

# STRONG FOREIGN BID FOR A.A.A. TITLES

## BUT OUR MEN SHOULD HOLD THEIR OWN

(By JOE BINKS, Ex-Holder Mile Record)

**M**ANY foreign athletes are among the remarkably fine entries received for the A.A.A. Open Championships which will be decided at the White City next Friday and Saturday. Hungary, with over 30, must be indulging in a great try-out for the Olympic Games.

Our dashing sprinter, A. W. Sweeney, should win both the 100 and 200 yards this year, as he is in irresistible form. When a man is called upon to "find" two yards from the early series to win a final and does it, as Sweeney did in Paris, he must be in the highest class.

Godfrey Rampling will not defend his quarter-mile title. He is wisely paying strict attention to training this season, and will not indulge in heavy racing. He will try a few sprinting events to sharpen up his speed.

Next year Rampling will go all out to win the Olympic 400 metres in Berlin.

Crew Stoneley is obliged to give up racing and seek medical advice for his injured foot. It is very bad luck for Stoneley.

This leaves Roberts, Wolff, Hunter, Judson, and Warren as the likely ones. Roberts told me in Glasgow that he is doubtful about getting away from business.

Kucharski, the Polish half-miler, will want a lot of watching, but Stothard, Powell, and Collyer may manage it. Stothard should win.

Steeplechasers in Bailey, Ginty, Scarsbrook, and Webster should provide a nice race. Scarsbrook is on his honeymoon, and was in poor form in Glasgow.

### STEEPLECHASE SURPRISE ?

**B. C. ODDIE** is a very interesting entry, and a surprise win could easily come from this quarter.

A. A. Cooper should score in both walks. He is going at record pace just now.

Our athletes put up a splendid fight at Glasgow against a powerful team from Finland, as they almost overcame the tremendous handicap in the field events.

In the track events we won easily by 54 points to 39, but in the field events the Finns beat us by 39 to 16. Only Stanley West (high jump) got in the first two for Britain.

We sadly missed R. H. Thomas in the three miles. Why George Bailey, the British Empire champion, was not asked to run is beyond me. He recently won the Northern event in record time.

Despite our big defeat in the field events, three Britishers deserve special mention. Sandy Duncan put up his record long jump at the first attempt—23ft 7 5/8in. It was a strong start.

Stanley West came a little too late with his 6ft 1in leap in the jumping-off series.

W. A. Land threw the javelin 191ft 7 1/2in. This is the British native best, and Land seems likely to be the first home athlete to throw 200ft.

Land, who was only an inch or two behind the British native best in the discus, is fast improving as an all-rounder, and should be encouraged.

J. Rouse, a schoolboy of 15 years 5 months, won the 100 yards inter-schools championship at Pudsey in 10 3/5sec.

Rouse actually did 10 5/10sec, but as the two watches were only "fifths," they returned the time as 10 3/5sec. I am now asked by those concerned if it is a record.

I am told by the games master at Batley School that the clocking was doubly checked, and that Rouse showed 10 4/5sec only the previous week.

### FINE YOUNG SPRINTER

**R**OUSE is obviously a fine sprinter, and his time is probably the best for his age, but there is no official record of such schoolboy feats. I am advising that Rouse should now be coached properly.

No serious racing or training should be indulged in for another two years. Exercise, training, and modelling should be the special business. Rouse ought to develop into a champion sprinter.

Eulace Peacock is reported to have run 100 metres (109 yards) at Nebraska in 10 2/10sec. I am not swallowing that at any price!

I know Peacock quite well. He is a very jolly athlete, who ran splendidly in Amsterdam and Paris last year. He also jumped well.

In any case, Peacock's long jump of 26ft 3in is no world's record. Jesse Owens recently showed 26ft 8 1/2in.

Peacock ran third to Metcalfe and Owens in the 100 metres championship last year.

Pat Dengis, the Welsh athlete, has won the American Marathon championship in 2hr 53min 53sec. Dengis has been running only three years. He is a tool-maker by trade, and his age is 32.

Kauppinen, who was second, is a German carpenter, aged 42. Percy Wyer, the Toronto veteran, who was seventh, never runs a bad race. Vic. Callard, the old Highgate Harrier, was ninth.

### OTHER SPORT ON PAGES 2, 17, 18, and the BACK PAGE

What to expect from the champion, J. A. Cooper, I do not know. I have not seen him out this year. He was recently married.

As Jack Lovelock runs in the mile, it will be a sensation if he is beaten.

Thomas should win the three miles, but he has that puzzling athlete Beavers to beat. Paul Rochard is entered, but so far the European champion has been out of form. He would win if in his best form.

### GREAT MARATHON RUNNER

**I** SHALL be surprised if Robertson is beaten in the Marathon race.

The man who will interest me most is Harold Wood. A great runner in Lancashire, he will not easily be beaten if he shows his home form. Sammy Dodd may do extra well if he runs with proper judgment.

Kyriakides, the athlete from Cyprus, is another very keen runner for the Marathon. Nobody can extend him at home, so he came to England about three weeks ago to try his strength.

Finlay is likely to win the 120 yards hurdles again. He and Pilbrow, the Oxford Blue, have strong foreign opposition. Mandikas, the Greek, is pretty hot at times.

Hunter's great speed should enable him to win the "quarter" hurdles. R. K. Brown is always dangerous.

I have a grumble from the North about the absence of E. Tyrer, seven times Northern champion.

Despite the fact that he won again in 57sec—faster time than recorded in the Midland and Southern events—he has been left out. I agree that it is very discouraging to Tyrer. Perhaps the Northern committee can explain.

*Joe Binks*