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Charles Ruter

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Ruter wins Giegengack Award
12-1-2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOBILE, Alabama - Longtime official, meet director, international team staff member and former vice president of USA Track & Field (USATF), Charlie Ruter, has been named the 18th winner of the Robert Giegengack Award. Ruter received the award Friday evening at the Jesse Owens Awards Dinner and Xerox Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, held in conjunction with USATF’s 2001 Annual Meeting.

The award is presented annually to an individual “who excels in contributing to the excellence and high standards of the sport.” The Giegengack is USATF’s only accolade for contributions not limited to one of the sport’s three disciplines – track and field, long distance running and race walking – or to any one of the three areas of consideration – official, coach, administrator. The award was established in 1982 and named after the former Yale University track and field coach’s half-century of “superior and outstanding contributions as an Official, as a Coach, as an Administrator to the sport and to the Organization.”

During his many years of involvement in track and field, Ruter placed his thumbprint on nearly every aspect of the sport, especially in the area of meet officiating. When he began directing meets in the late 1940’s and early 50’s, Ruter was frustrated that he had to rely on fans or inexperienced volunteers to officiate his track meets. When he took over the national certification of officials in 1976, there were 67 registered officials. There are now more than 8,300.

A highly acclaimed official in his own right, Ruter was selected as the head field referee at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, and he officiated at every U.S. Olympic Trials from 1972 through 1996. He also served as the chief umpire at the 1987 World Indoor Championships and Pan American Games.

Ruter served on many U.S. international team staffs, including as the head manager of the first U.S. track team to compete in Red China. His service to the sport also included stints on USATF’s Board of Directors, and a term as the organization’s vice-president.

Ruter got his start in track and field as a hurdler and 440-yard runner in New Albany, Indiana. He played basketball at Western Kentucky University for three years before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1943. He returned to Kentucky in 1948 to finish his degree and went on to earn a masters degree and teach English at Fern Creek High School.

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12/10/01
Charlie's Angels—
The Ultimate Award

BY DR. ROBERT MARCUS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION

One of the most prestigious, and coveted awards for
officials involved in track and field in the U.S. is only given to
a privileged few. It is the Charlie's Angels pin given perma-
nently by Charlie Hunter. It can't be bought. It isn't contest.
What makes it unique is the fact that it must be earned.
To earn it, an umpire must first be selected to serve on
Charlie's umpire crew. At the end of the meet, if the umpire
personnel, he or she will be presented with a yellow
"Charlie's Angel" pin and a hand-take from Charlie.

The real value of this pin is an internal and personal
feeling of accomplishment. Of course, not everyone
would agree with that assessment. Ed Wells was recently
quoted at the NCAA Championships at Duke University
saying, "You can't buy a cup of coffee with it." Yet, other
officials such as John Hickman of Ohio and John Holton
of Texas have accumulated many of these pins with pride.

Make no mistake about really having to earn the pin.
Charlie is a tough taskmaster. Umpires have to follow rigid
directions. They had better be professional at all times
and be committed to serve the athletes.

Anyone who has the desire to earn a pin will be well
served to heed the following advice:

• Be on time for meetings, which usually start early.
• Dress correctly.
• Know the difference between a yellow and a white
flag. A disability of color blindness cannot be accommodated.
• Be able to march in step. Prior military service will help.
• Be able to stand up to intensive grilling when calling a
violation of a rule.
• If you lack the ability to recall incidents, or have a
short memory, forget it.
• Have a sense of humor—laughing at 1 out of 3 of
Charlie's jokes is minimally acceptable. It helps to
get ahead in the count.

Of course, all of the above is for naught if you are not
an umpire. To qualify for membership in this exclusive
club, my advice is to get some experience at umpiring at
the local level which may then qualify you to be selected
for a national meet. If an umpire works hard, is physically
fit and is lucky, he or she may one day become a
Charlie's Angel — the pinnacle of officiating.
CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Profile of Charlie Ruter

Billy Reed, a Sports Illustrated sportswriter, once lightheartedly called Charlie Ruter a "track nut," without recognizing the truth of his statement. Ruter is crazy for track and for track athletes.

Ruter’s enthusiasm for track & field began in New Albany, Indiana, where he ran the 120-yard high hurdles, the 440-yard race and anchored the mile relay for his high school. Ruter’s high school coach once said, “Charlie begins and finishes the meet for us.”

Ruter continued his athletic career at the Western Kentucky University where he played basketball for three years under the legendary Ed Diddle. One of Ruter’s most cherished memories from his basketball days is of the NIT finals in 1942. Ruter and his teammates took on rival West Virginia in New York’s Madison Square Garden. Although Western Kentucky played hard, they fell to West Virginia 47-45 in the last twenty seconds.

In 1943, Ruter’s basketball career was cut short by his enlistment in the United States Navy. After completing the required training, Ruter was sent to Pearl Harbor and then on to the Philippines. In the Philippines, Ruter was assigned to command a 5-inch gun, which was fired relentlessly at kamikaze pilots. Later, Ruter was also appointed recreation officer for his ship, and he organized several activities, like mid-afternoon softball games on various islands. In 1945, Ruter stood on the deck of his ship and watched as General MacArthur signed the treaty with Japan to end World War II.

Ruter returned home to his wife, Evelyn, and to school. At Western Kentucky, he finished his bachelor’s degree in English on the navy’s G.I. Bill and went on to earn a master’s degree. Soon after earning his master’s. Ruter began teaching English at Okolona High School in Kentucky. In 1946, he transferred to Fenn Creek High School where he taught English and also became the head basketball coach, the sponsor of the newspaper and yearbook, and the senior class advisor. In between these commitments, Ruter developed a love for track & field.

“It was so frustrating to ask people in the stands to come down and officiate. The kids work hard at track. A stop watch doesn’t lie, but you have to have somebody accurate keeping it.”

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“In the late 40s, there were a lot of AAU track meets at New Albany and at Fort Knox,” Ruter said. “I just became fascinated with the sport. I hadn’t competed much at all since high school, but the love of the sport was still there.”

So, Ruter became involved with administrating the meets. Ruter loved being with the athletes, but he hated the lack of professionalism in the officiating of the meets.

“It was so frustrating to ask people in the stands to come down and officiate. The kids work hard at track. A stop watch doesn’t lie, but you have to have somebody accurate keeping it.”

Ruter took his complaints to the AAU Convention and demanded the governing body establish a nationwide certification program for track and field officials. In 1978, when Ruter took over certification duties, there were 67 registered officials. Today, there are over 8,304.

Ruter went on to serve as the head manager for the first U.S. track team to visit Red China. While in China, Ruter befriended his liaison officer, George Bush. In 1980, Ruter returned to China, again as the head manager for the U.S. team. In 1983, he served as the head manager for the U.S. Pan Am team in Caracas, Venezuela and was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in Meritorious Service for his work as an announcer for the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships. The following year, Ruter was selected as the head field referee at the Los Angeles Olympics. In 1987, he was the chief umpire in both the Pan Am games and the World Indoor Championships. In 1988, Ruter was elected vice-president of USA Track & Field.

Ruter served as the head protest official at the 1990 Goodwill Games in Seattle. He also served on the USATF board of directors. From 1972 through 1996, Ruter officiated at every U.S. Olympic Trials.
Newest members of the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame are, from left: Wes Cox, Johnny Cox, Bill Gatti, Lee Rose, Billy Reed, Vernon Hatton, Tom Hammond, Lisa Harrison and Charlie Ruter. They were inducted Sept. 10 at the Galt House East.

Charlie Ruter made his induction speech.

Louisville’s Charlie Ruter, left, showed his plaque to Bobo Davenport of Bowling Green. They both played for Ed Diddle at Western Kentucky.

Ruter is honored at Owens Classic

As Charlie Ruter has done for the past 18 years, the Fern Creek resident went to Columbus, Ohio, to officiate in the Jesse Owens Track Classic May 2 and 3.

The veteran international official was surprised during opening ceremonies when he was presented with a beautiful silver cup as the winner of the “Jesse Owens Outstanding Officials Award.”

Ruter was a personal friend of the African-American sprint star of the 1936 Olympic Games who made Adolf Hitler eat his words about Aryan supremacy.
UK's Hatton, Cox elected

By EARL COX
Sports Columnist

Johnny Cox and Vernon Hatton have much in common, and now they have one more thing to share: On Sept. 10, they will be inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame.

