

First Canadian Masters Championships



The 89-year-old "Tartan Flash" Duncan MacLean of London, England, star of the championships. The ex-vaudeville performer competed in both the 100 and the 200 metres, as well as putting on a great show at the closing banquet. (Photo: Peter Jamieson).

Hal Werner, Simon Fraser University track coach, who reverted to the technique he used in his college days, and was rewarded with a Canadian masters record of 56m34 / 184'10". (Photo: Sandy Stewart).



The first Canadian Masters championships — open to athletes 40 years and over — were held in Richmond BC June 29, and formed a prelude to the first World Masters Championships slated for Toronto in 1975.

Over 200 competitors, including a large American contingent and a small but strong group from England, took part in the meet. Athletes competed in four age divisions, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69 and 70 and over.

The outstanding athlete of the meet award went to 64-year old Swedish-born Fritiof Sjostrand, who broke his own world 400m record with a 60.1 run. Sjostrand also won the 200m in 26.7 — one-tenth of a second off that record.

Roger Ruth, 46, of Victoria won the outstanding athlete award in his class, with victories in the pole vault at 14'0½", the triple jump at 38'6½" and the long jump at 19'0".

Alfred Guidet, 54, of Los Angeles won five events, setting Canadian open records in each. His sprint times of 11.9 for 100, 24.7 for 200 and 57.2 for 400 place him in the top ten in the world for his ageclass in each event.

Two Vancouver competitors starred in the throwing events in the 40-49 age class. Simon Fraser University track coach Hal Werner won the javelin with a Canadian record of 184'10", while former international John Pavelich set a Canadian record

with a hammer throw of 121'8". Pavelich also won the discus, came second in the shot put, and broke the Canadian record in the javelin behind Werner.

Toronto sprinter George Gluppe, a coach at York University, made a good comeback after a serious injury suffered last winter. Gluppe set a new Canadian masters record in the 200m with 24.0 seconds, 0.4 seconds below the previous best.

To encourage the "youngsters", the organisers scheduled events in the submasters (30-39 years) class, and were rewarded with some good performances. Mike Cairns continued his comeback with an excellent hammer throw of 55m23 / 181'2½". Vancouver Olympic Club's Barry Adams won the 800m submasters event in 1:54.7, a little off his seasonal best, while Lynn Eves, now of Portland, Ore., a member of Canada's 1960 Olympic team, won the 400m in 49.7.

At the other end of the age range, oldest competitor Duncan MacLean, the "Tartan Flash", ran the 100 metres in 20 seconds and the 200m in 44.8, and was disappointed with his times.

In the record department, the score was incredible. In addition to the world record, a total of 11 Canadian records were broken by 14 Canadian competitors, while 37 open records were broken by a total of 108 athletes. Never can the expression "rewriting the record book" have been more exact!

Bill Bangert, the mayor of Champ, Missouri, whose re-election campaign billed him as "the strongest man in the world." Bangert finished second in the Division II shot put behind George Ker, the world record holder in that class. (Photo: Sandy Stewart).

