

World Junior Championships

by Phil Minshull

Annecy, France, July 28–August 2—The U.S. team could rightly boast of the second-highest medal haul at the seventh edition of the World Junior Championships, but the report card will still read "could do better."

Thirteen medals meant that the American squad ranked behind only the Chinese. But only 2 of them were gold, a far cry from the 6 captured in Sydney in '96, and the average from the previous 6 editions of the meet was 4.

The 13 total, though, was 1 more than last time, and not far off the all-time high of 17, in '94.

Taking a global view, the championships was a resounding success. A record 172 countries were represented, 29 more than the previous high.

All six continents made it to the top of the medal podium and who would have bet beforehand that a Peruvian high jumper and an Algerian women's triple jumper would be getting their countries' first-ever gold medals at this level?

There were no World Junior Records, although the Shakedia Jones-anchored U.S. women's 4x1 came very close in setting an AJR, and High School Records went to Greg Yeldell in the triple jump and Kendra Reimer in the heptathlon.

Men: New Brit Sprint Star

Britain's Christian Malcolm gave notice that he could be the man to step into the shoes of retired Linford Christie.

Preseason football practice deprived the U.S. of its leading teenage sprinters but it is still doubtful whether they could have stayed with the Welsh sprint wizard.

Malcolm set PRs—and meet records—of 10.12 and 20.44. In the shorter event, Texas prep Amar Johnson set a PR of 10.34 in taking silver.

African runners won every event from the 400 upwards. Most impressive of them was the elegant, long-striding Kenyan, William Chirchir in the 800. Another pupil from the prolific St. Patrick's School in Iten, Chirchir was never headed once the runners broke for the inside and he came home in a relaxed 1:47.23.

Stanford frosh Gabe Jennings blew his big chance in the 1500 by not covering the break

500 from home by Benjamin Kipkurui. The Kenyan was eventually overhauled 30m from the line by Morocco's Adil El Kaouch. The training partner of WR holder Hicham El Guerrouj stopped the clock in 3:42.43 while Jen-

Seibold (Ger) 14.21;... 6. Matthews (US) 14.40.

400H: 1. Iakovakis (Gre) 49.82; 2. Martínez (Cub) 50.17; 3. Bate (Aus) 50.83;... 5. Wilson (US) 50.99. Semis: II-5. DePass (US) 51.89.

10kmW(road): 1. Rasskazov (Rus) 41:55; 2. Liu Y. (Chn) 42:01; 3. Flores (Mex) 42:04.

4 x 100: 1. Jamaica 39.70 (Slowly, Collin, Thompson, Bailey); 2. United States 39.71 (Combest, McCullough, Am. Johnson, Frye); 3. Germany 39.99.

4 x 400: 1. Australia 3:04.74 NJR (No. 6 Jr. nation) (McFarlane, Batman, Russell, Vincent); 2. United States 3:05.06 (Berrian, Baker, Swann, Pierce); 3. Jamaica 3:05.31.

Field Events

HJ: 1. Deza (Per) 7-3 (2.21); 2. Yin X. (Chn) 7-3; 3. Vertyutin (Blr) 7-3;... 14. Carr (US) 6-10³/₄ (2.10). Qual: Johnson (US) 6-10³/₄.

PV: 1. Gerasimov (Rus) 18-2¹/₂ (5.55); 2. Börgeling (Ger) 18-1¹/₂ (5.50); 3. tie, Burgess (Aus), Gibilisco (Ita) & Placek (Cze) 17-³/₄ (5.20); 6. Pauli (US) 16-8³/₄ (5.10);... =13. Hunter (US) 15-9 (4.80).

LJ: 1. Datchev (Bul) 26-8¹/₂ (8.14) NJR; 2. Al-Nubi (Qat) 26-7¹/₄ (8.11) NJR; 3. Mellis (Cub) 25-11¹/₂ (7.91);... 9. Hercules (US) 24-6¹/₂ (7.48).

TJ: 1. Punga (Rom) 55-7 (16.94); 2. Russinov (Bul) 54-7¹/₂ (16.65);

3. Yeldell (US) 53-11¹/₄ (16.44) HSR (old HSR 53-9¹/₄/16.39 Tabor [GaHS] '89) (10, =10 AJ) (f, f, 52-1¹/₂, 51-6¹/₄, 53-6¹/₄, 53-11¹/₄); 4. Hercules 53-4¹/₂ (16.27) PR. Qual: Yeldell (US) 53-8¹/₂ (16.37) (2, 2 HS).

SP: 1. Konopka (Svk) 60-8¹/₂ (18.50); 2. Robberts (SA) 59-6³/₄ (18.15); 3. Myerscough (GB) 59-5¹/₂ (18.12);... 6. Sprague (US) 56-2³/₄ (17.14). Qual: Mounts (US) 53-1¹/₄ (16.16).

DT: 1. Kóvágó (Hun) 194-9 (59.36); 2. Udechuku (GB) 190-3 (57.99); 3. Máté (Hun) 186-10 (56.96); 4. Allen (US) 185-6 (56.55);... 10. Moser (US) 172-10 (52.69).

HT: 1. Karjalainen (Fin) 237-6 (72.40) (MR); 2. Voronkin (Rus) 228-6 (69.66); 3. W. Kondratowicz (Pol) 226-1 (68.93). Qual: Badovinac (US) 191-2 (58.27).