Hatton led Ralph Carlisle's greatest Lafayette team to the 1953 state basketball championship. In 1955 it was Cox's turn; he was the star of Goebel Ritter's Hazard championships. Then they teamed up to lead Adolph Rupp's Kentucky Wildcats to the national championship.

Rupp was concerned about Cox's ability to stay eligible at UK, but he promised that he not only would stay eligible but would earn a degree. When he did qualify for graduation, Cox went to Rupp's office and informed the famous coach, "I got'er."

Four Louisvillians are among the Hall of Fame selections:

- Bill Gatti, a slugging pro softball player who also was a standout halfback and baseball player for the University of Louisville.
- Gatti played high school football and baseball for Waggner.
- Lisa Harrison, a great basketball player at Southern High for Bill Brown and then a star at Tennessee. She now starts for Phoenix's WNBA team, the Mercury.
- Billy Reed, a nationally famous award-winning sports columnist. The was sports editor of The Courier-Journal, a writer for Sports Illustrated and a

See page C2

Members of Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame

- Ray Baer, Eros "Cy" Barger, Cliff Barker, Mike Barry, James "Ted" Bassett, Alfred "Butch" Beard, Frank Beard, Ralph Beard, David Russell "Gus" Bell, Tommy Bell, George Bianda, Jim Bolus, Gay Brewer, Ulysses "Junior" Bridgeman, Don Brumfield, Paul "Bear" Bryant, Jim Bunning, John Y. Brown Jr.
- Louie Dampier, Keene Dangerfield, Pat Day, Nick Denes, Paul Derringer, Edgar Allen Diddle, John Dromo.
- Jimmy Ellis, Dr. Rudy Ellis, Sam English Jr., Billy Evans.
- Don Ffightmaster, Joe Fulk, Dwight Gahm, Bob Gain, John Gaines, Bill Gatti, Stella Gilb, Larry Gilbert, Jack Givens, Roscoe Goose, Jim Green, Darrell Griffith, Geri Grigsby, Alex Groza, Don Guttell, Joe Guyon.
- Dan Issel.
- Harry Lancaster, Bobby Laughlin, Cawood Ledford, Sherman Lewis, Leonard Lyles, Dicky Lyons, Susan Sloane-Lundy.
- Tom Thacker, Clint Thomas, John Tong, Lou Tsiropoulos, John Turner, Charlie Tyra.
- Johnny Unitas, Westley Unseld.
- Jeff Van Note.
- Darrell Waltrip, Susie Shields White, Louise Wilson, Col. Matt Winn.
- William T. Young.

Class of 2001

Johnny Cox
Wesley Cox
Bill Gatti

Tom Hammond
Lisa Harrison
Vernon Hatton

Billy Reed
Lee Rose
Charlie Ruter
2001 Hall of Fame Class

Three former high school athletes, one coach, three contest officials, two administrators and one other individual have been chosen for the 2001 class of the National High School Sports Hall of Fame.

See story, page 4
In February 1999, Barbara Twardus concluded a 31-year career as a teacher, coach and administrator for Seattle Public Schools where she became the first female director of the Seattle School District Athletic Program and the first female president of the NIAAA.

Not only did she serve as NIAAA president in 1985, Twardus was invited by the NFHS to serve on a committee that organized what would become the NIAAA. In 1991, she received the organization’s Award of Merit, and she received the State Award of Merit in 1988.

Twardus was the first chairperson of the NIAAA Political Action and Resolutions Committee and was called back from NIAAA retirement to head the Diversity Committee and develop goals and a mission statement for that organization.

Active in the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, she served on its executive board for 10 years, including one as president in 1986-87. Also at the state level, Twardus served five years on the Washington Secondary Schools Athletic Administrator’s Association (WSSAAA) executive board and as president of the organization in 1978. In 1999, Twardus was inducted into the WSSAAA Hall of Fame and received the Gareth Giles Award, given by the WIAA in recognition of distinguished service to the youth of Washington.

At 80 years of age and still officiating, Al Flischel is one of three officials entering the Hall of Fame this year. Flischel has officiated in the state of Missouri since 1948 in four sports: baseball, basketball, football and softball.

Still registered by the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSHA) in baseball and softball, Flischel has umpired or officiated in seven different decades, working numerous state finals in each sport. Since 1983 Flischel has been the MSHSHA state rules interpreter in softball and the interpreter for baseball since 1984. He also has been the official coordinator for the baseball and softball state finals since 1981.

At the national level, Flischel worked closely with the NFHS, suggesting rule changes, editing and proofing rules books, case books and umpire manuals before printing. He would also conduct statewide rules interpretation meetings for coaches and officials.

He has been honored with the MHSBAA Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to Missouri interscholastic athletics and has been inducted into the Missouri State Amateur Softball Association’s Hall of Honor.

A registered and an active official for the past 40 years, Colin Kapitan will enter the National High School Sports Hall of Fame for his officiating work in South Dakota. Kapitan, however, has also worked high school games in Nebraska, Minnesota and Iowa.

Certified in football, basketball and track, Kapitan has called 25 state basketball tournaments in South Dakota and every state football tournament since it began in 1981. A past director of the National Federation Officials Association (NFOA) from 1993 to 1996, Kapitan assisted in staging the first NFOA Coaches and Officials Leadership Conference.

In 1997 he was honored as the official of the year by the South Dakota Coaches Association and again in 1999 by the NFOA as the first recipient of the Active Official of the Year, validating the nationwide respect for his officiating ability and leadership.

In addition to being named executive director of the newly formed South Dakota Officials Council, Kapitan conducts two summer camps for officials and implemented officiating “jamborees” in South Dakota to train young and new officials.

The third official in this year’s induction, Charles Ruter enters the Hall of Fame as one of the nation’s most well-known and respected track and field judges.

While nationally known, Ruter has spent his professional career mainly in Kentucky as an official, teacher, coach and administrator in Louisville. For 45 years Ruter was the public-address announcer, referee and field judge for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) State Track Meet. He also has been the official scorer for the KHSAA state boys basketball tournament since 1965 and the girls’ official scorer since 1992.

From 1958 to 1976 Ruter served as the official scorer for the annual Kentucky-Indiana High School All-Star Game.

Perhaps Ruter’s most impressive credential is his work with the United States Track and Field Federation, of which he is a member. He was the administrator of official selection for the 1984 Summer Olympic Summer Games in Los Angeles and judged the Olympic Games and the Olympic trials.

A year later he repeated the duty for the 10th Pan American Games and was the chief umpire for the games in Indianapolis in 1987.

Ruter is a member of the KHSAA Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the NIAA Hall of Fame.

The 10 individuals were chosen for the National High School Sports Hall of Fame after a two-level selection process involving a screening committee composed of active high school administrators, coaches and officials, a final selection committee composed of coaches, officials, former athletes, state association officials, media representatives and educational leaders. Nominations were made through member state high school athletic/activity associations.

Ruter is an intern in the NFHS public relations/communications department and a recent graduate of Butler (Indiana) University.
## UNITED STATES TRACK COACHES ASSOCIATION

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Sam Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jim Nestor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Deb Verheulien</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jim Barber</td>
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<td>At Large</td>
<td>Fred Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division I Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Dennis Carstairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division II Cross Country</td>
<td>Gordon Thomson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division III Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Randi Lydum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division III Cross Country</td>
<td>Terry Crawford</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>John Hermer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Gary Schwartz</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAIA</td>
<td>Jack Hazen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>Darrell Rich</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAIA Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Bob Ellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIA Cross Country</td>
<td>Jim Holman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>Joe Hash</td>
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<td>NAIA Cross Country</td>
<td>Harry Kitchener</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division I Men's Cross Country</td>
<td>Beth Sullivan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division II Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>James Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Division II Cross Country</td>
<td>Randi Lydum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division II Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Betty Emerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division III Cross Country</td>
<td>Keith Ellingson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Joe Hash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAIA Cross Country</td>
<td>Gary Schwarz</td>
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</tbody>
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### DIVISION PRESIDENTS

| Division I Track & Field | Gordon Thomson          |
| Division II Track & Field | James Williams        |
| Division III Cross Country | Randi Lydum           |
| Division II Track & Field | Betty Emerson          |
| Division III Cross Country | Keith Ellingson       |

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## TRACK & FIELD OFFICIALS

Jimmy Carnes

As the director of the Florida Relays and track coach at the University of Florida in the late 1960s and 70s, I would often wake up early from several nightmares.

I dreamed that 4,000 athletes arrived for the Relays but no officials showed up. Fortunately, the nightmare never came true and each year over 200 dedicated officials made the Relays and other meets successful. It did not take me long to appreciate these dedicated officials of our great sport.

