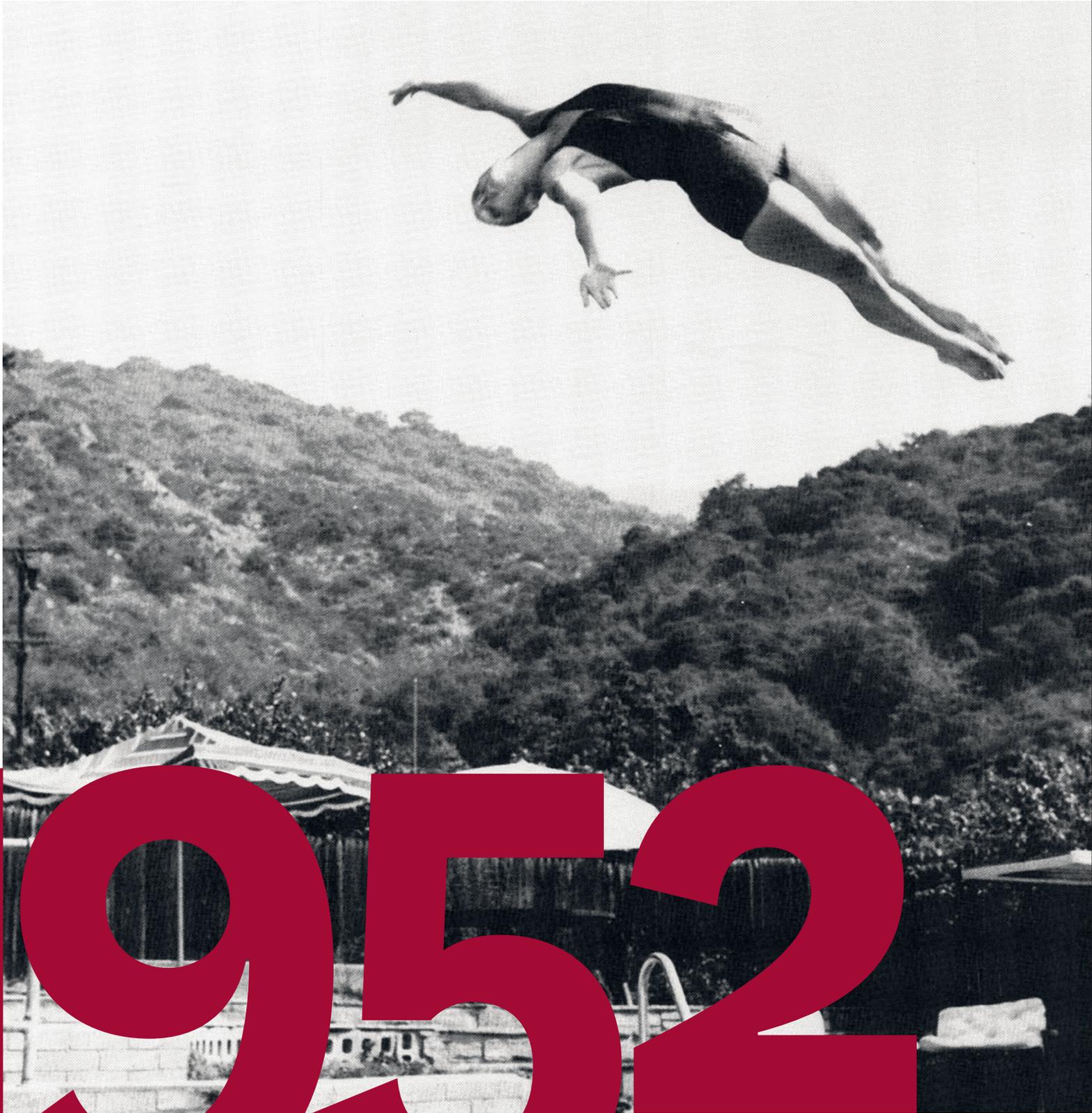


ART BARNARD JACK BECKNER HARRY BISBEY MARVIN BURNS JACK DAVIS ALLEN GILCHRIST FORTUNE GORDIEN JOYCE HORTON RACKER WILLIAM
PAULA JEAN MEYERS-POPE JANICE-LEE YORK ROMARY CHARLES SIMMS WALLACE WOLF ART BARNARD JACK BECKNER HARRY BISBEY MARVIN BURNS J
MARTIN JOHN MCCORMACK GABOR NAGY JAMES NORRIS PARRY O'BRIEN PAULA JEAN MEYERS-POPE JANICE-LEE YORK ROMARY CHARLES SIMMS WALLACE



1952

HELSINKI

Helsinki had been tapped to host the 1940 Summer Olympics, but those Games were cancelled due to the onset of World War II. The Finns got a second chance in 1947, when Helsinki was chosen over Amsterdam, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Philadelphia to host the 1952 Games. Facilities that had been built or begun in preparation for 1940 — including an Olympic stadium, velodrome, swimming stadium and equestrian hall — were renovated or completed to function as Olympic venues in 1952. Because the Olympic Village intended to house athletes during the 1940 Games had been converted to apartments, a new village was constructed nearby. Women athletes were put up at a nearby nurses' college. At the request of the Soviets, a separate village was constructed for Eastern bloc countries — the USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania. Still, in the face of Cold War-related international tension, the Organizing Committee for the Games of the XVth Olympiad proclaimed an ekekheiria, or Olympic truce, in the spirit of the ancient Games. The torch relay was augmented by the addition of a second flame, kindled by the midnight sun in Finnish Lapland and carried by runners to Helsinki, where, according to the official 1952 Olympics report, it was joined with the Olympic flame from Greece "in token of the meeting of northern and southern people under the Olympic sign." Athletes from a record 69 nations participated — 10 more than had competed in London in 1948 — with a dozen countries making their first Olympic appearances: the Bahamas, the newly established People's Republic of China, Gold Coast (now Ghana), Guatemala, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Netherlands Antilles, Nigeria, the Soviet Union, Thailand and Vietnam. Japan and Germany were once again invited to participate after being excluded in 1948. USC saw 21 athletes compete in Helsinki, with the group collectively winning seven medals.

