



from the editor

E. Garry Hill

THEY SAY THAT TIME FLIES when you're having fun... but 70 years, really?! OK, so I haven't been on the job for 70 years (only a mere 47), but as noted on p. 8, this is indeed year No. 70 of the intergalactically famous *T&FN* World Rankings.

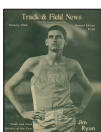
I'm proud to have been part of them since '77.

Let's take a quick meander down memory lane and look at the No. 1 performers as the decades of Rankings have slipped by. The first year that we assigned some rational ordering of the year's performers was in '47. So, without further adieu, a thumbnail look at the 10-year anniversaries, with the cover pages of the issue in which they appeared (not all years had all events ranked):



1956's No. 1s: Bobby Morrow, Morrow, Lou Jones, Tom Courtney, Ronnie Delany, Chris Brasher, Vladimir Kuts, Kuts, Jack Davis, Glenn Davis, Alain Mimoun (no walk ranks), Charles Dumas, Bob Richards, Greg Bell, Adhemar da Silva, Parry O'Brien, Al Oerter, Hal Connolly, Egil Danielson, Milt Campbell.

We weren't yet ranking women. Nor were we choosing any Athletes Of The Year.



1966's No. 1s: Charlie Greene, Tommie Smith, Lee Evans, Jim Ryun, Ryun, Viktor Kudinsky, Kip Keino, Naftali Temu, Willie Davenport, Roberto Frinolli, Mike Ryan, Chichin Ni, John Pennel, Ralph Boston, Hans-Jürgen Rückborn, Randy Matson, Al Oerter, Romuald Klim, Janis Lusis, Bill Toomey. Sorry, we still weren't ranking women. Athlete Of The Year: Ryun.



1976's No. 1s: Don Quarrie, Quarrie, Alberto Juantorena, Juantorena, John Walker, Anders Gärderud, Lasse Viren, Viren, Guy Drut, Edwin Moses, Waldemar Cierpinski, Daniel Bautista, Venyamin Soldatenko, Dwight Stones, Dave Roberts, Arnie Robinson, Viktor Saneyev, Aleksandr Barishnikov, Mac Wilkins, Yuriy Syedikh, Miklos Németh, Bruce Jenner. Again, no women's Ranks. Athletes Of The Year: Juantorena & Tatyana Kazankina.



1986's No. 1s: Men—Ben Johnson, Floyd Heard, Gabriel Tiacoh, Seb Coe, Steve Cram, Willem van Dijk, Saïd Aouita, Aouita, Greg Foster, Andre Phillips, Juma Ikangaa, Jozef Pribilinec, Hartwig Gauder, Igor Paklin, Sergey Bubka, Robert Emmiyan, Mike Conley, Ulf Timmermann, Romas Ubartas, Syedikh, Tom Petranoff, Daley Thompson.

Women—Evelyn Ashford, Heike Drechsler, Marita Koch, Sigrun Wodars, Tatyana Samolenko, Ingrid Kristiansen, Kristiansen, Yordanka Donkova, Marina Stepanova, Grete Waitz, Kerry Saxby-Junna, Stefka Kostadinova, Heike Drechsler, Natalya Lisovskaya, Tsvetanka Khristova, Fatima Whitbread, Jackie Joyner-Kersey. Athletes Of The Year: Syedikh & JJK.



1996's No. 1s: Men—Donovan Bailey, Michael Johnson, Johnson, Wilson Kipketer, Noureddine Morceli, Joseph Keter, Daniel Komen, Haile Gebrselassie, Allen Johnson, Derrick Adkins, Bong-ju Lee, Jefferson Pérez, Robert Korzeniowski, Javier Sotomayor, Bubka, Carl Lewis, Jonathan Edwards, Randy Barnes, Lars Riedel, Lance Deal, Jan Železný, Dan O'Brien.

Women—Merlene Ottey, Marie-José Pérec, Pérec, Svetlana Masterkova, Masterkova, Junxia Wang, Fernanda Ribeiro, Ludmila Engquist, Fatuma Roba, Yelena Nikolayeva, Stefka Kostadinova, Emma George, Inessa Kravets, Tatyana Lisovskaya, Astrid Kumbernuss, Ilke Wyludda, Mihaela Melinte, Heli Rantanen, Ghada Shouaa. Athletes Of The Year: Johnson & Masterkova.



2006's No. 1s: Men—Asafa Powell, Tyson Gay, Jeremy Wariner, Mbulaeni Mulaudzi, Alex Kipchirchir, Saïf Shaheen, Kenenisa Bekele, Micah Kogo, Xiang Liu, Periklís Iakovákis, Gebrselassie, Francisco Fernández, Denis Nizhegorodov, Andrey Silnov, Steve Hooker, Irving Saladino, Christian Olsson, Reese Hoffa, Virgilijus Alekna, Koji Murofushi, Andreas Thorkildsen, Bryan Clay.

Women—Sherone Simpson, Allyson Felix, Sanya Richards-Ross, Zulia Calatayud, Maryam Jamal, Alesya Turova, Meseret Defar, Tirunesh Dibaba, Inga Abitova, Michelle Perry, Lashinda Demus, Deena Kastor, Rita Turova, Kajsa Bergqvist, Yelena Isinbaeva, Lyudmila Kolchanova, Tatyana Lebedeva, Valerie Adams, Franka Dietzsch, Tatyana Lysenko, Steffi Nerius, Carolina Klüft. Athletes Of The Year: Powell & Richards-Ross.

You can find the 2016 honors, of course, in the following pages... Now, all in favor of hanging around to see who tops the charts when the 2026 awards come out, the line forms behind me!

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