

MAPLE LEAF GAMES by Cecil Smith

Toronto, Canada, February 14:-The 13th Toronto Maple Leaf Games, once again played before a capacity crowd of 16,129. And what a night it was. Electrifying performances and world indoor bests charged the crowd on occasion to fever pitch.

On the track we had Annelie Ehrhardt, GDR, displaying magnificent form as she twice broke the existing world record for 60y hurdles. In the heat she cruised to an easy win in 6.3, and then in the final, after a magnificent start, she uncoiled herself to shatter her minutes-old record by clocking 6.2. In her wake we had American Patty Van Wolvelaere 6.4, and another American Deby LaPlante, 6.4.

The majestic Irena Szewinska easily outpaced the field in the 300 yards to clock a comfortable 40.1 win. Szewinska can obviously go much faster, but on the tight 160 yard track, her height and build isn't exactly conducive for this type of running. Canada's Joanne McTaggart came second in 40.8 with Rose Allwood of Jamaica third in 41.0 flat. Szewinska had to accept second place in the 50y dash, clocking 5.7 to Alice Annum (Ghana) 5.6, with Marjorie Bailey (Canada) third in 5.8.

Switching to one of the major highlights of the evening, the women's 1500 meters, we had an in form Francie Larrieu, who recently set a world best 1000m in 2:40.2, up against Glenda Reiser and Thelma Wright. But from the gun, it was no contest. Larrieu simply tore the field apart as she went through 440y in 64.9, the 880y in 2:11.2 and the 1320 in 3:19.8. Her final 440 was covered in a fast 67.8. So, once again as it was last year, the diminutive Larrieu has set a new world best performance of 4:10.4s. In second place was Reiser, who is not enjoying much success this year, who clocked 4:25.2, with Wright at 4:25.8.

In the field events, the one which captured the most attention was the women's high jump. Reason was, it is not every day a 14-year old has the chance to compete against the best in the world in front of a sellout crowd. Young Julie White of Brampton Kinsmen Harriers, and coached by David Baetz, at this tender age of 14 was virtually taking all the attention away from the great world-record holder Rosemary (Witschas) Akerman, the Commonwealth record-holder Debbie Brill, the American record-holder Joni Huntley and Louise Hanna-Walker, silver medalist at the Commonwealth Games.

But Akerman, using a six-stride straddle, easily won the competition at 1.90/6'2 $\frac{3}{4}$, and narrowly failed at 1.96/6'5 $\frac{1}{4}$. The first five were all over 6'0.

50yH, 1-Annelie Ehrhardt (GDR) 6.2, 2-Pat VanWolvelaere (WWW) 6.4, 3-Deby LaPlante (Un) 6.4, 4-Modupe Oshikoya (SITC) 6.5, 5-LaVonne Neal (LaSalle) 6.6, 6-Mamie Rallins (TSU) 6.7;
50y, 1-Alice Annum (SITC) 5.6, 2-Irena Szewinska (Poland) 5.7, 3-Marj Bailey (Can) 5.8, 4-Rose Allwood (SITC) 5.8, 5-Lyn Kel-lond (Can) 5.9, 6-Alfreda Daniels (Motor City) 6.0; 600y, 1-Yvonne Saunders (Can) 1:19.5, 2-Robin Campbell (SITC) 1:19.8, 3-Cheryl Toussaint (Atoms) 1:20.9, 4-Rochelle Campbell (Can) 1:21.4; 1500m, 1-Francie Larrieu (PCC) 4:10.4, 2-Glenda Reiser (Can) 4:25.2, 3-Thelma Wright (Can) 4:25.8, 4-Debbie Mitchell (Can) 4:27.8, 5-Karen MacHarg (KS) 4:30.0, 6-Brenda Webb (KS) 4:31.0; 300m, 1-Szewinska 40.1, 2-Joanne McTaggart (Can) 40.8, 3-Rose Allwood (SITC) 41.0, 4-Marg McGowan (Can) 41.3;
880y, 1-Maureen Crowley (Can) 2:08.4, 2-Elzbieta Katolik (Pol) 2:09.0, 3-Abby Hoffman (Can) 2:09.1; HJ, 1-Rosemarie Ackerman (GDR) 6'3, 2-(tie) Joni Huntley (OreSt) and Debbie Brill (Can) 6'1, 4-(tie) Louise Walker (Can) and Julie White (Can) 6'0.