

# South African, Mark Kennard, Ineligible But Competing

By Mike McFarland

One of B.C.'s potentially best athletes has gained wide-spread recognition and is not even a member of a varsity team. Mark Kennard, a second semester transfer student from South Africa, has apparently undergone a successful transition from Ranger College to Brevard.

The move has one drawback. Kennard has been ineligible to be a member of the B.C. track team for the entire spring. However, in all-comers events and invitations, Mark has run unattached and done very well.

The major obstacle in Kennard's way is obtaining a waiver for eligibility from Ranger, a two-year school. He transferred from a four-year school to Ranger, complicating the eligibility stipulations. According to Mark, there is a slight "chance that I could be eligible next fall." A full year's wait is more likely. Mark says that "at a junior college level, being ineligible probably hasn't hurt my development."

Even with the ineligibility status the season has still been good. Mark has unlimited potential. He has a 3:59.5 mile run to his credit already. This ability has carried over. There has been a note of bitter irony

added in. In an early season meet at UT-Knoxville, Kennard posted a 9:03 time and won the two-mile race. At a later meet at Virginia Tech, Kennard posted a 9:03 time and won the two-mile race. These are significant because the winning times in the NCJAA nationals were slower. The winning time in the indoor mile was a 4:14. Mark definitely feels he had a "good chance for winning the two events in the nationals. Missing nationals hurt the most (with regard to being ineligible). I had the times but just wasn't able to go."

Some of the other quality distance runners on the team such as Jeff Wentworth and John George are sophomores. Mark feels they helped him in adjusting to B.C. It wasn't really that hard for him to move in and work with the team, they more or less "accepted me," says Mark. Wentworth's and George's departure will leave some empty slots. Mark is confident of Coach Norman Witek's ability as a recruiter to fill the voids.

Witek has toiled diligently to build B.C. up as a junior college track power. All-American performances by Wilbert Carter, John George, and Jeff Wentworth illustrate that fact well. When asked how Witek handled his



Mark Kennard

particular situation since he was not officially on the team, Kennard quickly replied that he was "approached like an athlete. It was just different in that some meets I just couldn't go." Kennard calls Witek, "a real good coach. For a junior college with limited money resources, Witek does an outstanding job."

The members of the track team respect Kennard a great deal. John George even goes so far as to say, "Mark is definitely world-class material. In a few years after he really matures, he will do well against stiff competition." George adds that Mark possesses the "basic talent. He needs to keep working and developing." John also points out the paradoxical situation that Mark is in. Says George, "Coming to B.C. and working with Coach Witek is probably the best thing for him right now. Witek, as far as East Coast schools go, probably has the best program around for a school of this size. Despite all the complications, George feels Mark has "adjusted very well overall."

Jeff Wentworth also agrees that Mark has adapted. Wentworth offers an interesting explanation of Kennard's situation. Said Jeff, "Mark had a lot of troubles at Ranger. It did him

good to get into a more relaxed atmosphere." Wentworth adds that, "mentally, it probably helped Mark more than it hurt him. Next year when he is attached, it will make him want to run better."

Chuck Daughton agrees with Wentworth. Daughton cites pressure as a key factor. Daughton feels Mark will feel a lot more pressure and as a result it will "cause him to be more motivated." Chuck adds that Mark probably doesn't need a whole lot more incentive because he "practices just as hard as if it were a race." The pressure will intensify Kennard's practice style "even more so next year," says Daughton.

Even with his status still somewhat questionable, Kennard remains very optimistic concerning next year. As far as the team goes, Mark says that depends on the recruits. Individually, Mark says that he is "shooting for the nationals. I hope to be working towards a definite peak when nationals come up." Kennard is also quick to say, "that I'm definitely looking forward to next year." Whether eligible or not, Kennard will still be in a good position to make an impression on the rest of the track world.

## Sportsline: Animals Trample Man's Feats

by Bobby Hayes

As the 1980 Summer Olympic Games are just around the corner, the United States' participation in the Games remains very much in question. However, when looking at the Olympics from a totally different perspective, it matters little if the U.S. participates or not. Why not make the Olympics truly "world-wide" and invite the total animal kingdom to participate in the Games? According to information given to me by Coach Norm Witek, if this did indeed happen, man would become a much more humble creature when it came to athletic endeavors.

Man has become a relatively weak animal. He has not always been weak, he has become that way because of the modern conveniences he has created for himself to make his life easier. Unfortunately easier also means lazier and weaker. Man has learned to depend on his mental capacities while the rest of the animal kingdom relies on physical prowess.

A group of scientists recently researched the subject on how far man has really fallen physically in comparison to other animals and Coach Witek passed along their findings. The results were astounding. Even with man using his most outstanding athletes while the animals were selected at random, man became a spectator rather than a participant at most of the medal ceremonies. Now, as chairman of the AKOC (Animal Kingdom Olympic Committee), I hereby declare the First Hypothetical

Animal Kingdom Olympic Games open. Let the Games begin!

