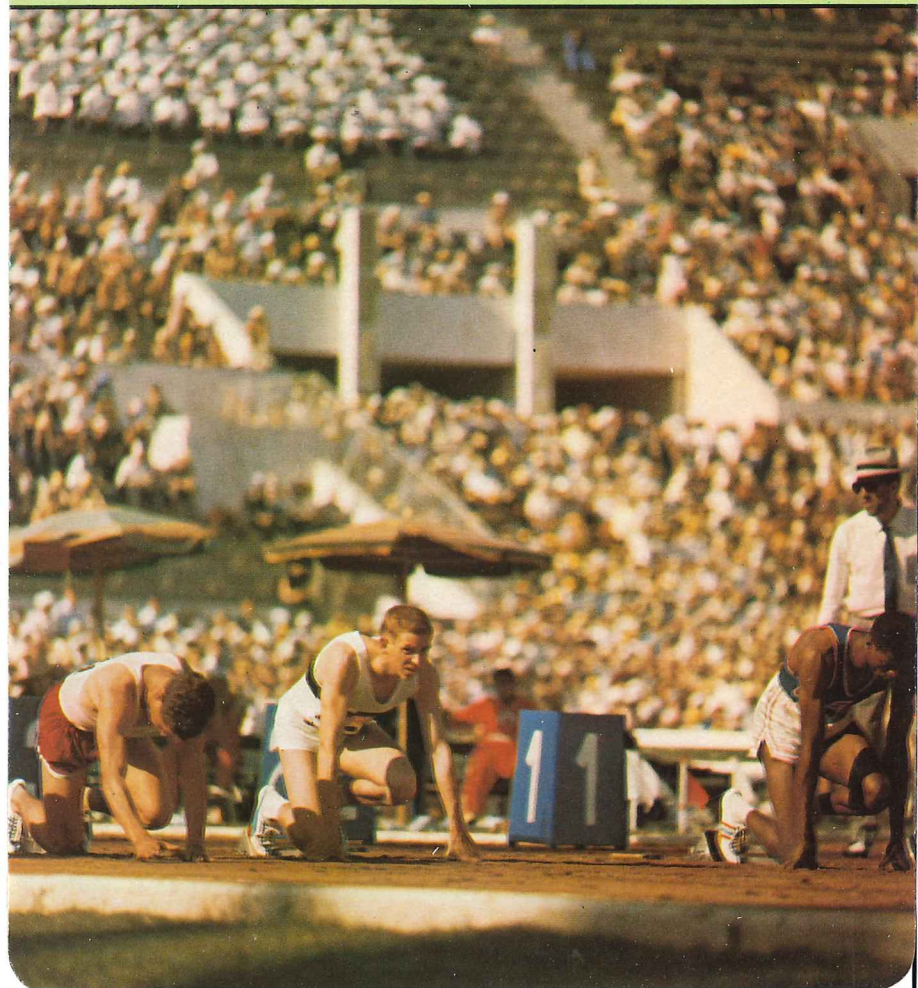


Track and Field



*The Ten Members
of the 10.0 Club*



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A Very Exclusive Gathering

Zurich, Tuesday, 21 June 1960. Armin Hary achieved what was at that time considered one of the great sporting feats: he ran 100 m in ten seconds, at an average speed of 36 km/h. The sixteen thousand spectators in the Letzigrund Stadium had a real treat: they saw the 10.0 broken not once, but twice. At the end of the first 100 m race, which Armin Hary won, the time was given as 10.0 dead, although one judge gave 9.9. Then, after long deliberations, the jury disallowed the result because of a false start. After a new start, two out of three judges gave as the winner Armin Hary once more, 10 seconds dead, with the third giving 10.1. The German thus became the first member of the ten-second club. At Saskatoon on 15 July 1960, Harry Jerome repeated this time, with a following wind of 1.80 m/sec. On 15 August in Caracas, there was no wind. One judge's chronometer stopped at 9.9, but those of the other two gave 10.0. The Venezuelan Horacio Esteves was admitted to the club and went on to become one of the favorites of the Tokyo Olympic finals on 15 October 1964 which was

eventually won in 10.0 by the American Bob Hayes (electronic timing). That day, there was a following wind of 1.03 m/sec. The manual times, given by two sets of three judges, were unbelievable: 9.8, 9.9, 9.9. In 1965, the Chinese Chen-Chua Chuan broke 10.0 but his performance had not been officially timed, China not being a member of the IAAF at that time. Six athletes now had their names inscribed into this roll of honor: Jim Hines (USA) 27 May 1967 in Modesto; Enrique Figuerola (CUB) 17 June 1967 in Budapest; Paul Nash (SAF) 2 Apr. 1968 in Krugersdorp; Oliver Ford (USA) 31 May 1968 in Albuquerque. At Sacramento on 20 Jan. 1968, the American Charlie Greene repeated his performance of two months earlier in Lawrence, only this time his 100 m in 10.0 was authenticated. The Frenchman Roger Bambuk was the tenth and final member to be invited to join this exclusive club. That same day, during the semi-finals, three Americans—Jim Hines, Ronnie Ray Smith and Charlie Greene—all ran 9.9. They were the first members of a new club.

Armin Hary: founder of the ten-second club