

The Umpire

By H.G. Salsinger

OUR REMARKS of a few days ago, calling attention to the part played by science in lowering records in various sports, evoked a query:

"Is Jesse Owens a faster sprinter than John (Junior) Owen was?"

Junior Owen of Detroit was the first sprinter in history who beat 10 seconds flat in a 100 yards race. He covered the distance in nine and four-fifths seconds in 1890.

Forty-five years later Jesse Owens, of Cleveland and Ohio State University, ran 100 yards in nine and two-fifths seconds.

Junior Owen ran 220 yards in 23 3-5 seconds in 1899. Forty-six years later Jesse Owens ran the same distance in 20 3-10 seconds.

The difference between Junior Owen's record for 100 yards and Jesse Owens' best time for the same distance is two-fifths of a second.

What Lies Between

OWEN AND OWENS ran their record-breaking centuries 45 years apart.

What progress has science made in 45 years and what improvement has the human breed shown in the same stretch?

In 45 years science has given this help to improving track records:

Made running shoes lighter and "easier on the feet."

Discarded standing starts and introduced a crouching start, the runners breaking from pits.

Improved posture in running and increased speed by proper holding of the arms.

And, what is probably most important of all, made running tracks faster as a result of laboratory research. They discovered what soil compositions were the "most springy" and built tracks accordingly.

Two-fifths of a second is an astonishingly short space of time. It is so meager that, compared to the progress that science has made in the last 45 years, the general conclusion is that Junior Owen was probably at least as fast as Jesse Owens and that had he been given an opportunity to race under the same conditions he might possibly have been the first sprinter in history to cover 100 yards in nine and one-fifth seconds or in nine seconds flat.

Fighters Slump—So

Why John Owen Was the Fastest of Humans



H. G. Salsinger, in The Umpire column on this page, discusses the two-fifths of a second difference in time between John Owen's record for the 100 yards made in 1890 and Jess Owens' mark in 1936. The picture shows Owen starting a dash from a standing position while Mike Murphy, the old trainer, is serving as starter. Owen's "100" was run in 9 4-5 and he was the first man to break 10 seconds. Jess Owens holds the record today with a 9 2-5 second performance.

Ryder Team Sails Away

U. S. Golfers Pack Power for Trophy Defense

NEW YORK, June 17.—(P)—America's hand-picked squad of 10 professional golfers was en route to England today aboard the liner Manhattan, with high hopes of retaining the international trophy won in 1935 when they clash with the British pros at Southport June 29 and 30.

The team, which will be joined in England by non-playing Capt. Wal-

Pitch in 12th Wild—Ferrell Is Eulogized

Jake Wade Makes It, Tigers Lose and Wes' Spell Over Detroit Players Is Recalled

By SAM GREENE

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17.—As a pitcher for three American League clubs over a stretch of ten seasons, Wesley Cheek Ferrell has regularly harrassed the Tigers. When he was with Cleveland and later with Boston, he beat them consistently, whether he relied on the speed of his youth or the "nothing ball" of the last two years.