**HIGH JUMP** - Man leads off the competition by clearing 7'7". The flea follows and can only clear 12 inches, which makes man laugh just a bit. Man is then informed by the AKOC that if the flea had the size of man, he could jump 350 feet. End of laughter. The dolphin jumps 20 feet to win the gold medal, the puma clears 15 feet to claim the silver, and the salmon manages to jump 12 feet to salvage a bronze medal. No medal for man.

**LONG JUMP** - Bob Beaman (human world record holder in this event), jumps 29'2" to give man a chance to win this event. The other animals snicker as man falls short again. The impala claims the gold with a jump of 42 feet, followed closely by the kangaroo, which managed 40 feet. The cheetah edges man for the bronze medal by jumping 30 feet.

**200 Meter Run** - Man is timed in 19.2 seconds and then goes in hiding as he is being humiliated. The cheetah and the antelope finish in a tie and share the gold medal with a time of 8 seconds (that's a clip of 60 miles an hour, folks). The jackrabbit takes the bronze with a time of 10.2. Man is accused by the animals of not trying. All man can say is, "Give me another beer."

**1500 METER RUN** - Man sends Jim Ryun (famous miler) and he makes quite a gallant effort, turning in a time of 3:45, but nevertheless is soundly beaten. The gazelle outdistances the field to win the gold with a time of

1:12.0. The Asiatic wild ass (a local favorite) claims the silver by running 1:42.6, while the coyote and reindeer split the bronze medal by both running 2:10.8.

**MARATHON** - After being embarrassed throughout the Games by their poor showing, man sends Bill Rodgers (Boston Marathon winner) to try to salvage some recognition of man's ability. Bill runs the 26.2 mile race in a time of 2 hrs. 10 min. 48 secs. Good enough to win? Not even close. The antelope and gazelle blaze the trail in 25 minutes to share the gold medal. The reindeer (Sorry, Santa) could do no better than a time of 1 hr. 2 min. 52.8 secs.

**100 MILE RUN** - To keep man from being completely shut out, this event was created to give man one last chance. Finally, man comes through to win his first and only medal in claiming the gold by narrowly outlasting the camel and the racehorse.

After seeing this unusual perspective, it can sure make one think about how sports heroes are idolized and paid. The next time you're watching a sporting event and see a great individual play by a player who makes an astronomical salary, just ask yourself if a camel might could do the job better and cheaper.

Speaking of the Olympics, did you hear the story the trainer of the 1980 Soviet Olympic hockey team told as to why the Russians didn't win the gold medal? According to him, there is a shortage of hockey sticks in the Soviet Union which makes their hockey players afraid of breaking their

sticks and not being able to find another. This in turn made their players timid about fighting for the puck and caused them to play unaggressively and lose the gold medal to the United States. If the Russian public swallows that story, it will open up a new line of excuses that can be made for their athletic losses. For example, basketball players can claim that they didn't make their shots for fearing of breaking the net and skiers can counter that they didn't ski fast enough because they were afraid of breaking their skis if they fell. Before long, the excuses may become more fun than the

competition itself.

This being the final issue of The Clarion for this year, I would like to thank the editor of The Clarion, Debi Crane, and the advisor, Ken Chamlee, for making my job a most enjoyable one. Through this column, I have attempted to show that sports is much more than just scores and statistics. Sports are nothing more than the people who play them and to me, their reactions and feelings while participating in their games is what makes sports such an enjoyable release for so many people. If I have captured just a piece of this belief, I am indeed grateful.

### Track Team Scores High

by Mark Kennard

The Brevard College Track Team competed in one of the top relay meets in the nation, The Dogwood Relays, held in Knoxville during the past weekend.

Jeff Wentworth placed in the 10,000 meter run with a time of 30 min. 46.9 sec. which qualifies him for the NJCAA nationals to be held in Texas in May. Jeff also ran in the open 3,000 meter steeple-chase, winning in 9 min. 9 sec.

John George ran in the 5,000m placing 5th in a time of 14 min. 26.9 sec. which is a new school record and also qualifies him for the nationals.

Ronnie Treadway also qualified for the nationals by running 13 min. 51.48 sec. in the 5,000. He, however, did not place.

Saltyman, who ran 33 min. 39 sec. in the 10,000 metres and Chuck

Daughton who also ran the open 10,000 metres, having a time of 33 min. 30 sec.

Andy Manlove threw close to 196 feet in the javelin which would better the school record, but unfortunately the standard of the meet was so high that all throws under 200 feet were not measured.

Wilbert Carter withdrew from the shot due to a nagging hand injury which has been bothering him for over a month.

The distance medley relay team failed to achieve their goal of breaking the school record, but two members, John George and Ron Treadway had both run hard races the day before. The team of George Fox, Rob Craig, Ronnie Treadway and John George ran 10 min. 18.7 sec. but did not place.