

Olympic shock by record holder

STRAND SECOND IN

1,500 METRES

WORLD record holder Lennart Strand, the hottest of all the Olympic favourites, provided the biggest track shock at Wembley so far when he failed yesterday to win the 1,500-metres final.

The crowd, thousands of whom were soaked by the unceasing rain, which water-logged the track, saw Strand and his fellow-Swede, H. Eriksson, pull right away on the last lap. In the straight they saw Strand challenge, apparently take the measure of his colleague—and then toss victory away.

That is what it looked like, for it was hard to credit that Strand was "done" when he was able, as he did, to look left and right as he ran to the tape to see that there was no danger. There was a threat from the Dutchman Slijkhuis, but only for second place—and Strand made sure of this for Sweden by blocking the Dutch runner's path.

Slijkhuis had to hop on to the grass verge to avoid a collision as he crossed the line.

For Sweden?

It is the first time Eriksson has beaten Strand, whom he has met many times in Sweden. He ran a great race in the wonderful time, for such heavy going, of 5min. 49.8sec. Hansenne, the Frenchman, led for two laps, but with about one and a half circuits to go the two golden-haired Swedes turned on the pace, and had command at the bell.

It was then a question of "Which one?" Was the answer that Strand was satisfied so long as the first two places went to Sweden?

The position now so far as Britain's male team is concerned is that we are out of everything except the 400 metres relay, the 10,000 metres track walk, in which Harry Churcher, a 37-year-old electrician, has a first-rate chance, and today's Marathon. Our man is Jack Holden, a superb stayer. He could win it, so we may gain a title yet.

Britain's relay team of McCorquodale, Jack Gregory, Ken Jones, and John Archer—every one a Rugby player, by the way—put in

Geoffrey Simpson's Round-up

some smart sprinting and "take overs" to reach today's final, beating Hungary and Australia. Jones (third leg) was the key to success. He wiped out a Hungarian lead, gave Archer a level start, and Archer, sprinting in his old form, raced home a foot winner.

The time was 41.4sec., but what we are up against can be appreciated from the 41.1sec. turned in by the Americans in their heat. U.S. have their coloured sprinters, Dillard and Ewell, Mel Patton, the 200 metres champion, and L. C. Wright, who has been specially reserved.

U.S. are in the 1,500 metres relay final, too, but I think Jamaica will win it. Their side consists of V. Rhoden, B. McKenzie, Arthur Wint, and Herb McKenzie—a great collection of quarter-milers.

The amazing Fanny Blankers-Koen brilliantly won the 200 metres

women's final, as we knew she would, to complete a great personal triumph and a wonderful treble for Holland. As she crossed the line, yards ahead, a small girl ran to meet her with a bouquet, and there were handshakes and kisses all round among the thrilled Dutch on-lookers, while "Blankers" herself was mobbed.

She foiled Britain

Second was our girl, Audrey Williamson, an A.T.S. subaltern, who gained the place on a photo-finish, so we have good reason to remember Blankers-Koen, the Dutch blonde. Britain would have had three Olympic titles but for her. Doris Manley was second to her in the 100 metres and Maureen Gardner runner-up in the 80 metres hurdles. The most disappointed girl was Shirley Strickland, of Australia. She was actually told by officials that she was second—before the photo arrived.

Hungary's basket-ball team are going home today. They don't think it worth while remaining to compete for ninth place, which is the best they can now do. In addition, they are hard up for currency.

British oarsmen do well

ITALY, Denmark, and Great Britain shared the honours in the second eliminating stage of the Olympic regatta at Henley yesterday. All the events, except the coxed fours, which reached the quarter-finals, were brought to the semi-final stage.

This is the position of the leading competing countries: Italy is represented in the closing stages in every one of the seven events. Great Britain has failed in only one event, the coxed pairs, a type of rowing unusual in Britain, the United States and Denmark are each represented in five of the seven races.

America appeared in two events today, and were beaten in both; but they were a little unfortunate in the coxswainless pairs, when they were beaten by Italy, with France third.

About 250 metres from the start France and Italy collided. Mr. Harcourt Gold, the umpire, stopped the race and took the three crews back to restart. Alan Walz, the American coach, meanwhile protesting from the towpath. In the end, after some erratic steering

from the Continental crews, Italy won by nearly two lengths.

An American protest was made against the race being stopped, but it was pointed out that, under international rowing regulations, the umpire has absolute control over the race and is entitled to make any decision he wishes.

The fact remains that America might not have lost had the other two crews taken the consequences and handicap of their collision.

Great Britain's double sculls pair, surprisingly beaten on the first day, won their heat very comfortably in the best time in this event. They are now in the semi-final. The home country also won a great race when they beat the Argentine in the coxed fours by about half-a-length.

One of the surprises yesterday was the notable success of G. E. Risso of Uruguay. In winning his heat in the sculls, he covered the course in 7min. 24.3sec., which is faster time than was achieved by either of the favourites, although the dismal rainy conditions yesterday were far more difficult when the stars won their heats on the first day.

The semi-finals today will start at 9.30.—**FRED PIGNON.**