

Powell Picked Right Time To Make Leap Into History

By John Jeansonne

STAFF WRITER

Here's the way you do it: Break a hallowed track and field record the year *before* the Olympics, when all the money guys are looking for a hook, and when even such grand old institutions as the Millrose Games want you in the worst way.

At the World Championships in Tokyo in August, Mike Powell long jumped a futuristic 29-foot, 4½ inches, breaking Bob Beamon's 23-year-old record, the longest-standing mark in the sport. As a result, Powell spent the past weekend in Europe, being proclaimed the athlete of the year in both Britain and Italy, then caught the Concorde back to New York yesterday so he could help plug the Feb. 7 Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden. The meet, director Howard Schmertz noted, is 85 years old, but there have been only eight previous occasions when it was worth staging a long jump.

Now Powell has made his presence worth a lot to a lot of people.

"The very best time to do it," Powell's agent, Brad Hunt, said of the Aug. 30 record. "The Olympics is like anything else: There's more to the anticipation of

it than anything. So more people want to use the Olympic theme in endorsements the year before than the year after." According to Hunt, Powell's earning power has jumped from about \$200,000-to-\$250,000 per year to an anticipated \$1 million in 1992. Mostly because Powell's timing was perfect.

"This involved breaking a record everyone knew," Hunt said. "Everybody over the age of 30 knew who Bob Beamon was. Plus, Mike has been going head-to-head with Carl Lewis." Powell finally beat Lewis, on the 16th try, in Tokyo. Hunt said Powell is "dotting the i's on a very nice deal with Nike," has been signed by official worldwide Olympic sponsor Bausch & Lomb to plug its Ray Ban sunglasses and has had a previous contract with Foot Locker sweetened and extended.

"There hasn't been one day yet, since the record, where at least one person hasn't recognized me, stopped me on the street or something," said Powell, who was virtually unknown outside his sport before Tokyo, despite a solid career and a silver medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. "It hasn't been a mob scene or anything. But it's been fun, because each time somebody asked me if I'm that guy who set the long jump record, I get to re-live what happened in Tokyo."

That's the way you do it.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Jackson's Three-Pointer Key As Princeton Tops Wolfpack

Sean Jackson's three-pointer with 1:47 left in overtime helped Princeton rally to a 50-47 victory over North Carolina State (4-2) last night in Raleigh.

Jackson, the school's all-time leading three-point shooter with 177, helped the Tigers (6-3) overcome a four-point deficit to take a 49-47 edge. All of his 15 points came on three-point shots.

Ohio State 82, UC-Santa Barbara 75: Jim Jackson scored 24 points and Jamaal Brown 21 to lead fourth-ranked Ohio State (6-0) over previously undefeated Santa Barbara (5-1). Lucius Davis led UCSB with 30 points.

Georgetown 89, St. Leo 51: Alonzo Mourning scored 21 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and blocked 6 shots to lead No. 23 Georgetown (5-1) over traditionally over-matched St. Leo (4-4), a Division II school.

Arizona 127, N. Arizona 81: Reserve Deron Johnson scored a career-high 26 points to lead second-ranked Arizona (6-2), which gained its 66th straight home victory. Northern Arizona is 3-3.

Wake Forest 74, VMI 43: Rodney Rogers scored a career-high 29 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead No. 21 Wake Forest (5-1) in Winston-Salem. Chris King, a starting forward for Wake Forest, was suspended by

coach Dave Odom before the game because of academic reasons. VMI is 2-4.

Georgia 66, Georgia Tech 65: Litterial Green's 10-footer in the lane with 3:03 remaining gave Georgia (5-2) a five-point lead in its upset of No. 13 Georgia Tech (6-2) at the Omni.

Penn State 80, Drexel 65: DeRon Hayes scored 20 points to lead Penn State (7-0), off to its best start in 66 years. Drexel is 1-4.

Alabama 107, Citadel 67: Andre Perry and James Robinson each scored 23 points for No. 20 Alabama (7-1) in Tuscaloosa. The Citadel is 4-6.

