

Track and Field



Yang Chuan-Kwang



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Two World Record with Nothing to Show for them

Though he had been the first to exceed 9,000 points in the decathlon (his total of 9,121 points was brought down to 8,089 after the introduction of a new table of figures in 1962), Formosan Yang Chuan-Kwang was not able to obtain the Olympic gold medal which would have confirmed him as one of the best all-round athletes of all times. At the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, he had to bow to his club mate, Rafer Johnson who beat him by 58 points (a very low margin in the decathlon). Four years later, in Tokyo, he was the great favorite, particularly as he held the world record. Yet he failed completely on the first day, ending up in the 9th place. On the second day, featuring all his strongest events (pole vault, 110-m hurdles and the javelin) enabled him to make up some lost ground. Yet he had to be content with the fifth place.

Yang Chuan-Kwang has been no luckier in pole-vaulting. On January 27, 1963, in Portland, he cleared 4.95 m, one centimetre better than the world record. But it was at an indoor meeting and his performance was therefore not

retained as a world record. In the decathlon, Yang Chuan-Kwang had for the first time beaten the 1960 world record at Eugene (Oregon) but the first place in the competition went to R. Johnson (8,683 pts). Three years later, in Walnut, Yang became the possessor of the world record with 9,121 points. This time he vaulted 4.84 m, breaking the ceiling on the international table which until then stood at 4.82 m. At this height, a gain of two centimeters is worth 30 points, but they were not awarded.

YANG CHUAN-KWANG

Born July 10, 1933, in Taitung, Formosa
Living in the USA since 1958

AWARDS AND RECORDS

OG 1960: silver medal for the decathlon
Asiatic Games 1954 and 1958: winner of the decathlon

World record holder in the decathlon with 9,121 pts, April 27 and 28, 1963, in Walnut (10.7 in the 100 m, 7.17 m in the long jump, 13.22 m putting the weight, 1.92 m in the high jump, 48.9 in the 400 m, 14.0 in the 110-m hurdles, 40.99 m in discus-throwing, 4.84 m in pole-vaulting, 71.75 m in javelin-throwing, 5:02.4 in the 1,500 m), officially: 9,151 pts

Best world performer indoors in pole vaulting with 4.95 m on Jan. 27, 1963, in Portland