JT: 1. Parker (GB) 239-0 (72.85); 2. Pienaar (SA) 233-5 (71.16); 3. Murakami (Jpn) 232-0 (70.72). Qual: White (US) 214-2 (65.29); Kollar (US) 197-0 (60.06).

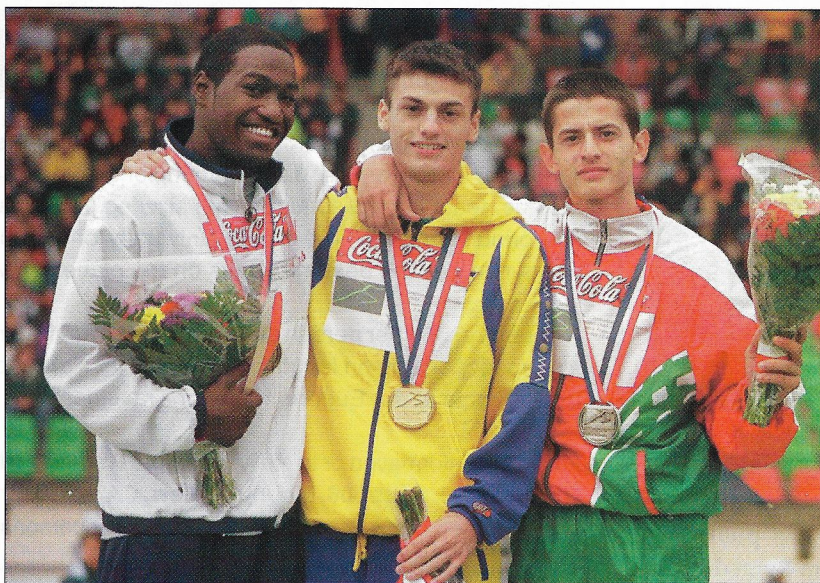
Dec: 1. Heikkinen (Fin) 7476; 2. Poge (Ger) 7332; 3. Ojanieni (Fin) 7246;... 14. Cvelbar (US) 6760;... dnf—Ryland (US) (4030 [6]).

Women: Chinese Dominate

The phenomenal Chinese women were the talk of the week. They won 7 gold medals across the entire range of events except for the short sprints.

In the 1500, 3000 and 5000 Lan Lixin and Yin Lili were in a class of their own, far ahead of their African challengers but their success still left a strange taste in the mouth.

Lan (4:10.05) and Yin (8:57.09/15:29.65) had winning times so inferior to what they achieved at the infamous Chinese National Games last October that you were left wondering how they had fallen so far in just eight short months.



Yeldell (l) won "only" bronze in the triple jump, but was hot by U.S. standards. He became the No. 2 prep ever in the qualifying round (53-8¹/₂), then upped the High School Record to 53-11¹/₄ in the final.

nings lost out in the 3-man dash for bronze and finished 5th (3:43.94).

There was the unusual sight of the U.S. being beaten in both men's relays. Jamaica took the 4x1 in 39.70 and shortly afterwards Australia's Casey Vincent ran an outstanding last leg to snatch 4x4 victory from the U.S. in the last few meters. Australia ran an NJR of 3:04.74 to force the U.S. to relinquish the title it had won at all six previous championships.

— RESULTS —

100(1.6): 1. Malcolm (GB) 10.12 (11, x WJ) (MR); 2. Am. Johnson (US) 10.34 PR; 3. Thomas (Jam) 10.40. Quarters: III(-0.7)—5. McCullough (US) 10.78.

200(-0.2): 1. Malcolm (GB) 20.44 (MR); 2. Duzant (NAN) 20.92 NJR; 3. Frye (US) 20.94. Semis: II(1.0)—5. Baker (US) 21.24.

400: 1. Awazie (Ngr) 45.54; 2. Vincent (Aus) 45.55; 3. Al-Shammari (KuW) 45.89 NJR;... 6. Pierce (US) 46.30;...8. Berrian (US) 47.30.

800: 1. W. Chirchir (Ken) 1:47.23; 2. Bungei (Ken) 1:47.53; 3. Owor (Uga) 1:48.20. Heats: II-6. Stevens (US) 1:52.19. V-5. Hassell (US) 1:53.16.

1500: 1. El Kaouch (Mor) 3:42.43; 2. B. Kipkurui (Ken) 3:42.67; 3. Witt (Pol) 3:43.47. Heats: III-7. Barrus (US) 3:50.04.

St: 1. R. Kosgei (Ken) 8:23.76 (7, x WJ) (MR); 2. Cherono (Ken) 8:32.24; 3. Mellour (Mor) 8:34.91;... 5. Dugan (US) 8:38.66 (2, 2 AJ);... 7. Connor (US) 8:42.19 (6, 10 AJ).

5000: 1. Wolde (Eth) 13:47.49; 2. Mitel (Ken) 13:49.60; 3. Baday (Mor) 13:49.86. Heats: II-7. Andrus (US) 14:28.54.

10,000: 1. Barus (Ken) 29:24.28; 2. S. Kipsang (Ken) 29:36.80; 3. Emere (Eth) 29:47.60;... 7. Young (US) 30:19.16;... 22. Durham (US) 34:01.28.

110H(-0.2): 1. Olijars (Lat) 13.51; 2. Paxton (US) 14.10; 3.