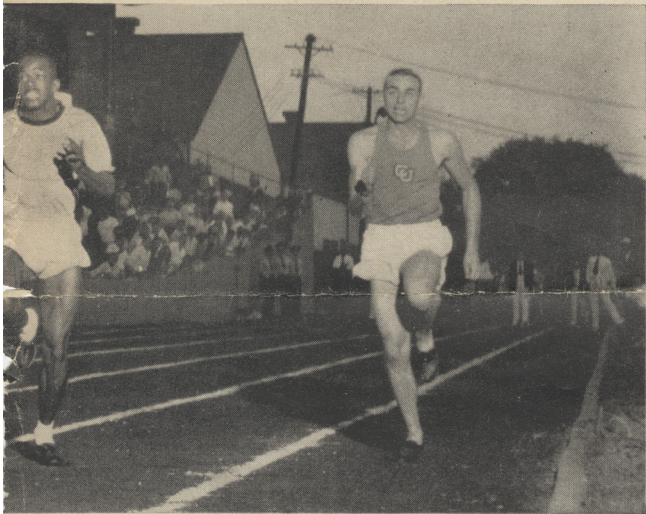




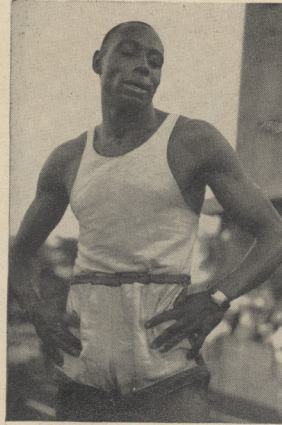
MATHIS, BARNEY EWELL, EDDIE CONWELL, HARRISON DILLARD AND DON CAMPBELL



MATHIS, TORTURED BY HIS LEG, HAS AT THIS MOMENT STARTED TO COLLAPSE.



THE 100 METERS RESULTS IN UPSET AND A DRAMATIC FINISH-LINE FALL



AFTER THE RACE EWELL IS EXHAUSTED

The glamor race of the Olympics is always the 100-meter dash. Out of this event in the Evanston trials came a surprise winner, the veteran Henry Norwood ("Barney") Ewell, who ran the greatest race of his track career to tie the world's record of 10.2 seconds. Out of it also came the revealing set of photographs at left, which were made by three LIFE photographers who were stationed along the course.

Although Ewell already possessed a chestful of U.S. collegiate and A.A.U. medals, few people expected him to win last week. For one thing, he was 30 years old; his big Olympic chance seemed to have passed him by during the war years. For another thing, he had to run against the University of Southern California's long-legged Mel Patton, who earlier this year had set an unofficial world record by running the 100-yard dash in 9.3 seconds.

One person who did not believe Mel Patton to be the world's fastest human was "Barney" Ewell himself, who got his boyhood nickname because he used to sing *Barney Google* while shining shoes on the streets of Lancaster, Pa. Now an iron foundry worker with ambitions to become a soft shoe dancer, he got a leave from his job a month ago to get in shape for the Olympic trials. It was not much trouble. Ewell had never been really out of shape. Married and the father of a 15-month-old son, he had been working in the daytime and running at night, sometimes hitchhiking 68 miles to Philadelphia to compete in track meets.

To qualify for the 100-meter finals last week Ewell first had to run in a trial heat. He won it handily. An hour later came the big race. Ewell shucked off his sweat clothes and crouched down in lane 4 between Eddie Conwell and Bill Mathis, two men against whom he had raced many times. Ewell had always been a notoriously slow starter, but this time he got away well (*top, left*). And there was no catching him. Thirty meters from the finish he had the race virtually won, just as Mathis began to show signs of distress (*center, left*). Ewell broke the tape a half stride ahead of Mel Patton (*bottom, left*), just before Mathis collapsed in agony. Then, having realized a 10-year Olympic ambition, he hustled back in the true sporting tradition to bend anxiously over the fallen Mathis (*below*).

AS MATHIS WRITHES ON CINDER TRACK, WINNER EWELL TRIES TO COMFORT HIM



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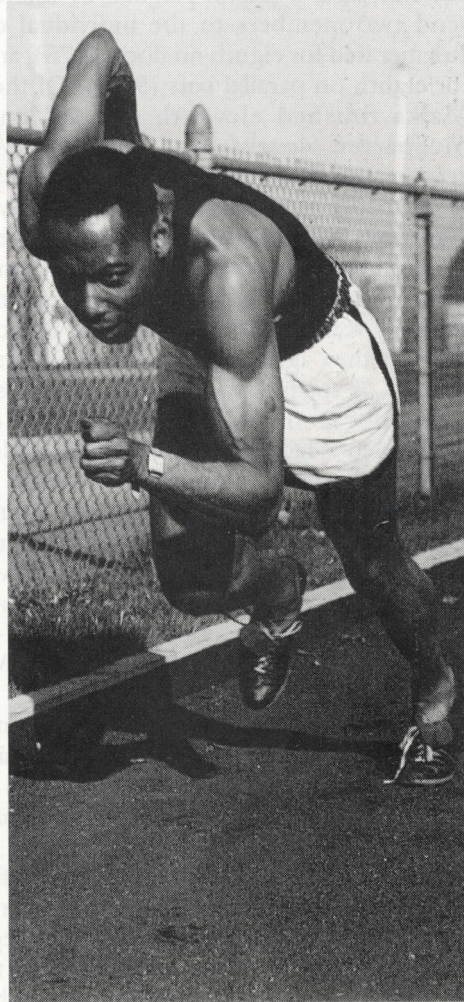
The Loss of a Legend

Olympic sprinter **Henry Norwood "Barney" Ewell '47** **H&HD** died April 4 in Lancaster at the age of seventy-eight. Ewell set world records in 50- and 60-yard and 100-meter sprints, yet is probably best known for his gracious loss of a gold medal in the 1948 Olympics: In the 100 meters, Ewell and Harrison Dillard ran a photo-finish race. Ewell raised his arms in victory, yet Dillard was ruled the winner—by one-tenth of a second. With typical generosity, Ewell hugged and congratulated Dillard with genuine warmth—a gesture that still resonates in the memories of many.