In 1979, Andy Elajjian, the first chairman of the Athletic Congress (now the USATF), led the way in certifying officials throughout the United States. Charlie Ruter became the "officials guru" who assisted Andy in the tremendous growth of certified officials. It was during preparations for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles that officials began to travel worldwide officiating meets.

USA Track & Field now has over 8,000 certified officials. The state high school federations supervise more than 1 million athletes competing in cross-country and track and field. Furthermore, the NCAA lists 87,000 collegiate athletes in these sports. Add the NAIA, community colleges, open and age group competition, and you quickly see the need for thousands more officials.

The Track Coaches Association prints and distributes 15,000 copies of the Track and Field Coaches Review and we are very proud of the 16 growth over the past six years. Unfortunately, we have neglected one of the most important ingredients of our sport—our officials.

I have talked to your chairman, John Davis and vice chairman of certification, Finn Hansen about Track & Field Coaches Review featuring the technical aspects of officiating work in each future issue. Our first introductory article will be found on page 21 of this issue. In order to reach other officials, we are asking the thousands of coaches who receive this magazine to share this and future articles with their officials who may not be certified. In addition, we want to publicize to all coaches and officials that they can join and become certified by USA Track & Field.

This issue of Track & Field Coaches Review is reaching more than 8,000 certified officials. We are providing a $10 Special Offer for all officials who would like a subscription and membership in the U.S. Track Coaches Association. This fee will make it possible for us to mail the magazine to each of you quarterly.

It takes both coaches and officials to provide opportunities for our athletes. We are part of a great sport, but it is often neglected in the administrative offices of high schools and universities. This neglect leads to a lack of media coverage.

We are proud of our magazine and hope you will show your support by joining the Coaches Association and receiving future issues. We need a large membership to speak loudly and represent our sport. The USTCA looks forward to working with Chairman Davis and his officials in the promotion of our sport.

See the subscription for the $10 Special Offer which provides USTCA membership and a Coaches Review subscription.

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From the Publisher
Twenty-six people became charter members of the Metro Area Athletic Directors Hall of Fame July 21 at the Holiday Inn Downtown

Voice-Tribune staff photos by JOHN H. HARRALSON JR.

Dot Charmoli, widow of inductee Butch Charmoli, was with two of their children, David and Jane.

Inductees, from left, Forest Able, Stan Hardin and Jim Watkins.

Master of ceremonies Gary Montgomery, left, posed with inductee Jerome Henderson, center, and svelte U of L assistant coach Scott Davenport.

George Sauer, left, Bob White, center, and Leonard Bloss.

Artie and Dean Young, who represented their late father Paul Young, posed with Sue Fetter and Bill Mulkins.

Bill Brown, left, and Voice-Tribune sports columnist Earl Cox.

Jim Reuther, left, Charles Ruter, center, and state police commissioner Ishmon Burks were inducted.
Ruter suffers that run-down feeling

Longtime track official was hurt at C-USA meet

By BRIAN BENNETT
bbennett@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

As Charlie Ruter lay in bed recuperating at Jewish Hospital yesterday, he had but one complaint.

"Gosh," he moaned. "I'm going to be missing so many big tournaments."

The legendary track and field official suffered a broken hip in an accident during Saturday's Conference USA Outdoor Championship at Cardinal Park. The 81-year-old Ruter, who was inducted to the National High School and Kentucky Athletic halls of fame last year, underwent surgery Monday and will begin about two weeks of rehabilitation today.

The Fern Creek resident has traversed the globe while officiating track meets for the past 55 years. He's a veteran of two Olympics, 25 national championships and countless college and high school meets.

Ruter, who played basketball at Western Kentucky University, also has been the official scorer for the boys' state basketball tournament for the past 39 years and for the girls' tournament the past 11 years.

But never in his career had he experienced anything like what happened Saturday.

Finalists in the women's 100-meter dash were practicing their starts when Ruter walked onto the track to check on the other referees. He had performed the same routine thousands of times without incident.

Chaunte Baldwin of Texas Christian accelerated out of her starting block with her head down, as most runners do, and collided with Ruter.

"It knocked me out," he said.

"I felt bad for that poor girl. She was crying and saying, 'I think I killed that man.'"

Ruter has witnessed colleagues being fatally struck by an errant discus or javelin, and in a recent meet two referees were injured by the shot put.

"People don't realize how dangerous this can be," he said.

Hundreds of people from all over the country have called or sent get-well wishes to Ruter and his wife, Ruth. Track officials and coaches throughout Kentucky have called to say how much they'll miss him at the State high school meet in two weeks. The injury also will keep him out of the NCAA's Division I and II championships.

But Ruter doesn't plan to slow down once he gets healthy. His target return date is the U.S. Track and Field Masters event Aug. 8 in Maine, and from there he hopes to resume his normal schedule.

"Oh, yeah," he said, "I'll be back."
Ruter is named to high school Hall of Fame

By JODY DEMLING
The Courier-Journal

Charlie Ruter, a longtime contributor to high school sports, will become the fifth Kentuckian to be inducted into the National Federation of High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Ruter, 79, a former Western Kentucky University basketball player, has been involved with high school athletics for 54 years and has been the official scorer for the boys' Sweet 16 for the past 38 years.

"I didn't know about this," said Ruter, who was informed of the honor Wednesday in front of 11,000 fans at the Sweet 16 in Lexington's Rupp Arena. "I was very surprised, but when I was out there (at center court) I started thinking, 'Fifty-four years is a long time.'"

Ruter, who will attend the July 1 ceremonies in Maui, Hawaii, will join Kentuckians Paul Hornung, S.T. Roach, Geri Griswold and Cliff Hagan in the Hall of Fame.

Ruter, who is already a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, is also well-known for his contributions to track and field.

He has served as an official for two Olympics and every major competition in the United States at one time or another. Ruter also was vice-president for the U.S. Track and Field Association and from 1976 to '86 was the administrator of certifications for track officials in the U.S.

Ruter - who also was the Kentucky Colonels' official scorer and was the scorer for every NCAA Tournament game held in Freedom Hall - played basketball, track and baseball at New Albany (Ind.) High School. He played for Western from 1939 to '43.

Ballard soccer star signs with Alabama

Ballard soccer standout Taylor Rich has signed a letter-of-intent to play for Alabama.

Rich, a three-year first-team All-State selection, set Ballard's career scoring record with 102 goals. The Bruins lost to South Oldham in the sectional final last fall.

Rich picked Alabama over Tulane and Iowa State.

Job openings

Greenwood has filled a job opening, while Owensboro Catholic is looking for a girls' basketball coach after Bruce Embry stepped down. The school is accepting applications.

Lincoln County gets first trip

Behind stellar play from senior Cassandra Peek, Lincoln County won its first 12th Region girls' title earlier this week.

The Lady Patriots (27-5) had won three 13th District titles under coach John Kolsa but had never made it to the 12th Region final in his 13 years at the school. The school's only other trip to the final was in 1979 — before any of the current players were born.

"From the beginning, they really thought they could (win the title)," Kolasa told the Advocate Messenger. "They didn't wish they could and hope they could; they really believed it could happen."

The Patriots (27-5), who won their three regional games by an average of 14 points, will face Henderson County in the first round of the Sweet 16 on Thursday in Bowling Green's E.A. Diddle Arena.

Victory Christian victorious in KCAA

Victory Christian Academy won the Kentucky Christian Athletic Association basketball title last weekend at Valley High School with a 51-49 victory over the Academy for Individual Excellence. VCA senior Tanner Capps of Shepherdsville was named MVP. He scored 59 points and had 34 rebounds in three games.

Named to the all-tournament team from Christian schools throughout the state were Timmy Merril, Albert Kiteck, Brandon Monroe, K.C. Caufield, Josh Cox and J.P. Bonds.

Ruter suffers that run-down feeling

By BRIAN BENTZ

As Charlie Ruter lays in bed recovering from a car accident that sent him to the hospital, he weds his hands to his head and wonders how on earth he could've been careless enough to cause an accident during Saturday's Western Kentucky University Football Championship at Cardinal Field.

"I was crying and saying, 'I told people not to drug me, and people didn't realize how serious I was. People don't realize how serious I was," said Ruter, who was knocked out on the first play of the game when a hard hit knocked him out of the game.

We just want to keep him out of the NCAAs. We don't need them.

Slow down once he gets healthy, I think Ruter, a former Kentucky basketball player, whose father, Charlie Sr., died in a car crash last year, underestimates his own health.

