

1928

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AMSTERDAM

Diver — and, later, USC yell leader — Michael "Mickey Riley" Galitzen (left) won the first two of his four career Olympic medals in Amsterdam. Sprinter Frank Wykoff '33 (above), a three-time Olympic gold medalist, lunges toward the finish tape.



Amsterdam's wait to host the Olympics was a long one. The city was first proposed as a potential host in 1912, and sought the honor again in 1921. The International Olympic Committee finally rewarded the Dutch for their persistence when it gave the 1928 Games to Amsterdam. The new Olympisch Stadion, designed by architect Jan Wils, was the centerpiece of the Games, and also won the gold medal in the architectural designs category in the art competitions. A swim stadium was constructed nearby, only to be demolished a year later. For financial and logistical reasons, a proper Olympic Village was unfeasible; instead, a specially organized housing bureau secured accommodations for athletes in local hotels, public schools and even ships moored in the Amsterdam harbor. The 1928 Games saw the beginning of several Olympic traditions that continue to this day: The Olympic flame was lit, and the Parade of Nations began with Greece, the birthplace of the Olympics, and concluded with the host country. With the debut of women's track and field and gymnastics, the Games also represented a breakthrough for female athletes — although after reports that several runners collapsed at the end of the 800-meter run, women's running events longer than 200 meters would be banned from the Olympic program until 1960. Highlights included Halina Konopacka's win for Poland in the discus event, making her the first female Olympic track and field champion; Paavo Nurmi, "the flying Finn," winning his ninth Olympic gold medal; Japanese jumper Mikio Oda becoming the first individual Olympic gold medalist from an Asian country; and Johnny Weissmuller, who later starred in several Tarzan films, winning two gold medals in swimming. A total of 46 nations participated in the Amsterdam Games, with Malta, Panama and Rhodesia (today's Zimbabwe) joining the Olympic competition for the first time. Germany fielded a team after having been excluded in 1920 and 1924. In all, 15 athletes with USC ties competed in the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam, winning nine medals.



FRANK WYKOFF

As a teenager, Frank Wykoff '33 decided to join some other local teens and young adults in a light-hearted race at a Sunday picnic.

He didn't just win the race — he obliterated his competition. That was the world's introduction to the great speed of Frank Wykoff.

Originally from Des Moines, Iowa, Wykoff grew up in Southern California, where he starred as a sprinter for Glendale High School. At 19, he qualified for his first U.S. Olympic team in 1928. At the Olympic Trials in Cambridge, Mass., Wykoff amazed onlookers with his performance in the 100-meter heats, as he matched the world record of 10.4 seconds (set in 1921 by famed USC sprinter Charley Paddock) four times in one day.

After gaining 10 pounds on the boat trip to Amsterdam for the Games, Wykoff finished fourth in the open 100-meter event before teaming with James Quinn, USC's Charles Borah and Henry Russell to win gold in the 4x100-meter relay in a record 41.0 seconds.

Wykoff attended Glendale Community College for a year to continue training with his high school coach before transferring to USC. There he began working toward taking Paddock's title of "world's fastest human" under the watchful eye of Hall of Fame coach Dean Cromwell.

At USC, Wykoff established his dominance in the 100-yard dash, winning two AAU crowns and two NCAA championships. In 1930, Wykoff set a world record of 9.4 seconds in the

event and equaled that time a month later.

In 1931, at a meet in Lincoln, Neb., clocks captured Wykoff finishing a 100-yard race in 9.3 seconds, but the time was not ratified as a world record. Some sources said the time was not recognized because of judging issues; others reported that officials rejected the result, saying the time was "impossible." Later that year, he anchored USC's 4x100-meter relay team to a new world record. He improved upon that result in 1932, when he anchored the U.S. team to another gold medal and world-record time at the Los Angeles Olympics.

In 1936, Wykoff qualified for a third Olympic team. In Berlin, he finished fourth in the 100 meters and ran the anchor leg on yet another record-setting 4x100-meter relay team that included Jesse Owens and fellow Trojans Ralph Metcalfe and Foy Draper. Wykoff secured his place in sports history by becoming the first man to run on three Olympic relay teams that won gold medals and set world records.

During his track career, Wykoff defeated every top sprinter of the day except Owens, who beat him twice and equaled his world record. Decades later, the rivals met again, but this time to celebrate Wykoff's induction into the National Track & Field Hall of Fame. Poor health prevented him from making the trip to West Virginia for the ceremony so Owens traveled to California to present Wykoff with his ring. Wykoff was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1984.