The News

Texas May Have to Forfeit Two Wins

The University of Texas may be allowed to keep the revenue from the NCAA Tournament game it won while using an ineligible player, but the school may be forced to forfeit victories this season over Princeton and Washington, according to David Berst, an NCAA official. Dexter Cambridge was suspended last month by the NCAA for violating his amateur status. . . . Oklahoma State's star forward Byron Houston will miss Saturday's game against Houston Baptist because of a sprained right foot, according to Cowboys coach Eddie Sutton. . . . ESPN reported that Syracuse center Conrad McRae will transfer to either Kentucky or Maryland if appeals to have his eligibility reinstated fail.

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NBA REPORT

McHale Comes Off Bench To Lead Celtics Past Bucks

Kevin McHale, back in his familiar sixth-man role, scored 20 points last night as the Celtics extended their home winning streak to 10 games with a 131-117 victory over the Bucks. With a balanced attack, the Celtics (16-7) breezed to their sixth victory in seven starts and took sole possession of the Atlantic Division lead, half a game ahead of the Knicks.

"I felt better and I came out wanting to be more aggressive," said McHale, who scored only three points in 22 minutes in a victory in Orlando Tuesday night. "We ran well and got a lot of guys involved in the offense. The ball was lively."

Nets 102, Cavaliers 93: One night after playing a near-perfect game, the Cavaliers were perfectly awful at Meadowlands Arena. Derrick Coleman had 22 points and Drazen Petrovic scored 14 of his 20 in the decisive third period as the Nets beat Cleveland one day after the Cavaliers beat Miami by an NBA-record 68 points.

"The win is important because that's what it's all about," Nets coach Bill Fitch said. "We need some wins in this locker room. With no reference to job security, it felt good. The game is the shortest part of the day for me."

Bullets 96, Spurs 93: Michael Adams scored 35 points and the Bullets ended an eight-game losing

streak in a fight-marred game in San Antonio. Washington's Harvey Grant and San Antonio's David Robinson were ejected with 5:59 left after they threw punches at each other. San Antonio has lost three consecutive home games.

Jazz 107, 76ers 105: Karl Malone scored 30 points and John Stockton had 17 points and 18 assists as Utah won at the Spectrum for its eighth win in nine games.

Warriors 104, Clippers 100: Chris Mullin scored 23 points as the Warriors ended the Clippers' six-game home winning streak. Charles Smith, out for three games with a swollen right knee, scored 19 for L.A.

Pistons 117, Hornets 97: Bill Laimbeer, whose season-high for a game was 16 points, scored 18 of his 26 points in the first quarter to lead Detroit at the Palace.

Heat 118, Pacers 112: The Heat's Grant Long scored six of his 20 points in overtime as host Miami won for the fourth time in five games.

Nuggets 123, Suns 109: Rookie Dikembe Mutombo scored 27 points as the Nuggets won in Denver, breaking the Suns' nine-game winning streak.

The News

Big Spurs-Bucks Trade? Wait and See

A reported trade that would send Willie Anderson and Paul Pressey from the Spurs to the Bucks for Dale Ellis and Jeff Grayer is off for now. Spurs officials would not comment on the deal, while a Bucks spokesman and coach Frank Hamblen denied the trade was imminent.

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ARENA

Miami's Patton Is Indicted For Illegal Credit-Card Use

University of Miami running back Martin Patton and former teammate Solomon Moore were named yesterday in a three-count grand jury indictment charging them with using a misdelivered credit card to buy stereo equipment, a television and dinner at Arby's, among other purchases. The spending spree totaled \$3,000. If convicted of the federal charges, he and Moore each face up to 15 years in prison and \$750,000 in fines.

With leading rusher Stephen McGuire sidelined by a knee injury, Patton had been slated to start for top-ranked Miami against Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. Coach Dennis Erickson, out of town on a recruiting trip, has not made a decision on Patton's status. Patton, a sophomore, also was arrested in an unrelated, unresolved case last month following a scuffle with police and suspended for the Florida State game.