The 81-year-old Ruter, who was in high school at Ballard High School when he played basketball, track and baseball, has been recovering for two weeks after his accident, which happened Saturday. Trains in the Western Kentucky University Football Championship, Ruter played basketball, track and baseball at Ballard High School and won a state basketball title in 1938.

He has been recovering for two weeks and is expected to be released from the hospital soon.

"Oh, yeah," he said, "I'll be back."
Just another shrining year in the life of Charlie Ruter

By JODY DEMLING
The Courier-Journal

Charlie Ruter will turn 81 on Tuesday, but the longtime contributor to high school athletics and glorifying track and field hasn’t slowing down.

The Fern Creek resident has been to all 50 states and several foreign countries. Twice in the past month he went to Eugene, Ore., and this weekend he’s in Hawaii for the fifth time.

“I have to keep going,” Ruter said. “It keeps me young.”

The hundreds of thousands of miles he has logged over the years haven’t gone unnoticed. Ruter already is in three halls of fame and will be inducted into three more this year, starting with tonight’s ceremonies for the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in Maui. Later he will be enshrined in the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame and the Metro Area Athletic Directors Hall of Fame.

“Talk about the jackpot,” Ruter said. “I’ve hit three of them in one year.”

Though all three are special, he said, “the National High School Hall of Fame is very humbling “because there are

Continued

continued from Page CI

only six other Kentuckians and 269 other people in it. He’ll be one of 16 inductees in the hall’s 19th class tonight as the 32nd annual summer meetings of the National Federation of State High School Associations come to an end.

“Just to be considered up there with the people who are in this thing is amazing,” Ruter said. “Everyone who’s been here before is a very athletic hero America has ever known in this one. I’m just really touched by the whole thing.”

He will be the first official from his state inducted. The Kentuckians already enshrined are Gert Grigsby, Cliff Hagan, Paul Hornung, Garvie Martin, S. F. Roach and William Koon.

“Charlie is sort of an icon,” KHSAA commissioner Louis Stout said. “He’s so well-known and so well-respected. He’s just a very big part of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association family.”

Assistant KHSAA commissioners Bridg DeVries and Julian Tackett and several members of the board of control are among those in Hawaii for the ceremonies. Ruter is being accompanied by his wife of 57 years, Ruth, who said: “Over the years he’s done his thing and I do mine. But he’s been a lot of places, and this is a great honor for him.”

Ruter credits much of his success to his wife, who is involved in local charity work.

“She’s says she’s the reason I’ve lived so long,” he said. “People ask how long I’ve been married, and I say 57 years, but we haven’t been together near that long. I’ve traveled all over the world.”

Ruter, a New Albany High School graduate, played basketball for Ed Diddle at Western Kentucky University. He started his career as a teacher at Okolona High School before going to Fern Creek in 1948. He spent six years as the boys’ basketball coach there before becoming athletic director at Eastern High.

He eventually became assistant principal at Eastern and spent some time on the central staff of the Jefferson County Public Schools before retiring in 1979.

“I’ve been around,” he said.

Ruter has been the official scorer for the boys’ State Basketball Tournament for the past 38 years and for the girls’ tournament since 1992. He was the public-address announcer, referee and field judge for the State Track and Field meet for 45 years. He also was official scorer for the Kentucky-Indiana All-Star basketball games from 1958-75, for the Kentucky Colonels of the old American Basketball Association and for every NCAA Tournament game played in Freedom Hall.

And he has worked every game in the 54-year history of the boys’ Louisville Invitational Tournament.

“That’s a lot of games,” he said. “I think that’s one of my proudest facts, the longevity of some of the things.”

But his high school and college contributions pale compared with his accomplishments in track and field, where he is one of the best-known and most-respected officials in the world.

“He’s the quintessential volunteer for USA Track and Field,” chief executive officer Craig Masback said. “He’s always there for us in his capacity as an official and team leader for international trips.”

“We love and respect Charlie a lot,” he’s great ambassador for the United States and a great asset for USA Track and Field to have on our side.”

Ruter has served as an official for two Olympics and every major competition in the United States at one time or another. He also was vice president of the U.S. Track and Field Association from 1976-86 and was administrator of certifications for track officials throughout the country.

“We had 67 officials,” Ruter recalled. “When we finished we had 8,200. We educated people, and we tried to get them excited.

“It’s all worked out really well for me. I’ve been to every state and taken teams to Russia, Germany, Jamaica, Caracas, a month to China and other places.”

Among his fondest memories are a trip to China in 1973, when he met future President George Bush, and a two-week journey to the Far East in 1980 as manager of the U.S. team. One meet in Peking was the first matchup between the United States and the Soviet Union since the U.S. team boycotted the 1980 Olympics.

“I had to decide who carried the American flag in the opening ceremonies,” Ruter recalled. “This young athlete came up to me and made a request. It was Edwin Moses. I immediately said, ‘No problem, Tiger.’”

Looking back on his career, Ruter said: “I want to be remembered as a very professional official. I just want to do a very professional job at whatever it is I’m doing.”

Another shrining year in Charlie Ruter’s life

By Mary Lyons, The Courier-Journal

Longtime official Charlie Ruter soon will be in six halls of fame.

Charles Ruter

Born: July 3, 1920

High school: New Albany, Ind. (participated in basketball, baseball, track)

College: Western Kentucky University

Major accomplishments: Track and field official for two Olympic Games; vice president of U.S. Track and Field Association; official for every major U.S. competition at one time or another; official scorer for boys’ Sweet 16 since 1965; official scorer for girls’ Sweet 16 since 1962; Kentucky Colonels’ official scorer; scorer for every NCAA Tournament game ever played in Freedom Hall.

Other honors: Inducted into the Dowshares/KHSAA Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the NAIA Hall of Fame. This year he will be inducted into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame and the Metro Area Athletic Directors Hall of Fame.
It was a proud moment in Charlie Ruter's life when he and flag-bearer Edwin Moses led the American team into Tokyo's Olympic stadium for an eight-nation track and field meet in 1980. Ruter was in charge of the American team.
Ruter is named to high school Hall of Fame

By JODY DEMLING
The Courier-Journal

Charlie Ruter, a longtime contributor to high school sports, will become the fifth Kentuckian to be inducted into the National Federation of High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Ruter, 79, a former Western Kentucky University basketball player, has been involved with high school athletics for 54 years and has been the official scorer for the boys' Sweet 16 for the past 38 years.

"I didn't know about this," said Ruter, who was informed of the honor Wednesday in front of 14,000 fans at the Sweet 16 in Lexington's Rupp Arena. "I was very surprised, but when I was out there (at center court) I started thinking, 'Fifty-four years in a long time.'"

Ruter, who will attend the July 1 ceremonies in Maui, Hawaii, will join Kentuckians Paul Hornung, S.T. Roach, Geri Grishby and Cliff Hagan in the Hall of Fame.

Ruter, who is already a member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, is also well-known for his contributions to track and field.

He has served as an official for two Olympics and every major competition in the United States at one time or another. Ruter also was vice-president for the U.S. Track and Field Association and from 1976 to '96 was the administrator of certifications for track officials in the U.S.

Ruter — who also was the Kentucky Colonels' official scorer and was the scorer for every NCAA Tournament game held in Freedom Hall — played basketball, track and baseball at New Albany (Ind.) High School. He played for Western from 1939 to '43.

Ballard soccer star signs with Alabama
- Ballard soccer standout Taylor Rich has signed a letter-of-intent to play for Alabama.
- Rich, a three-year first-team All-State selection, set Ballard's career scoring record with 102 goals. The Bruins lost to South Oldham in the sectional final last fall.
- Rich picked Alabama over Tulane and Iowa State.

Job openings
Greenwood has filled a job opening, while Owensboro Catholic is looking.

Mark Nelson has been named football coach at Greenwood, replacing Greg Ulasiewicz.

Nelson is a 1982 Western Kentucky graduate who played football for the Hilltoppers. He spent four years as an assistant coach at Portland, Tenn., and for the past 11 years has been an assistant and associate head coach at Westmoreland, Tenn.

Owensboro Catholic is looking for a girls' basketball coach after Bruce Embry stepped down. The school is accepting applications.

Lincoln County gets first trip
Behind stellar play from senior Cassandra Peck, Lincoln County won its first 12th Region girls' title earlier this week.

The Lady Patriots (27-5) had won three 45th District titles under coach John Kolsa but had never made it to the 12th Region final in his 13 years at the school. The school's only other trip to the final was in 1979 — before any of the current players were born.

"From the beginning, they really thought they could (win the title)," Kolsa told the Advocate Messenger.