A silver in platform diving in Helsinki was the first of four career Olympic medals won by Paula Jean Myers-Pope '59.

PARRY O'BRIEN

Parry O'Brien '54 had his eyes on a football career before injury set him on a very different path: that of a sports innovator.

He developed a reputation as a talented athlete at Santa Monica High School, earning a state championship with the football team in 1948 and winning the 16-pound shot put competition at the 1949 California Interscholastic Federation State Meet. He earned a football scholarship to USC, where he planned to compete on the gridiron and at track and field meets. But an injury during his freshman football season made him shift his focus exclusively to the shot put.

Next, it was his pride that got injured. When O'Brien began competing, shot putters used what is now referred to as the "glide" technique, which consisted of standing at the back of the throwing ring, thrusting toward the front of the circle, pivoting 90 degrees and launching the iron ball into the throwing sector. O'Brien couldn't throw farther than 55 feet that way, and his frustration got him thinking. According to Frank Litsky of *The New York Times*, O'Brien returned home to Santa Monica "after losing to Otis Chandler in the [1951] Fresno Relays ... [and] at 3 the next morning, by street lights on a vacant lot next door, he experimented with a 180-degree turn." He refined his new technique, sometimes outside his fraternity house at USC or at the Coliseum, sneaking into the stadium late at night.

His method of facing the back of the circle and using a longer turn became known as the "O'Brien Glide." It also catapulted his career.

In 1954, two days after runner Roger Bannister broke the four-minute barrier in the mile, O'Brien became the first man in history to top 60 feet in the shot put. From 1953 to 1959, he set new world records 17 times.

