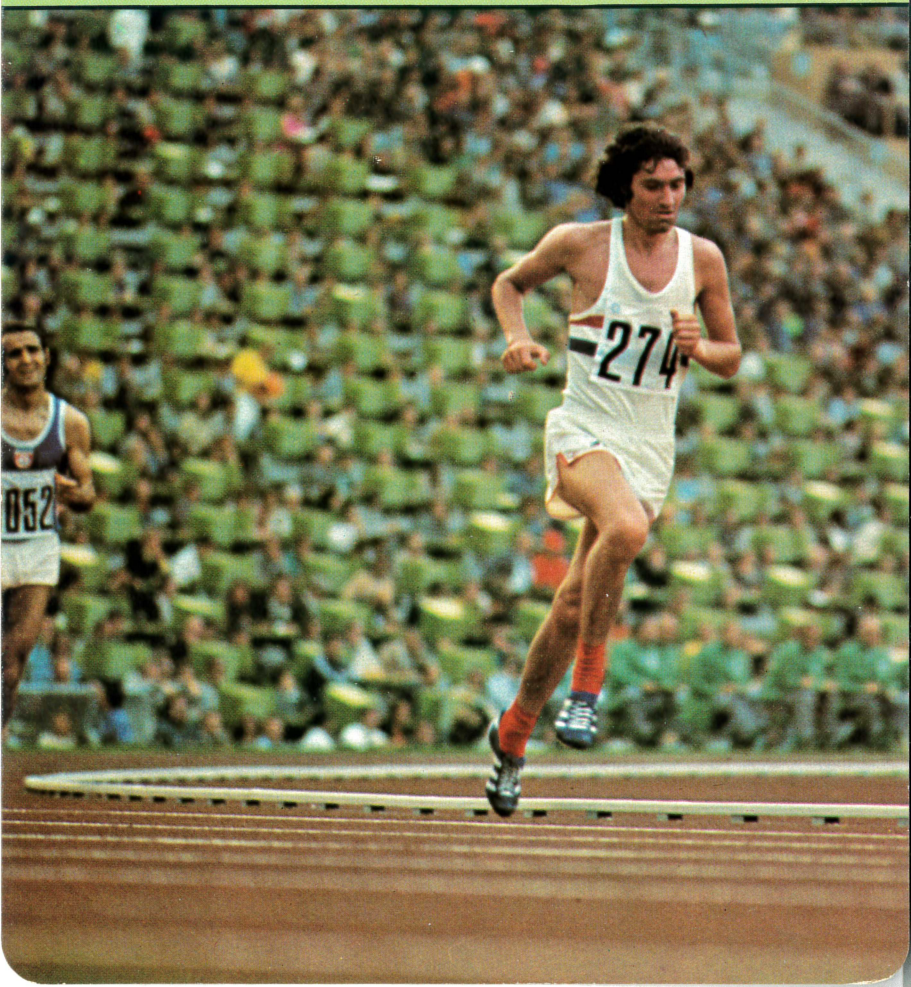


Track and Field



The 10,000 Meters



Track and Field



The 10,000 Meters

A Fine Finnish Record

The 10,000 meters was run for the first time at the Stockholm Olympics in 1912. The event was won by the Finn Hannes Kolehmainen in 31 min 20.8 sec, a time which was then taken as the first world record. However, on 16 November 1911 at the Colombes Stadium in Paris, the Frenchman Jean Bouin had run the distance in 30 min 58.8 sec. At that time, the half-hour record was officially recognized. In an attempt on this record, which he broke with 9,721 m, Jean Bouin continued his way to the 10,000 meters. His time of 30 min 58.8 sec was subsequently to be recognized as the first world record, and as a consequence the name of Kolehmainen was deleted from the lists.

After Jean Bouin and until the performances of the Czech Emil Zatopek, in 1949, the world record for the 10,000 meters was held exclusively by Finns. The celebrated Paavo Nurmi, and Ville Ritola, who had emigrated to the United States and had returned to Europe at the age of 25, improved by more than 50 seconds on Jean Bouin's time.

It was nonetheless a third Finn, the talented Taisto Mäki, who, in 1939, was the first to break the 30-minute barrier.

THE 10,000-M WORLD RECORD

30:58.8	Jean Bouin	FRA	16 Nov. 1911
30:40.2	Paavo Nurmi	FIN	22 June 1921
30:35.4	Ville Ritola	FIN	25 May 1924
30:23.2	Ville Ritola	FIN	6 July 1924
30:06.2	Paavo Nurmi	FIN	31 Aug. 1924
30:05.6	Ilmari Salminen	FIN	18 July 1937
30:02	Taisto Mäki	FIN	29 Sept. 1938
29:52.6	Taisto Mäki	FIN	17 Sept. 1939
29:35.4	Viljo Heino	FIN	25 Aug. 1944
29:28.2	Emil Zatopek	CZE	11 June 1949
29:27.2	Viljo Heino	FIN	25 Aug. 1949
29:21.2	Emil Zatopek	CZE	22 Oct. 1949
29:02.6	Emil Zatopek	CZE	4 Aug. 1950
29:01.6	Emil Zatopek	CZE	1 Nov. 1953
28:54.2	Emil Zatopek	CZE	1 June 1954
28:42.8	Sandor Iharos	HUN	15 July 1956
28:30.4	Vladimir Kuts	USSR	11 Sept. 1956
28:18.8	Piotr Bolotnikov	USSR	15 Oct. 1960
28:18.2	Piotr Bolotnikov	USSR	11 Aug. 1962
28:15.6	Ron Clarke	AUS	18 Dec. 1963
27:39.4	Ron Clarke	AUS	14 July 1965
27:38.4	Lasse Viren	FIN	3 Sept. 1972
27:30.8	Dave Bedford	GB	13 July 1973
27:30.5	Samson Kimoubwa	KEN	30 June 1977

David Bedford in the final of the 10,000 m in the 1972 Olympics, leading D. Korica