"They didn't wish they could and hope they could; they really believed it could happen."

The Patriots (27-5), who won their three regional games by an average of 14 points, will face Henderson County in the first round of the Sweet 16 on Thursday in Bowling Green's E.A. Diddle Arena.

Victory Christian victorious in KCAA
Victory Christian Academy won the Kentucky Christian Athletic Association basketball title last weekend at Valley High School with a 51-49 victory over the Academy for Individual Excellence.

VCA senior Tanner Capps of Shepherdsville was named MVP. He scored 19 points and had 14 rebounds in three games.

Named to the all-tournament team from Christian schools throughout the state were Timmy Merrill, Albert Kiteck, Brandon Monroe, K.C. Caulfield, Josh Cox and J.F. Bonds.
Tracking the Games

Charlie Ruter's years as Olympic official make Sydney events special as he recalls great moments

By SUSAN MCDONALD Staff Correspondent

Ruter Bio

Name: Charles M. Ruter
Position: Retired educator; official for track and field and other sporting events
Age: 80
Education: New Albany High School; Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Western Kentucky University
Family: Wife Ruth Wise Ruter
Hometown: New Albany

CHARLIE RUTER

Voice-Tribune staff photo by SUSAN MCDONALD

Ruter has visited China three times, but the most memorable was a 1975 trip when he led the U.S. track and field team on its first visit to that country. The group spent a month there, traveling to competitions in Shanghai, Canton and Beijing.

“I didn’t see how we’d ever get back into the United States with all the souvenirs we got,” Ruter said.

One of his best memories involves a visit to the Great Wall of China, where someone challenged one of the team’s pole vaulters to jump the wall. The NBC news crew traveling with the group had their cameras rolling as the athlete vaulted about 15 feet into the air, landing squarely on top of the Great Wall.

“We had about 45,000 people there when a streaker came right down through the middle of the field with nothing on but a smile,” said Ruter.

The crowd uttered a collective gasp as the naked man hurled a small fence to disappear into the nearby woods, then waited for a comment from the announcer.

“I came on and said, ‘I’m sorry, ladies and gentlemen, but I don’t have the time on that last event,’” Ruter said. A couple of guys said, ‘Charlie, that was your finest hour.’”

L.A. stories

Some of Ruter’s best memories are from his work at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. On the competition’s first night, a fire alarm went off in the Olympic Village where the athletes were staying, he said. Firefighters arrived, but the music coming from the room was so deafening that its occupants couldn’t hear them knocking.

“They broke the door down and there were a bunch of South Koreans cooking a snake on a Hibachi,” said Ruter.

A few days later, Ruter arrived early in the morning to find police and FBI officials swarming around the dressing room of the then-Los Angeles Raiders, where the track and field officials were headquartered. President Ronald Reagan was scheduled to visit the Olympics that day and on a routine check of the premises, bomb-sniffing dogs had zeroed in on a suspicious-looking black box in the dressing room.

Moments later, the box’s owner, who was one of the officials Ruter was supervising, arrived and identified its contents as his rather innocuous lunch.

“They opened it up and sure enough, it was a bologna sandwich, an apple and potato chips,” said Ruter. “That dog was just hungry.”

Expert eyes

Ruter also worked the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and has taken teams to track and field competitions in Japan, South America, Russia, Jamaica and many other locations. This year, he’s watching the track and field competitions from Sydney, but with a more practiced eye than the rest of us have. Ruter enjoys watching the athletes, but most of his attention goes to the officials.

From in front of his TV, Ruter probably wonders what kind of stories this year’s officials will take home, like the time two French pole vault coaches got seats on the front row and were shouting what seemed to be instructions to their athletes during the competition.

Ruter called one of his stand-by officials, walked him over to the coaches, introduced him as a college French professor and said he’d be sitting with them to ensure that they didn’t give any technical advice to their athletes.

In truth, the official “was doing good to speak English, let alone being fluent in any other language, but he sat there through the whole event and they never opened their mouths again,” said Ruter.
REMEMBER WHEN

1st woman pro basketballer

By EARL COX, Sports Columnist

In the early days of the Kentucky Colonels of the American Basketball Association, they played at the Jefferson County Armory (now The Gardens). Charlie Mavin, who had been a sportscaster for WHAS radio and TV, was the Colonels' general manager when he got the bright idea of having the first women pro basketball player.

So he signed jockey Penny Ann Early to an official ABA contract. In the photo above, she reported to official scorer Charlie Ruter. Other members of the legendary press table crew were, from left, Donnie Beckhart, John Tong and Richard "Rosie" Rozel.

After reporting, Penny Early turned around and in-bounded the ball to a Colonels' teammate, who called time out. That was the end of Penny Ann's basketball career!
WKU track
to be named
in honor of
NA native
Charlie Ruter

By FRED GESWEIN
Tribune Running Columnist

Charlie Ruter, a New Albany native, and a sports figure known internationally in track and field, will reach another milestone on April 3 when the renovated track at his alma mater, Western Kentucky University, will be officially named in his honor. The track teams from other Kentucky colleges will compete on that track for the first time in twenty years.

Ruter is a 1939 graduate of NAHS. While at New Albany he excelled in basketball and track, the latter under the guidance of Alex Thom. As a Bulldog Ruter ran the 120 Yard High Hurdles, the 440, and anchored the mile relay.

Ruter graduated from Western in 1946 and picked up his Masters certificate in 1947. At WKU he played basketball under the legendary Ed Diddle. WKU offered no track program during the war years when Ruter was a young Hilltopper, so he played baseball instead.

Interpersed with his campus days was a stint in the Navy where he saw action in the Pacific Theatre. Ruter later learned that his family was living in a concentration camp that their family had been forced to invade Japan was in vain. Charlie finished his naval career as a Commander. A teacher and administrator for many years in the Jefferson County School system, he continues to volunteer his services at basketball games locally and throughout the state. For his contribution to high school athletics he was named to the Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.

He was a founder of the Mason-Dixon Athletic Club, which was a world-class indoor track meet for many years and still exists as the equivalent of the KHSAA indoor state championships. A 50-year veteran at the national and international level, Ruter climbed the ladder in track politics to arrive at the vice-presidency of the The Athletics Congress (now USA Track & Field). He has been team manager on numerous USA-team junkets overseas. He has officiated at every level from middle school to the Olympics! At 84 years old he was recently named as the Honorary Head Umpire for the 2004 Olympic Trials to be held in Sacramento in June.

Ruter
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Ruter tagged "Fern Creek's Ambassador of Good Will" in a book written by Donald Aspy in 1998, and his Evie will celebrate their 60th anniversary April 15.

Charlie is still active in NAHS affairs as a member of the Alumni Memorial Committee, a group that awards grants to NAHS students.

Not far from Ruter in Sacramento will be another NAHS grad, Gordon Bocock.

Having run cross country and track at NAHS under the likes of Damon Sims, Don Loughmiller, and Nevil Garrett, the 1964 grad ran and coached at Cumberland College.

Bocock then moved on to Pulaski County High School where for seventeen years he ran one of the most successful high school track/cross country programs in the state. Bo's accomplishments at the Somerset high school include four boys' state cross country titles and one girls' state track and field championship.

Bocock has been President of the Kentucky Track and Cross Country Coaches Association, the KHSAA Director for Track and Field, and a Track and Field Rules Interpreter. He was named to the Kentucky Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989, his last year of coaching.

He has also officiated at numerous college conference- and national championship level meets throughout the nation. His most recent role at that level was as a Starter at the Southeastern Conference Championships at Lexington, in February.

As "Assistant Chief Umpire" at the Trails Bocock will assign umpires to various positions around the track and then follow up on violations recorded, should there be any.

"Track and field has been very good to me," said Gordon, "and I'm at a point where I can give back."
Charlie Ruter

Charlie has had a full life of athletics that span over 50 years. An active track and field enthusiast, his career has covered high school, college, and the Olympics. His high school involvement and accomplishments include a variety of outstanding efforts. He served 45 years as P.A. announcer for the KHSAA State Track Meet, 38 years as Official Scorer for the KHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament and 10 years for the Girls KHSAA State Basketball Tournament. From 1958-1976 he was the Official Scorer for the Annual Kentucky-Indiana H.S. All-Star games and from 1956-1972 George considered it an honor being able to assist in opening up a new school and being instrumental in developing the Athletic Programs at Pleasure Ridge Park High School, especially the building of the football stadium. Helping to organize the first Kentucky High School Athletic Director's Convention and being selected the first AD of the year were major accomplishments in George's career, along with serving on many football and LIT committees. He served as Tournament manager for the 6th and 7th Region Basketball Tournament. He has served as the Official Scorer for every L.I.T. High School Basketball Tournament, and since 1988 he has been on the KHSAA Track Committee. He has been involved in High School athletics for 54 years and on September 10, 2001 he will be inducted in the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame.
Ruter volunteers 50 years service to track/field worldwide

by Kathy Vogt

Charlie Ruter is not only a renowned track and field official, but he is also a golden guesser when it comes to Olympic athletes setting new world records. "I stuck my neck out," he laughed, referring to the betting pool that officials had on how far Carl Lewis would jump. Ruter's estimate was the closest without going over, so "I won the money."