O'Brien won Olympic gold medals in Helsinki in 1952 and in Melbourne in 1956 — becoming the first man since Ralph Rose in 1904–08 to repeat as Olympic shot put champion — and a silver medal in Rome in 1960. In Tokyo in 1964, where he carried the American flag in the opening ceremony, O'Brien finished fourth in the shot put.

He also had another experimental side. Long before other athletes adopted yoga, O'Brien took a course in comparative religion at USC and learned about the practice's benefits for mental discipline and concentration. He also studied physics and created motivational messages for himself. As he said in a 1955 *Sports Illustrated* story, psychology is key for a shot putter: "After you reach 57 or 58 feet, you find you need a lot more than strength to go any farther."

In 1959, he won the James E. Sullivan Award, which honors the nation's top amateur athlete. He was also inducted into the National Track & Field Hall of Fame and the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.

O'Brien died in 2007 at age 75 after suffering a heart attack during a 500-yard freestyle masters swimming race.



SIM INESS

Sim Iness '54 rose from the devastation of the Dust Bowl to find prosperity as an athlete.

The second of five children born to Oklahoma sharecroppers, Iness moved to California with his family in 1934, riding in the back of a Model A truck all the way to the San Joaquin Valley, where they hoped to find a better life. The Inesses were migrant farm workers for eight years before eventually settling at the Tagus Ranch near Tulare, Calif. There, the family had modest accommodations: a one-room shack with a dirt floor and outdoor plumbing.

At Tulare Union High School, Iness began playing football and joined the track and field team. It was there that he forged a lifelong friendship with Bob Mathias, the other star of the two teams. On his 18th birthday, Iness joined Mathias at the 1948 Olympic Trials in Evanston, Ill. Iness took sixth in the discus, failing to earn a spot on the team alongside Mathias, who would go on to win decathlon gold in London.

Iness seemed destined for migrant farm life, since his family had no financial means to send their son to college, but the citizens of Tulare rallied to support their star athlete. Through generous contributions to a scholarship fund set up in his name, Iness began his college career, enrolling at Compton Community College.

As a college student, he teamed with future NFL Hall of Famer "Hurricane" Hugh McElhenny to win the 1948 Junior Rose Bowl. In 1949, Iness also became the National Junior College discus

champion. He then transferred to USC, where his track coach, Jess Hill, encouraged him to give up football, telling him he had the potential to be a world record holder in the discus. Hill proved to be right, as Iness became a two-time NCAA discus champion and set several records, both at USC and on the national level.