OLYMPIC WOMEN

THE DEBUT OF WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS AND TRACK AND FIELD AT THE AMSTERDAM GAMES BROUGHT AN INFLUX OF FEMALE COMPETITORS IN NUMEROUS EVENTS. AMONG THEM WERE USC'S FIRST WOMEN OLYMPIANS: DISCUS THROWER LILLIAN COPELAND '30 AND FENCER HELENE MAYER '33.



CHARLES BORAH DDS '29, MD '35

Charles Borah captured Olympic gold running the third leg of the United States' 4x100-meter relay team in Amsterdam. Also running on that winning team was fellow track star Frank Wykoff '33.

DIVING FOR GOLD

FRED CADY — USC'S AQUATICS COACH FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, FROM THE MID-1920S UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1956 — COACHED THE U.S. DIVING TEAMS IN OLYMPICS FROM 1928 THROUGH 1948.



HELENE MAYER '33

Three-time Olympian Helene Mayer won her first Olympic title for Germany in individual foil at the 1928 Amsterdam Games. She would go on to add a silver medal in the same event at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

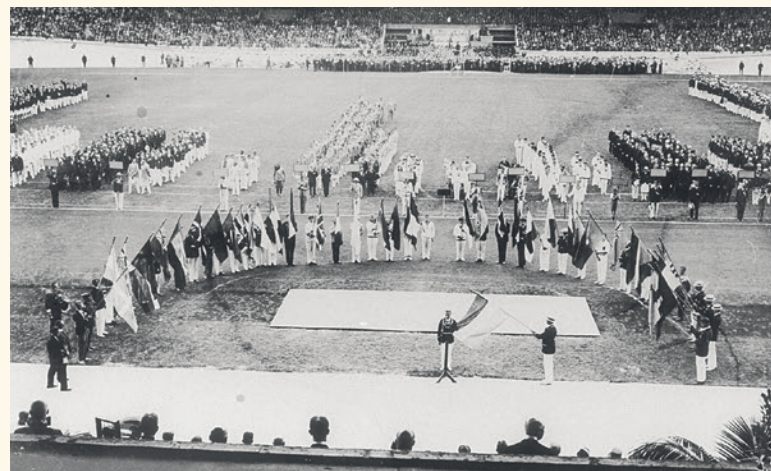
MAKER OF CHAMPIONS

DUBBED THE "MAKER OF CHAMPIONS," USC TRACK COACH DEAN CROMWELL PRODUCED OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS IN EVERY GAMES HELD FROM 1912 UNTIL 1948.

HE WAS SELECTED AS A U.S. OLYMPIC TRACK COACH IN 1928 AND 1936, AND SERVED AS HEAD COACH IN LONDON IN 1948.

NEW TRADITION: PARADE OF NATIONS

A NEW PROTOCOL FOR THE OPENING CEREMONY'S PARADE OF NATIONS STARTED IN 1928. FOR THE FIRST TIME, GREECE, WHICH HOLDS THE ORIGINS OF THE OLYMPICS, LED THE PROCESSION, WHILE THE HOST COUNTRY MARCHED LAST. THIS TRADITION CONTINUES TODAY.



TROJAN VICTORIES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1928 AMSTERDAM GAMES

USC OLYMPIANS: 15 GOLD: 4 SILVER: 2 BRONZE: 3

JAMES HUNT CORSON MS '35

James Hunt Corson competed for the U.S. in the Amsterdam Games, winning a bronze medal in the discus throw. Corson also excelled in football and had a distinguished academic career as a teacher, coach and dean.



BURNING BRIGHTLY

THE SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES IN AMSTERDAM WERE THE FIRST TO SEE AN OLYMPIC FLAME BURN DURING THE WHOLE COMPETITION. LIT BY AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY'S ELECTRIC UTILITY, THE FLAME BURNED IN A CAULDRON ATOP A TOWER ADJACENT TO THE OLYMPIC STADIUM.

MICHAEL "MICKEY RILEY" GALITZEN

Michael Galitzen — later known by his nickname Mickey Riley — won the first two of his four career Olympic medals in Amsterdam, taking silver in the springboard diving competition and bronze in platform diving. Riley enrolled at USC in 1929 and won gold in springboard and silver in platform diving at the 1932 Los Angeles Games.



NEW ATHLETICS TRACK

TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS IN AMSTERDAM WERE HELD ON A 400-METER TRACK — A DISTANCE THAT WOULD BECOME STANDARD FOR ATHLETICS TRACKS.