

Sportswriters Name Miler Rich Ferguson As Outstanding Canadian Athlete of '54

By JACK SULLIVAN, Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (C)—One blistering 4.6 mile effort, the fastest a Canadian has ever run the distance, shot Toronto's Rich Ferguson into the role of Canada's outstanding male athlete of 1954.

He broke four British Empire Games heavyweight records while winning the title at Vancouver last summer, finished in the runner-up position with 129 points. Thirty-eight athletes were nominated by the voters but it was a two-man race between Ferguson and Hepburn.

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male athlete in the CP poll. It was a memorable day in world track and field history—the day of the miracle mile when England's Dr. Roger Bannister and Australia's John Landy, the only men to crack the four-minute barrier, met for the first time and cracked it together.

Ferguson was just another man in spiked shoes on the sun-baked track. Before the games his best mile was 4:13.4.

The country's sports editors

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OTHERS TRAIL

Maurice Richard, Montreal Canadiens great rightwinger and all-time National Hockey League high scorer, was third with 67 points. Gerry James, hard-charging back with Winnipeg Blue Bombers and junior hockey player with Toronto Marlboros, was close behind with 65.

Gordie Howe of Detroit Red Wings, third in the 1953 poll, dropped to fifth place with 43, just four up on Sam Etcheberry, Montreal Alouettes quarter who earlier had won the Jeff Ruseel Trophy as the most valuable player to his team in the Inter-provincial Rugby Union.

Selectors recalled that hot, humid Aug. 7 afternoon at Vancouver's Empire Stadium when they chose Ferguson for the No. 1

EXPERIENCED RUNNER

Ferguson's track career started six years earlier when he ran his first mile in 4:27. In the 1950 games at Auckland, N.Z., he timed in 4:17, six seconds off the winning time of 4:11 set by Bill Karnel of Vancouver.

That was the best time by the Iowa University student until Aug. 5 in the golden-mile heats when he qualified with a clocking of 4:07.8, a Canadian native record. "I'm lucky to be here," he told reporters after that race, but his third-place finish in the final wasn't lucky.

He was third at the half mile and withstood a strong stretch by Milligan to win a medal.

MANY SPORTS MENTIONED

Selectors nominated athletes representing boxing, basketball,



RICH FERGUSON: ... blistering mile



"MILE OF THE CENTURY" has been dubbed by Associated Press writers as the "thrill of the year." The finish (shown above) saw England's Dr. Roger Bannister lunge ahead in the final yards to overtake Australia's John Landy as the pair finished in less than four minutes. Bannister was clocked at 3:58.8 and Landy at 3:59.5. The race, run on the last day of the British Empire Games in Vancouver, was picked by 21 of 117 sportswriters and sportscasters. Bannister's pioneer sub-four minute mile ranked second.

BLACKWOOD on BRIDGE

By EASLEY BLACKWOOD

Old Mrs. Fusty Frosts Slangy Mr. Heinsite

The regular players in the game were not finding it necessary to pull their punches in dealing with old Mrs. Fusty. Far from it. This was the fourth deal of the rubber and, so far, she had been beating their brains out.

As soon as the bidding was over today she asked politely, "May I lead, partner?" Mr. Dale looked up, puzzled. The question sounded slightly familiar to him, but he had long since forgotten the amenities of whist.

"Yeah, it's your push," blurted out Mr. Heinsite.

Mrs. Fusty gave him a haughty look and led the nine of spades. SHAKY CONTRACT

Dummy went down and Mr. Heinsite studied his prospects. He was pleased. The contract was a shaky one but with this lead there seemed to be no danger of missing it.

If Mrs. Fusty had led from nine-deuce, Mr. Dale had king-10. If she had led a singleton, then Mr. Dale had king-10-deuce and there was an easy way to handle that, too.

No other alternatives occurred to Mr. Heinsite. And that, of course, was his undoing.

He played the jack of spades from dummy and, as expected, it was covered by the king. He won with the ace and led his lone diamond, Mr. Fusty won with the ace and returned a club. The finesse lost to Mr. Dale's king and he returned a heart. Mr. Heinsite played the king and it lost to the ace. This was the defenders' third trick.

ANOTHER CLUB

Mrs. Fusty now led another club and dummy's ace won. Confidently, Mr. Heinsite led a spade from the board to finesse against Mr. Dale's 10. He found this plan somewhat difficult to consummate. Mr. Dale did not have the 10 of spades. He didn't have any spades at all. Mrs. Fusty won a spade trick to defeat the contract.

If Mr. Heinsite had got a plain suit opening and had been able to start the spades himself, undoubtedly he would have led a small one from the board, and when the king came up, his troubles would have been over.

Mr. Dale was trying to recall whether the lead of the nine from Mrs. Fusty's spade holding was something from the early days of bridge. He could not remember. But suddenly he remembered something else. He remembered the formal reply to Mrs. Fusty's question as to whether she might lead. He resolved to use it at his first opportunity.

ALERTNESS NEEDED

STRATFORD, Ont. (CP)—Building up enthusiasm for women in politics, Brampton councillor Miss Lilias Trout said "some of the best minds in Canada are hidden under a permanent wave." But if you want action, you have to keep those minds stimulated, she added.

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