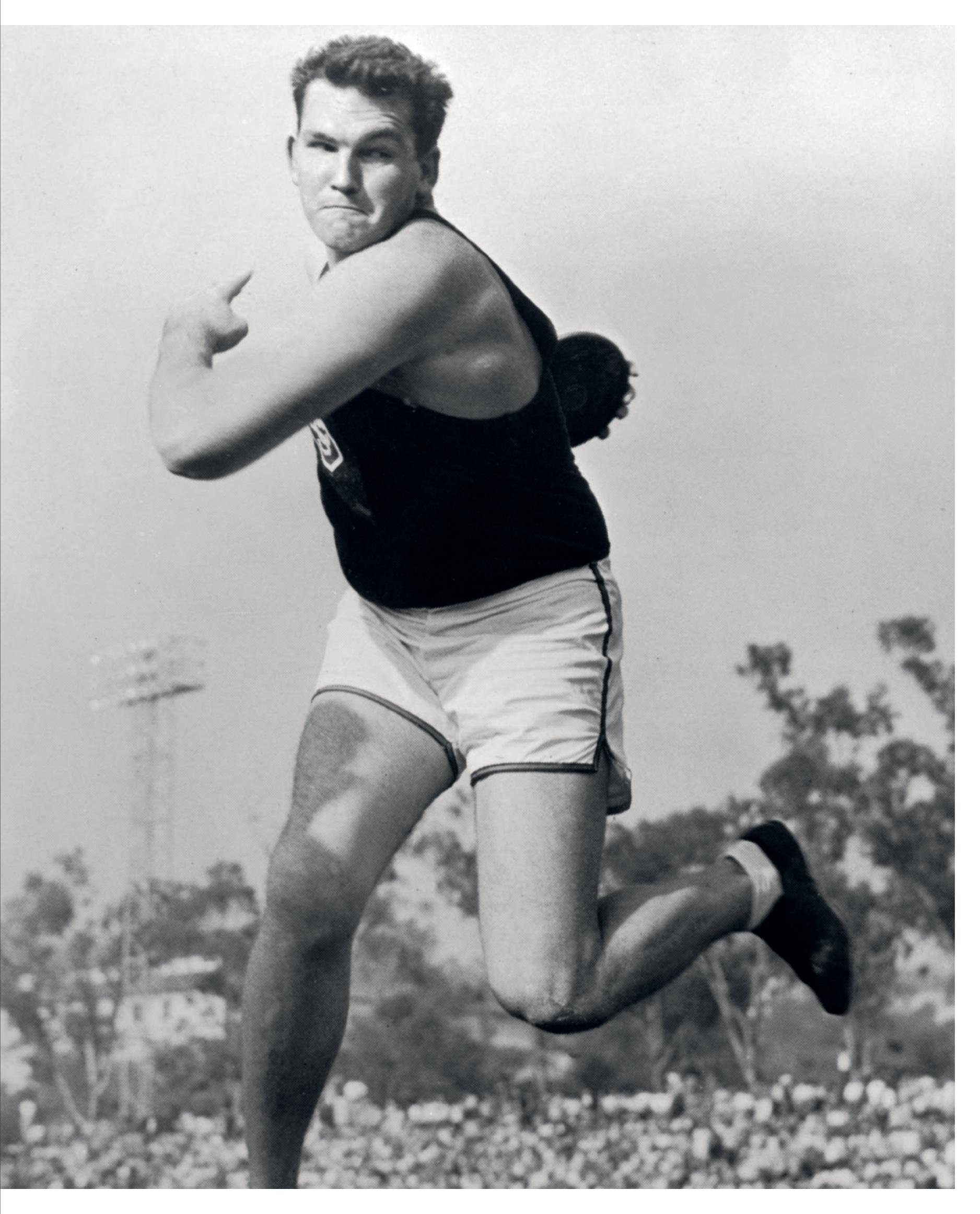
In 1952, despite hurting himself in a fall down some stairs, Iness set a meet record in the discus at the Olympic Trials in Los Angeles. This time, his performance earned him a spot on the U.S. team alongside Mathias.

Iness initially went unnoticed at the Helsinki Games. Reigning Olympic champion and world-record-holder Adolfo Consolini of Italy headlined the field. But on Iness' first throw, he eclipsed the Olympic record, and he continued to improve on the mark. He wound up winning by nearly 2 meters.

That triumph began the longest U.S. winning streak in the discus in modern Olympic history. A year after Helsinki, he became the first man to ever throw the discus farther than 190 feet.

Although he dropped out of college at one point to support his wife and newborn daughter, Iness returned to USC and graduated in 1954 with a degree in physical education.

He appeared in several films, but he eventually left Hollywood to follow his mentor, high school coach Virgil Jackson, into a career as an educator and coach.





SAMMY LEE

Growing up, Sammy Lee MD '47 dreamed of becoming a competitive diver. But he was the son of Korean immigrants, and racial discrimination in 1930s Los Angeles limited his time in the pool.

Despite the difficulties, Lee got his big break when renowned diving coach Jim Ryan took Lee under his wing at the Los Angeles Athletic Club, which was normally closed to minorities. Ryan created a sand pit in his backyard so Lee could practice his technique when he could not access a pool. It paid off. In 1942, Lee became the first non-Caucasian to win at the National Diving Championships.