The twinkle never left Ruter's eyes as he spoke casually of his conversation with U.S. Olympic track star, Michael Johnson. "Johnson thought it would be a good idea to run him (Lewis) in the relay..."

Fern Creek resident Charlie Ruter has first hand Olympic information because he was there as a certified track and field official, both at the 84 Los Angeles games and the 96 Atlanta games. The host country is responsible for providing all track and field officials, so these games provided Ruter with a chance to participate in the Olympic experience.

Ruter becomes friends with many of these athletes as a result of his work. In defense of the USA mens team's silver medal in the relay, he said, "They (the press) pick on people." Ruter continued, "Tim Hardin had a good exchange and a good hand off, he just got beat!"

Ruter leaned back in his chair and with great pride and pointed to his Olympic belt buckle, his Olympic rain hat, one of his Olympic shirts, his Olympic ring from the 1984 games in Los Angeles, and his Olympic watch from the 1996 games, displaying the first three initials of every participating country. These are some of the gifts he has received for the countless hours he donates officiating the track and field events of the Olympic games.

"We got to see several baseball games; they let us in on our credentials," Ruter said, "I saw America play two games." But that's about all Ruter had time to see. He was up every morning at 5:00 a.m. to have breakfast at the university where he stayed, then it was off to the games by 7:00 a.m. where he worked until 11:00 p.m.

"By the time I got back to the university, it was midnight," he said.

Ruter was not at Centennial Park at the time of the explosion because of his tight schedule, "I had been there earlier that day," he remembered.

Ruter ran track in Indiana when he was in high school. He went from there to Western Kentucky University where he played basketball. Then World War II started and he volunteered for the Naval Reserve Officers program. From there he received a commission to Northwestern and went to the South Pacific to serve on board an attack personnel airplane that carried marines onto the beach.

Ruter left the service on March 3, 1946. "The Amateur Athletic Union was prevalent in Louisville in the summer of '46," Ruter said. So Ruter signed up and is now in his 50th year of officiating. He is the President of the Kentucky Association of the AAI.

"Now USA Track & Field is the governing body for track and field in this country," Ruter explained.

Ruter is administrator of the officials for certification of the officials in the USA. He has officiated most of the track and field competitions conducted in this country over the past 50 years. His credentials include but are not limited to:

1) Field referee - 1984 Olympic games
2) Chief Umpire - 1987 Pan American games
3) Chief Umpire - 1987 World Indoor games (conducted in the RCA dome in Indianapolis)

Ruter stressed that although his expenses are now paid, all his officiating has been strictly on a volunteer basis. When asked if he would like to be paid he responded, "Heck yes!"

When he wasn't "officiating", Ruter worked as a teacher for the Jefferson County Public School System from 1947 to 1976, ending his career as Assistant Superintendent of Kentuckiana Public Schools. His wife of 52 years, the former Ruth Wise, is also a retired teacher and principal. Mrs. Ruter was the first principal of Wheeler Elementary School in Fern Creek. As head manager for the U.S. Teams and Overseas International Competition, Ruter took U.S. teams to France and Germany in 1969 and 1975.

"I spent one month traveling through China in 1975," Ruter remembered. "That's the year I met George Bush." Ruter has pictures from this trip taken of himself with the future president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, Dr. Leroy Walker.

Ruter returned to Asia for the competitions in Tokyo, Japan and Beijing, China in 1980. While there he took a two hour bus ride to the Great Wall of China.

In 1983 he took the American Team to the Pan Am Games in Caracas, Venezuela and in 1991 took the Pan Am Team to Kingston, Jamaica.

There were 178 officials at the 1996 games. These were broken up into crews of 8 to 10 people per event. Ruter acted as the assistant coordinator of officials responsible for records. There were 162 records established during the '96 games in track and field including World Olympic and National records.

Throughout his career, Ruter has been awarded a gold watch from Coretta King for Outstanding Official in 1983, the President's Award in 1983, and several hall of fame awards for track and field. He has been the Meet Manager and Public Address announcer for the Mason Dixon games since its inception in 1961.

The gold medals awarded in track and field at the 1996 games went to Michael Johnson for the 200 and 400 meter, Carl Lewis for the long jump, and Charles Austin for the high jump for men.

"The official is the first word in measuring," Ruter explained, "we used laser beams on the throwing events and the "Cyclones" or one eyed camera for the runner. The "Cyclones" could usually monitor the top four," Ruter said.

Any disputes are then taken to the referee and any further disputes must go to a jury of appeals where $100 in U.S. currency must be deposited and is refunded if the case is won.

For our information, Ruter reeled off the following statistics:

Eating in Atlanta was pricey. A hamburger at the stadium cost $4.25, so did a hot dog. A beer was $6.00 and an ice cream $3.25. It cost in excess of $600 to attend the opening and closing ceremonies. The Atlanta Olympics was operated on a 1.7 billion dollar budget of which sponsors paid $40 million apiece. T-shirts were $16 and $22 and an Olympic jacket was $75 to $80. The athletes were driven to the events in buses and their village was guarded by the U.S. Army. Security was tight as it had to be, Ruter said. During the games the officials were required to drink 16 ounces of water per hour. The water was furnished by Crystal Spring Water and the soft drinks by Coke.

Ruter's personal all time favorite athletes are Willy Davenport, Gold Medalist, 1968, 1972, and 1976; Willie White who made the Olympic Track Team 5 times, and Wilma Rudolph.

Track and field is only called

"You're my press agent. You tell me why Mr. Charles Ruter is in PEOPLE and I'm not!"
Boys State Basketball Tournament...2004
Rupp Arena, Lexington, Kentucky
"Official Scorers"..Charlie Ruter (left),
Ken Boeland (center), and Tom Curley (right)
Ruter's final year after 41 years scoring.
if you have ideas on the type of clinics you would like to attend during the Olympic Trials next summer, pass them along to either of us. We will have two days of clinics, one on the Tuesday during downtime at the trials and one on an open morning.

The annual Training Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, December 3. The discussion was mostly about clinics. A few new ideas did come up.

Rules and Tests
I have made available to each Certification Chair and on the Officials website a summary of the rule changes in all 4 rulebooks that affect competition officials for 2004. It is our intent to have at least the Track and Field Test for the new Olympiad available once the 2004 Rulebook is available in January. Note there will be separate certification tests required for Track & Field, LDR/XC, and Race Walking for the new Olympiad. There will be separate exams at each level. There will be a separate W&M exam. Likewise there will be a separate Master Referee exam and sub parts for each of the major disciplines. The Master Referee exam will be given out to those that qualify by the Association Certification Chairs, but the completed test will be returned to a National certification board for correction and certification.

Equipment & Facilities Specifications:
We held our annual meeting at the convention with about 25 attendees.
George Kleeman, Vice Chair Rules, Retired Vice Chair Training & Chair Equipment & Facilities Specifications Sub-Committee of the National Officials’ Committee

THE DEEP AND DARK SECRETS OF BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE UMPIRE

When I first started officiating as an umpire, there was a common saying that anyone can umpire – just grab some flags and station yourself on the track. This feeling continues to exist as officials are often placed in those positions regardless of training and/or experience. They are most often placed as warm bodies to fulfill the needs for officials for the 400 m hurdles. The problem is that it is only through experience as an umpire one can build the necessary confidence to make the calls in the “big meets.” Continuing and specializing as an umpire, I quickly found out that there are rules to be applied and certain skills needed unlike those for field events. Having been involved in numerous National Championships at all levels and often as Chief Umpire, I find it easy to differentiate between excellence in performance and a lack of necessary skills. In fact, compared to other events, it is probably the most difficult assignment. No other officiating job requires as much concentration, stamina, and knowledge of track events as that of umpiring. From the beginning of the race until the end, the umpires become the subjective interpreters of the athlete’s actions. Ever alert, the umpire must know the intent of the rules of competition and their appropriate applications to the situations.

