

MR HAROLD WHITLOCK

Distinguished Olympic walker

Harold Whitlock, who has died at the age of 82, was one of Britain's finest Olympic walkers who crowned a distinguished career with his gold medal in the 50 kilometre walk at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. This was an achievement the more remarkable for being achieved against a severe bout of sickness which afflicted him during the race.



Whitlock after his 1936 Olympic triumph

In a career which was to be a remarkably long one Whitlock won his first national title in 1933 and set a world record for 30 miles of 4hr 29min 31.8sec in 1935. In that year, too, he became the first man to walk from London to Brighton in under eight hours.

It was with a distinguished British contingent that he lined up for the 50 kilometre walk at the Berlin Olympics. With an entry consisting of Whitlock, T. Lloyd Johnson and J. Hopkins, Britain was expected to do well even against a strong field from countries such as Latvia, Czechoslovakia and Italy.

But disaster struck after the first 10,000 metres when sickness - apparently the result of a meal taken beforehand - overtook Lloyd Johnson and Hopkins who were at that point well up with the field. It was Whitlock's turn to be stricken in a similar manner at a crucial stage in the race, 38 kilometres out. But he grimly fought his affliction and hung on to win in 4hr 30min 41.4sec.

Two years later he claimed another major honour by taking the European championship and he continued representing Britain right up to 1952 when he was placed 11th in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics at the ripe old age of 48, Britain's oldest ever international athlete.

Whitlock, who still turned out for the occasional race in his eighties was a successful coach, too, his most celebrated protegee being Don Thompson, the 1960 Olympic 50 kilometre champion.

He was also a respected race walking judge and officiated at the Rome Olympics in 1960.

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RESULTS

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SPORT WEEKEND

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England's chances above
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Middlesex's Kate Parker has staked a claim in the barren forward area and Sue Howell has desirable defensive power, but her mobility remains suspect.

Meanwhile, though many regret the passing of the traditional territorial match series, the new championship tournament fits neatly into an over-loaded programme while meeting England's selection requirements for a developing squad.

The Midlands strengthened by Britain's Caroline Rule, could take the first official championship title. They open against East, who are now captained by Sandy Lister.

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20/12/85
Weekend

WHITLOCK DIES AT 82

HAROLD WHITLOCK one of Britain's finest Olympic walkers, died in Norfolk, aged 82, yesterday.

He won the gold medal for the 50 kilometres in the Berlin Games of 1936, despite an attack of sickness after 38 kilometres, and won the London to Brighton walk four times.

Mr Whitlock, who set a world record for 30 miles in 1935 of 4hr 29min 31.8sec, made his final international appearance at the 1952 Helsinki Games, aged 48.

He later became a highly-respected race-walking judge, officiating as chief judge at the Rome Olympics of 1960, and was still doing sponsored walks for charity when well into his seventies.

(Other obituaries—Page 10)

Regards, Jill

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDO
(2.15).— Lge: Hounslow v C
Surrey v Hawks.
Club.—Amersham v Reknia
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Maldenhead v Oxford
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v Met Police, Middletown v East
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Exeter Crickets v PGSOR.
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Imperial v Bridgewater, New
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