With the world at war in the early 1940s, and the demand for physicians peaking, Lee entered an accelerated program at USC's medical school in 1944. He completed the normal four-year curriculum in just three years and went on to become an ear, nose and throat specialist.

Lee kept diving despite the demands of medicine, as well. World War II cancelled the Olympics in 1940 and 1944, but he got his first crack at the competition in 1948. At the age of 28, he astounded the world by winning gold in the men's platform and bronze in the 3-meter springboard events at the Games in London.

He won gold again in the 1952 Olympics, in Helsinki, this time in the 10-meter platform. At 32, Lee was the oldest person to win a gold

medal in diving and became the first male diver ever to repeat as an Olympic champion.

In 1953, he won the AAU's James E. Sullivan Award, given annually to the most outstanding amateur athlete in the United States. To date, he is the only Asian-American recipient of the award.

Lee went on to serve as a major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Korea from 1953 to 1955.

Eventually, Lee turned to coaching other top divers. He guided Bob Webster to Olympic gold medals in 1960 and 1964, as well as Olympic silver medal-winner Greg Louganis in 1976.

Lee was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1990 and was appointed by Presidents Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan to sit on various councils and commissions related to physical fitness, sports and the Olympics. In 2012, Lee returned to London to celebrate the 64th anniversary of his initial Olympic triumph.

And he continues to receive recognition. In 2013, a new Los Angeles school was named in his honor. The Dr. Sammy Lee Medical and Health Science Elementary School focuses on science and medicine. A new dive tower at the USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center was named after him the same year.

In Sammy's Words:

In 1932, when they held the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, I asked my father, "What are all of the flags doing here?" He said, "They are having the Olympic Games."

"What's that?" I asked.

He said, "That's when they crown the greatest athletes in the world."

I said, "Papa, one day I am going to be an Olympic champion." He laughed and said, "In what event?"

"I don't know," I said, "but I will find it."

In the summer of 1932, one of my heroes, an African-American kid named Art Crumb, taught me to do my first one-and-a-half somersault at the Highland Park public pool. When I told my father I wanted to be a diver, he said, "I'll back you 100 percent if you promise me that you'll become a doctor of medicine." So I promised I would.

My first two years of medical school were spent on campus. During my lunch hour, I would go to the pool and dive for recreation. Every time I did poorly on an examination, I would go to the athletic club and dive at night. I did so lousy on so many damn exams, by the time I graduated I was a hell of a diver.

When I reported to duty in the Army, I saw a sign that said anyone who thought they could make the Olympic team should contact special services. Well, I was national champ in 1942 and 1946. One month before the Olympics, the Army relieved me of all my duties and I got to train twice a day.

At the Olympic Trials in 1948, the public was not used to seeing a non-white diver. They were shocked that I was as good as I was. Three of us made all of the positions in springboard and tower: Miller Anderson, Bruce Harlan and myself. When they took pictures of us, there were these two blonde-headed guys and the black-haired guy, Sammy Lee.

One of my friends overheard a reporter say, "Too bad that Sammy Lee made the team. The kid doesn't even look like an American." My friend responded, "If you knew Sammy Lee, you would know he is more American than the two white kids who made the team."

My greatest memory [at the 1948 London Olympics] was watching our flag being raised because I put it there as Olympic champ. All of the years I trained seemed just like seconds. To hear "The Star-Spangled Banner" and see the whole world standing at attention because I did it for Uncle Sam is just emotional.

After my diving career ended and I had spent 13 years in the Army, my pregnant wife and I decided that we didn't want to keep moving from base to base. I set up a practice in Orange County. The irony of it was that I could run an office there but they wouldn't sell me a home because I was Korean-American. They said, "If you let the Lee clan move in, this whole damn place will smell like kimchee."

I wrote a letter to Bob Pierpoint, who was a White House correspondent for six presidents, and said, "Things have really improved racially here in California. They no longer slam the door in my face like when I was a little kid. I can't buy a house for \$13,000 in Garden Grove, but at least I can lease an office." Bob publicized all over the

world that Olympic champion Sammy Lee can't buy a home.