It is the duty of the umpire to observe the competition closely. The umpire is not there to find fault or to call fouls, but rather to insure a fair competition. In the case of a possible foul or rule violation by a competitor or other person, the umpire is to indicate this by raising and holding up a yellow flag until the Chief Umpire acknowledges the incident.
A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

Since we live in different parts of the country, my only contacts with Charlie Ruter have been limited to several National Championship Meets and the annual conventions. It occurred to me that I might not have the opportunity to work with him again. If that be the case, I could not let our last meeting pass without some comment. That is, after all, the only thing I can give him. He has received numerous awards and accolades, all richly deserved, in his career as an official. Having a track bearing his name and a track award named after him will help his legacy continue as a potent force in U.S.A. Track and Field history.

This unforgettable character displayed dedication and spirit to his role on the field which has left an indelible imprint on our lives and which rubbed off on many of us. It made us better officials. This perhaps has been his most significant contribution.

I first met Charlie many years ago serving as an Umpire under his leadership at an NCAA Championship Track Meet in Buffalo, New York. In one race, a couple of runners got their feet tangled and went down. Charlie came over to me and asked what happened. I explained that I did not raise a yellow flag as a possible violation since I could not tell if one took place due to some feet merely coming together. I clearly remember Charlie pointing at me and saying “Good Call” which has stuck with me. This incident set the foundation of what I learned from Charlie – being able to communicate orally and in writing what is seen and being able to identify a possible violation. Since then I have worked with Charlie at many meets and consider him a good friend. Most of the officials I have worked with in over sixty National or World meets are the real heroes of this Sport quiet, unassuming, dedicated, competent and normal. Somehow these adjectives are inaccurate in totally describing Charlie. To anyone who knows him and particularly in view of his tall lean frame and bearing, Charlie comes across as a caricature. And what a sense of humor! During the course of a meet his Vesper services, final hugs of women umpires and his methods of giving instructions to his team are lasting images for those myriad officials who have worked with him. The sheer dint of his personality puts him in a class by himself.

Most officials do a fine job in their assignment. Few, however, can also be at the same time a great teacher of the sport. I was fortunate enough to have worked with one. For that, I say thank you, Charlie, for many of us for providing the inspiration to perform to the best of our abilities. It takes a special person to do that.

Dr. Robert Marcus, Southern California Association

1984 OLYMPIC GAMES REFEREE’S
Hugh Norman, Charlie Ruter, Andy Bakjian
Joe Weibum, Phil Hensen, Allan Steinfield and
Elizabeth Phillips
YEAR-BY-YEAR CLASSES

Class of 1988

Class of 1989

Class of 1990

Class of 1991

Class of 1992

Class of 1993

Class of 1994
Fern Creek's Charlie Ruter, left, retired last week after 41 years as scorekeeper for the Boys' State Tournament. His friend Tom Curley will continue to be one of the two scorers.

VOICE-TRIBUNE - MARCH 24, 2004
CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Hello to All:

It was good to see many of you at the USATF Convention in Greensboro. Much was accomplished, thanks to your support.

Please keep in mind when scheduling your time off next year, the National Convention is in Portland, Oregon. This is an election year, and your help is needed again. We would like our National Officials' meetings moved to Friday and Saturday with our clinics on Friday as well. This will be more economical and time feasible for the majority of officials who would like to attend. I've contacted the Portland Convention and Visitors Bureau and will have more information for you in the next newsletter.

It is with great pleasure that the Officials Committee announces the appointment of Mr. Charles Ruter as Honorary Head Umpire at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials. He will be presented with special credentials and seating. He will, of course, hold the helm!

Mr. Ruter (Charlie) was a founding official of AAU Track and Field in 1973. He was certified in 1974, and for the past 57 years, has contributed his knowledge and expertise to the betterment of our sport. Please help us in congratulating Charlie for a job well done!

By now all those that applied to work our National Championships have been notified. 538 officials applied to officiate our National Championships. Thanks to all of you who sent in your application and to Finn Hansen who provided pictures of everyone who worked any meet that was evaluated. The selection committee had to make some very difficult decisions.

We received help from Men and Women’s Track and Field, as well as, from the athletes themselves. If you have questions about your selection/nonselection — I am NOT the person to contact. The contact person is Ray Fitzhugh, Chair — Appeals/Selection Committee. 4991 Yearling Ave. - Irvine, CA 92604. Your inquiry must be in writing. Enclosed in this newsletter are the lists of those who have been selected to officiate our Championships this year; if you have any questions contact Ray Fitzhugh or any member of his committee. (Dick Connors, Win Eggars, Emmett Griggs, Len Kreak, Eugene Stemm).

Jane Warren can be reached at 310 S. W. 19 Ter., Miami, FL 33135-1597
Phone/Fax – 305-261-4868 – Email: cha jwandreas@prodigy.net
www.usatfofficials.com
Members of the NAHS Alumni Memorial Fund reviewed requests for mini-grants from several teachers to supplement available tax monies. These grants fund activities that might not otherwise be possible. The alumni association members listen to a request from assistant principal Janet Page, from left, Ed Rouck, Greg Neely, Bill Ryall, Don Sodrel, Charles Roger and Kay Lutz.
Another shrinking year in Charlie Ruter’s life

Continued from Page CI

only six other Kentuckians and 289 other people in it. He’ll be one of 10 included in the hall’s Class to-night as the 82nd annual summer meetings of the National Federation of Sportswriters & Sportscasters Associations come to an end.

"Just to be considered up there with the people who are in this thing is amazing," Ruter said. "Every athletic hero America has ever known is in this one. I’m just really touched by the whole thing.

He will be the first official from his state inducted. The Kentuckians already enshrined are Geri Grigsby, Cliff Hagen, Paul Hornung, Garnis Martin, S. T. Roach and William Rans.

"Charlie is sort of an icon," KHSAA commissioner Louis Stotz said. "He’s so well-known and so well-respected. He’s just a very big part of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association family.

Assistant KHSAA commissioners Brigid DeVries and Julian Tackett and several members of the board of control are among those in Hawaii for the ceremonies. Ruter is being accompanied by his wife of 57 years, Ruth, who said, "Over the years he’s done his thing and I do mine. But he’s been to so many places, and this is a great honor, and this is for him.

Ruter credits much of his success to his wife, who is involved in local charity work.

"She’s says she’s the reason I’ve lived so long," he said. "People ask how long I’ve been married, and I

say 57 years, but we haven’t been together near that long. I’ve traveled all over the world."

Ruter, a New Albany High School graduate, played basketball for Ed Diddle at Western Kentucky University. He started his career as a teacher at Oolitic High School before going to Fern Creek in 1948. He spent six years as the boys’ basketball coach before taking over as athletic director at Eastern High.

He eventually became assistant principal at Eastern and spent some time on the central staff of the Jefferson County Public Schools before retiring in 1970.

I’ve been around," he said.

Ruter has been the official scorer for the boys’ State Basketball Tournament for the past 38 years and for the girls’ tournament since 1952. He was the public-address announcer, referee and field judge for the State Track and Field meet for 33 years. He also was official scorer for the Kentucky-Indiana All-Star basketball games from 1958-56, for the Kentucky Colonels of the old American Basketball Association and for every NCAA Tournament game played in Freedom Hall.

And he has worked every game in the 54-year history of the boys’ Louisville Invitational Tournament.

"That’s a lot of games," he said. "I think that’s one of my proudest facts, the longevity of some of the things."

But his high school and college contributions pale compared with his accomplishments in track and field, where he is in one of the best-known and most-respected of the international trips.

"We love and respect Charlie a lot. He’s a great ambassador for the United States and a great asset for USA Track and Field to have on our side."

Ruter has served as an official for two Olympics and every major competition in the United States or another. He also was vice president of the U.S. Track and Field Association from 1976-79 and was administra-

tor of certification for track officials throughout the country.

"We had 67 officials," Ruter recalled. "When we finished we had 8,200. We educated people, and tried to get them excited."

"It all worked out really well for me. I’ve been to every state and taken everything through California, Caracas, a month in China and other places."

Among his fondest memories is a trip to China in 1975, when he met future President George Bush, and a two-week journey to the Far East in 1960 as manager of the U.S. team.

One meet in Peking was the first matchup between the United States and the Soviet Union since the U.S. team boycotted the 1980 Olympics.

"I had to decide who carried the American Flag in the opening ceremo-

nies," Ruter recalled. "This young guy came up to me and made a request. It was Edwin Moses. I imme-

diately said, ‘No problem, Tiger.’"