The indictment charges that the Barnett Bank Visa Gold Card issued to Wayne Witzell was delivered by a postal carrier to the right number on the wrong street Nov. 18 and wound up at Patton's home.

Patton is the team's third-leading rusher with 242 yards in 75 carries, averaging 3.3 yards with four touchdowns. He's fifth in receiving with 26 catches for 428 yards and three touchdowns. "I am aware of the situation and will look at it more closely when I return and am able to get more facts," Erickson said in a statement.

COURTS: Player Called 'a Danger.' A judge in Charleston, W. Va., called West Virginia football player Todd Robinson "a danger to society" before sentencing him to a year in jail for violating probation. Circuit Judge John Hey sent Robinson, 20, to the county jail after Robinson, who also was involved in a poolroom fight in November, admitted drinking and making a harassing telephone call to a former girlfriend. Robinson, who said the acts would not be repeated, said he had "found Jesus" while on home confinement as part of his bond in the poolroom fight charges.

Walters Pleads Guilty. Sports agent Norby Walters pleaded guilty to two counts of mail fraud, avoiding another trial on more serious charges that he illegally signed contracts and made payments to college football stars. His guilty plea, entered in U.S. District Court in Chicago, means Walters, 59, could be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison and \$500,000 in fines.

NHL: Capitals Tie Sabres. Kevin Hatcher's slapshot goal through a screen with 9.2 seconds left in the third period gave the visiting Capitals a 2-2 tie with Buffalo, establishing a Sabres record of 11 games without a win. The Sabres are 0-8-3, breaking a team-record, 10-game winless streak set in 1971, which was only the Sabres' second season in the NHL. . . . Kelly Buchberger scored the tiebreaking goal at 11:43 of the third period and the Oilers went on to beat the host Maple Leafs, 7-5. Craig Simpson added an insurance goal at 18:15. . . . The Penguins' Scotty Bowman, the winningest coach in NHL history, will replace the late Bob Johnson as coach of the Prince of Wales Conference team in the league's All-Star Game Jan. 18 at Philadelphia.

BOXING: Gastineau Wins 5th Bout. Former Jets defensive end Mark Gastineau stopped club fighter Jimmy Baker at 1:08 of the second round of a scheduled four-round heavyweight bout in Reseda, Calif., to improve his record to 5-0, all knockouts. The 35-year-old Gastineau, who weighed 265 pounds, floored Baker with a right uppercut. The 213-pound Baker regained his feet before referee Chuck Hassett stopped the fight.

BASKETBALL: Rautins to Lithuania? Leo Rautins, 31, a former star in Toronto and at Syracuse University, cited lack of financial and public support and a "haphazard" approach by Basketball Canada as reasons for abandoning the Canadian Olympians to join the recently liberated Baltic state of Lithuania. International Basketball Association rules, which ban players from competing in FIBA-sanctioned events for one country after playing for another country, are being overhauled so former Soviet nationals can compete for their breakaway homelands. One highly placed source told Canadian Press that the rule changes won't affect Rautins, whose parents were born in Lithuania.

AIDS: Magic's Wife Tests Negative Again. The wife of former Lakers star Magic Johnson has tested negative for the AIDS virus a second time, Johnson's agent said. Earletha (Cookie) Johnson took the test about two weeks ago and the results showed no sign of the virus, Lon Rosen said. She is about three months pregnant.

FURTHERMORE: McGuire in Good Condition. Former South Carolina basketball coach Frank McGuire, 78, was in good condition following surgery in Columbia, S.C., to have a pacemaker implanted. . . . Former basketball star Dan Issel will become secretary of the Kentucky Tourism Cabinet in April. . . . Northwestern named Colorado offensive coordinator Gary Barnett as its football coach. . . . Former All-Pro Dolphins guard Larry Little, who led Bethune-Cookman to Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference titles in 1984 and 1988, resigned after nine seasons as coach.

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