In 1956, at the Melbourne Olympics, President Eisenhower sent Bob Mathias, Jesse Owens and myself to the Olympic Games. A Mexican and a Russian came up to me and asked, "Did you ever find a home in America?" The story went all over the world.

Because of all the publicity, a Jewish immigrant who owned a tract of homes in Garden Grove sold us one of his exhibition homes for cost. My wife, Roz, and I even got one year of free diaper service. We came out smelling like a rose.

By then, I had pretty thick skin. In the old days, at Brookside Park, I could only go dive one day a week and it was called "International Day." After we people of color used it, they would empty the pool and have fresh water put in.

Forty years later, I am giving a speech and afterward one of the fellows comes up to me and asks, "Do you remember me? I was the director of Brookside Park." I said, "You're the son of a bitch who emptied the pool every time I stepped one foot in it." He said, "Sam, how could I empty a pool 55 yards long, 12 feet deep, and refill it overnight? We dropped the level about 2 feet, and when all the bigots had left, we filled the pool back up again."

I never resented the way I was treated. I just kept figuring that eventually, America would change.

And it did.



“My greatest memory was watching our flag being raised because I put it there as Olympic champ. All of the years I trained seemed just like seconds. To hear “The Star-Spangled Banner” and see the whole world standing at attention because I did it for Uncle Sam is just emotional.”

OLYMPIC COIN

THE 1952 GAMES IN HELSINKI MARKED THE FIRST MINTING OF A SPECIAL OLYMPIC COIN SINCE ANCIENT TIMES. ISSUED ONLY IN 1951 AND 1952, THE COIN HAD A VALUE OF 500 FINNISH MARKS.



ART BARNARD '52

Team USA took all three medals in the 110-meter hurdles at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki — with two of those medals going to Trojans. Art Barnard, a comparative literature major, won the bronze.



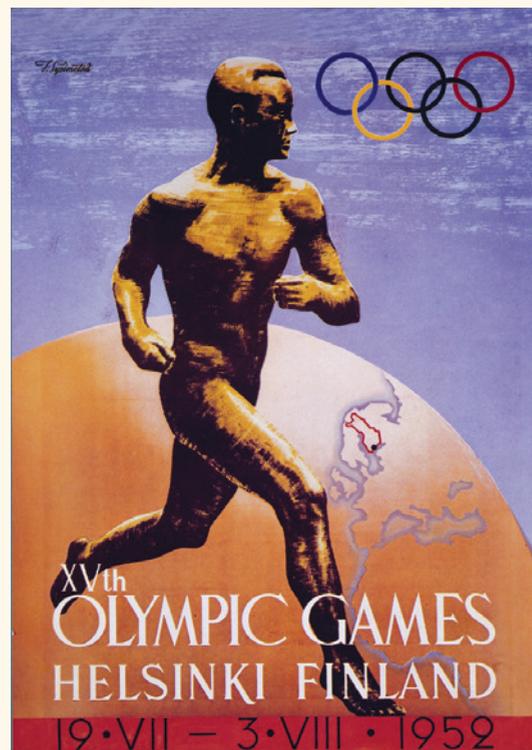
PAULA JEAN MYERS-POPE '59

Three-time Olympian Paula Jean Myers-Pope collected the first of her four career medals in Helsinki in 1952. It was a silver medal for platform diving. She took the bronze in that same event at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956 and won two silvers at the 1960 Rome Olympics, for platform and springboard diving.



DOMINATING WATER POLO

THE 1952 GAMES MARKED THE REAL BEGINNING OF USC'S INFLUENCE AS A MAJOR FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL WATER POLO COMPETITION, WITH FOUR TROJANS — HARRY BISBEY '55, MARVIN "ACE" BURNS '52, DDS '64, ROBERT "BOB" HUGHES (WHO WOULD ATTEND USC FROM 1954 TO 1957) AND JAMES NORRIS '52 — HELPING THE U.S. WATER POLO TEAM TO A FOURTH-PLACE FINISH.