Looking back on his career, Ruter said: "I want to be remembered as a very professional official. I just want to do a very professional job at whatever it is I’m doing."
Another shriving year in Charlie Ruter's life

Continued from Page C1

only six other Kentuckians and 269 other people who are from all the halls in the 19th class to
night as the 82nd Annual National Federation of State High School Associations

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amazing," Ruter said. "Every ath-
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this one, I'm just really touched by
the whole thing."

He will be the first official from his
state's institution, the Kentuckians.
Although Ruter is not accompanied
by Doug Hagan, Paul Homung, Garin Martin,
S. T. Bosh and Callie Bosh, he says
"Charlie is sort of an
icon,"

USA TODAY

Another shriving year in Charlie Ruter's life

CHARLES RUTER

Born: July 3, 1920
High school: New Albany High School, baseball, football, track
College: Western Kentucky University
Major accomplishments: Track and field official for two
Olympic Games, vice president of U.S. Track and Field
Commissioner for every major U.S. com-
petition at one time or another; official scorer for boys' Track
since 1966; official scorer for girls' Track since 1979; official scorer
for all NCAA Tournament games played in Freedom Hall.
Other honors: Inducted into the University of Louisville's Hall
of Fame, the Kentucky Cross County and Track and Field
Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the National High School
Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Ruter was born in New Albany, Ind., a few miles
from its High School, where he started his career as a teach-
er at Oldon High School before go-
ing to Fern Creek in 1945. He spent
six years as the boys basketball
teacher there before becoming athletic
director at Eastern High.

He eventually became assistant
principal at Eastern and spent some
time as the executive officer of
the Jefferson County Public Schools before re-
living in 1979.

"I've been around," he said.

Ruter has been the official scorer
for the boys' state Basketball Tour-
nament for the past 35 years and for
the girls' tournament since 1992.

He was the assistant commissioner
to the state House and Field judge for the State
Track and Field meet for 45 years.

"And he has worked every game in
the 54-year history of the boys' Loud-
mouths." Ruter added.

"That's a lot of games," he said.

"But his high school and college
contribution pale compared with his
accomplishments in track and field,
where he is one of the best-knun
and most-respected officials in the
world," Ruter said.

"He's the quintessential volunteer
for USA Track and Field," added
Coach Mark Beanback.

"He's always there for us in his
capacity as an official and team leader
for international trips.

"In the beginning, they really
thought they could do it. T.. ..

"From the beginning, they really
thought they could do it. They could
and they believed... ."

"The Patriots (27-5), who won
their third regional games by an average
of 14.7 points a game in the Tornadoes
County in the first round of the
Tournament,uffed Greensboro's
Green's Dade Arena.

Victory Christian Academy won the
Kentucky Christian Association
State basketball title last weekend
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of Shepherdsville was named Mv-
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Are Our Race Officials Professional?

The American System of Officiating Races Usually Works, But It Has Shortcomings

by Ron Martz

If the world's athletes ever make it to Moscow for the Olympic Games later this summer, most will find their events governed by an international assembly of officials. Specialists in such diverse events as team handball, soccer, swimming and diving will gather in Moscow to time, judge and referee the world's best competitors.

But when track-and-field athletes begin competition in their specialties, they will find that almost all the officials doing timing and measuring will be from the Soviet Union. Only in a few events, such as racewalking, will there be officials from other countries. The reason the Soviets will hold sway over track and field is neither political nor profound.

"It's just one of the peculiarities of the International Amateur Athletic Federation," explained Charlie Ruter of Louisville, Ky., administrator for the Officials Committee of the Athletics Congress, the newly formed governing body for track and field in this country. "It will be the same thing in 1984 in Los Angeles," Ruter said. "All the events except track and field will have an assortment of experts from around the world. But this country will be responsible for supplying most of the track-and-field officials."

Ruter already has begun the process of reviewing the performances of the 1155 track-and-field officials registered with Athletics Congress to determine just who will be qualified to work the 1984 Olympics. "For the next four years I'm going to be looking at officials all over the US because I know that one day in 1983 I'm going to get a letter from the IAAF asking, 'Who are your qualified officials?' And I want to be ready when that letter comes," Ruter, who has been meet director for the Mason-Dixon Games since 1961, said.

But will the officials be ready? There are no training courses for judges, timers and starters in this country.
Volunteers help events run smoothly

BY ALCIA SPITES

Decatur — Volunteers continue to do a great job at the USA Masters Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

"We need to do some work to improve the organization of our events, but overall the athletes are really happy with what we offer," said Charlie Ruter, an announcer at the event from Penn Creek, Ky. "This is a way the volunteers can give back to the sport."

Ruter, 24, recalls his days of running track at his high school in New Albany, Ind. He ran the 400 meters on cinder tracks, including hurdles.

Ruter said he has been officiating track since 1987 and has recently officiated at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Track & Field Team Trials in Sacramento, Calif.

"All officials working the meet are certified by the national governing body," Ruter said.

Because of Ruter’s love for track, an award has been named in honor of the 20th annual U.S. Track & Field Officials’ Awards. The award is presented to the Outstanding Track Official of the Year. A track and field official from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has been named in honor of the award.

"These are all former athletes who love the sport and want to maintain good physical condition," Ruter said. "The meet improves their health, and biggest thing about the event is camaraderie among national meet organizers who know how to maintain their friendships."

Gilbert Holmes, a volunteer track official and long-term track and field enthusiast, said the event is a good opportunity to be involved.

"I am a coach who keeps people off the track," said Gilbert.

Miklavjevic also participated in track in his high school days. He did pentathlon for two years at Saint Joseph High School in Cleveland, Ohio. He has been an off-tech for 25 years.

Miklavjevic described the event as a positive light.

"It’s a nice-type event to see athletes of all kinds of ages. It’s nice to see people competing at this level of the national championship."

Two brothers, long-term track officials, at the event for the meet.

Gilbert and Mack Holmes of St. Louis both wanted to give back to the sport that they have-man from their high school years.

"I think the event is a good thing and that they should have more like it. It’s good to get the older generation active and involved," said Mack, a coach who keeps people off the track.

Gilbert is an official that monitors the long and long jump, pole vault, and javelin, as well as several other events.

"I love track. It gets a little hot sometimes, but this is a good event to be involved with," Gilbert said.

Ruter added.

Alcina Spites can be reached at awesports@herald-review.com or 421-6915.

Decatur — Volunteers continue to do a great job at the USA Masters Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

On-the-job training is the only method officials have of learning how to do what they do. "We’re definitely not keeping up with training officials in this country," Jimmy Barnes, president of the American Coaching Association, said.

"There isn’t a national governing body for coaching, and so many officials who coach are those who have not been certified. They’re the ones who are working in the system."

Barnes added.

"Most of the people here are dedicated to the sport," said Charlie Ruter, an announcer at the event from Penn Creek, Ky. "This is a way the volunteers can give back to the sport.

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On-the-job training is the only method officials have of learning how to do what they do. "We’re definitely not keeping up with training officials in this country," Jimmy Barnes, president of the American Coaching Association, said. "We don’t have the problems in track and field as you have in other sports that are more subject to injury, and problems and mistakes in the officiating process that are frustrating for the athletes and embarrassing for the officials. At three major international meets there are still mistakes, one of them a world record.

Pole-vaulter Earl Bell twice was victimized by mis-measurement in a span of eight days. At a meet in San Francisco’s Cow Palace, Bell thought he had become the first man to clear 18 feet in that building. But when the bar was re-measured, it came out to only 17 10/6 inches. The next weekend in Melbourne, Bell thought he had cleared 18’11” until a re-measurement showed the bar positioned at 18’ 2 1/4”.

At the Runner’s World Indoor Classic, Norway’s Grete Waitz won the 10,000-meter race in 30:36 because of an official’s error which forced her to run an extra lap too many. The official apparently became confused by Waitz lapping the slower competitors and failed to turn the lap card ahead for her after turning it in for the running time. After the race, a disconsolate Waitz said she probably could have run at least two seconds faster, had she been given the opportunity to sprint the last lap.

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1969 WINTER NOON 4-MAN BASKETBALL LEAGUE

LEAGUE RESULTS

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as track/field official at Atlanta Olympics

Charlie Ruter poses in front of the Olympic flag, all decked out in his official Atlanta Olympics attire. Ruter has been a volunteer track and field official at both the games in Los Angeles in 84, and this year in Atlanta. Be sure to read all about his unique experiences in the story on page 5.