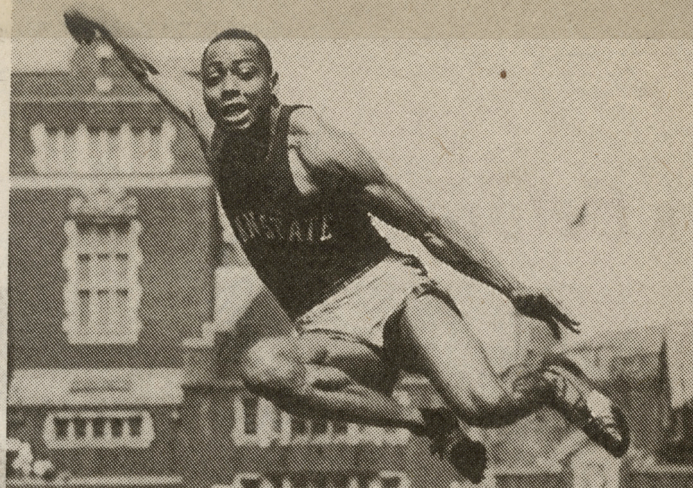
Ewell, coached by Chick Werner, won twelve gold medals in the IC4A meets and eleven golds in the Amateur Athletic Union nationals. Also the winner of four intramural boxing championships, Ewell was a nine-time collegiate All-American. His collegiate career was interrupted by a three-year Army stint during World War II, and the cancellation of the 1940 and 1944 Olympic Games cost Ewell his chance of competing at his prime. However, at the age of thirty, he qualified for the 1948 Games in London by tying the world record of 10.2 seconds in the 100 meters. The "Lancaster Flash"

went on to win silver medals in both the 100 and 200 meters, and ran in the 400-meter relay team that won the gold.

Considered one of the ten greatest sprinters of all time by *U.S. Track and Field News*, Ewell suffered from poor circulation toward the end of his life, which led to the partial amputation of both his legs. An inductee of the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, Ewell was honored by the University last year with the presentation of a Nittany Lion statue at the Penn State-Wisconsin men's basketball game. A park in Lancaster, at the corner of Christian and North Streets, was dedicated in Ewell's honor this spring.



"Barney" Ewell



Associated Press, 1942

Barney Ewell established records at 50 yards, 60 yards and 100 meters.

Barney Ewell, 78, Top Sprinter; Won Gold in Postwar Olympics

By JOSEPH DURSO

Barney Ewell, who was one of the world's top-ranked sprinters during and after World War II and who won three medals at the age of 30 when the Olympics were revived in 1948, died yesterday in Lancaster General Hospital in Pennsylvania. He was 78 years old.

A son, Barney Ewell Jr., said that Ewell had died from complications following amputations on both legs.

Norwood H. (Barney) Ewell was born on Feb. 25, 1918, in Lancaster and went on to Penn State University, where he immediately became renowned as a sprinter. He won 12 gold medals and championships in three straight years in the IC4A collegiate meets starting in 1940, and he won 11 gold medals in Amateur Athletic Union national meets. He also set American and world records at 50 yards, 60 yards and 100 meters.

But Ewell was denied the opportunity to compete in the Olympics because World War II wiped out the Games in 1940 and 1944. By then, he was serving in the United States Army, still sprinting but facing the loss of his prime years.

After the war, Ewell returned to Penn State and completed his education in 1946, and then qualified for the Olympics in 1948 by equaling the 100-meter world record of 10.2 seconds in the final United States Olympic trials while also qualifying in the 200-meter dash.

Ewell was 30 years old and considered well past his prime for a sprinter. But in three stunning performances in London, Ewell won two silver medals and one gold medal and came within a blink of sweeping three golds.

In the 100-meter dash final, he raced to an apparent dead heat with Harrison Dillard. Dillard, who had

failed to qualify for the United States team in his specialty, the high hurdles, made the team as a sprinter and flashed 100 meters in 10.3 seconds with Ewell four lanes to his left. Believing he had won the race as he crossed the finish, Ewell danced with his hands over his head. But when it was determined that Dillard had actually crossed first, Ewell, who was timed in 10.4 seconds, accepted the decision with grace.

Curt Stone, the distance runner who was Ewell's classmate at Penn State and who performed in three Olympics, remembered the drama of the race yesterday. "Barney raised his hands up in victory," Stone said, "but they quickly determined that Dillard had won by a whisker. But Barney was all class. He promptly turned, went over to Dillard and congratulated him warmly."

In the 200-meter dash, Ewell again missed by a tick, this time to Mel Patton. But the ultimate suspense was yet to come: In the 400-meter relay, Ewell ran the first leg on a team of exceptional talent, followed by Lorenzo Wright, Dillard and Patton. The American team won handily but was disqualified when an official ruled that Ewell had passed the baton to Wright outside the passing zone.

The gold medal was awarded to Britain but, three days later, a jury of appeal viewed films of the race and reversed the finding.

In his later years, Ewell lived in Lancaster as a hero. But his health was undermined by two operations for partial amputations on both legs.

He is survived by his wife, Duella; three sons, Barney Jr., Patrick and Maurice; a daughter, Denise, and two grandchildren.