THE SPIRIT OF SPORT

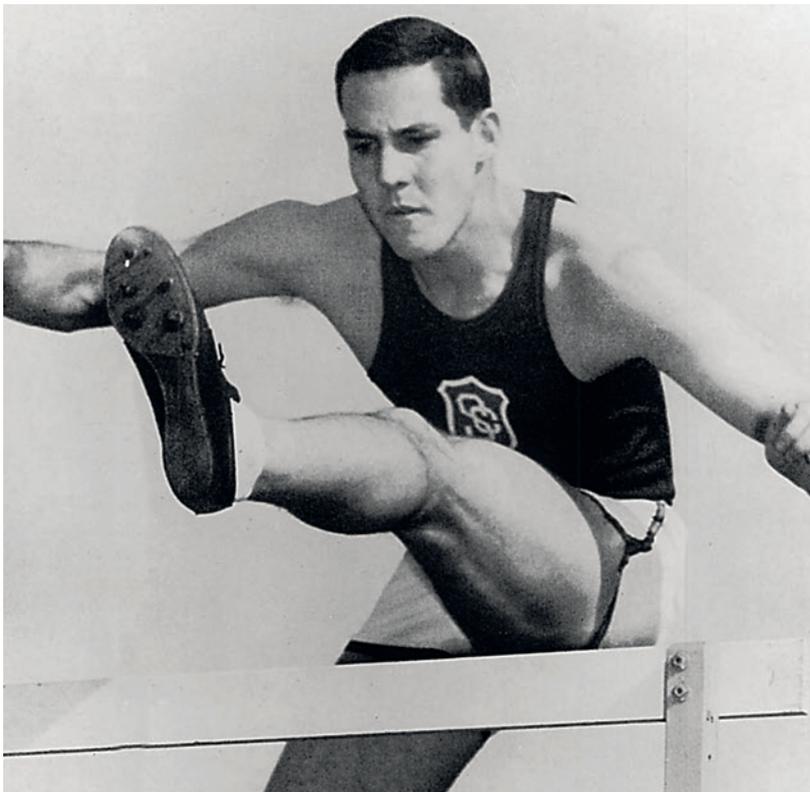
IN LIEU OF A COMPETITION, A JURIED ARTS EXHIBITION WAS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 1952 HELSINKI GAMES. ARTISTS FROM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES WERE INVITED TO SUBMIT WORKS OF ARCHITECTURE, FINE ARTS, LITERATURE AND MUSIC, ALL "SPIRITUALLY RELATED TO SPORTS."



TROJAN VICTORIES

AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1952 HELSINKI GAMES

USC OLYMPIANS: 21 GOLD: 4 SILVER: 2 BRONZE: 1



JACK DAVIS '54

USC hurdler Jack Davis lost his lead when he clipped the ninth hurdle in the 110-meter final. At the finish line, he and fellow American Harrison Dillard were clocked at an identical 13.7 seconds, but a photo finish showed that Dillard won, leaving Davis with the silver medal. Davis won a second silver in the event at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne.



A TROJAN OLYMPIC FAMILY

THE FATHER-DAUGHTER TEAM OF WILLIAM HORTON SR. '53, MS '59 AND JOYCE HORTON RACKER (WHO ATTENDED USC FROM 1953 TO 1954) BECAME USC'S FIRST TROJAN OLYMPIC FAMILY WHEN THEY COMPETED IN YACHTING AT THE 1952 GAMES, TAKING 11TH PLACE. WILLIAM HORTON JR. — JUST 13 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME — JOINED THEM AS A FELLOW CREWMEMBER.



NEW COUNTRIES

THE SOVIET UNION AND ISRAEL PARTICIPATED IN THE OLYMPICS FOR THE FIRST TIME AT THE 1952 HELSINKI GAMES.

