

lesson in citizenship it represents. A team may have one star or even two, but without his teammates co-ordinating with him he would star to no avail and at the end of the game would most likely find himself one of the losing team.

The participation of women in the National Meets only goes back to the Fourth Meet held at Hangchow in April, 1930, when over four hundred of them participated. It might be said that the progress they have made surpasses male progress. The form and technique they displayed at the last Meet was amazing and it will not in the least surprise me if we have a world's champion among our women before we have one among our men. The times recorded in the women's dashes do not compare as unfavorably with world's record times as those recorded for the same men's events.

The technique displayed by the majority of the contestants bore witness of long training and intelligent coaching. These two things must go together because an athletic might devote all his time to training and never get the best results from his efforts if he has not been coached or has been improperly coached. A start in coaching Chinese athletes in the modern manner was made this year, when a carefully chosen few were sent to a summer training camp at Tsingtao under a noted German athletic coach, who had come out to China on a special invitation. I believe I am correct in saying that at least two of the men who attended that camp established new National records in the recent Meet.

It was on the days when the football semi-finals, excepting, of course, the opening and closing days of the Meet, that brought out the greatest number of spectators. It is a source of satisfaction that this was the case and that the public display such great interest in watching team-play and not an individual. Association football would seem to be becoming the national game and as it is a game which calls for courage, skill and stamina, the sooner it does become the national game the better. The football championship of the Sixth Meet was won by Hongkong, holders of many National and Far Eastern championships, and their opponents in the final was Canton. Our Cantonese brothers, it would seem, have a special aptitude for football.

The participation of the hundred odd members of the Malayan delegation was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Aw Boon-hu, the well-known overseas philanthropist. His generosity was not misplaced because the Malayan track team, somewhat contrary to expectations to be sure, garnered second place in the Meet championship. The rest of the delegation by no means disgraced themselves by placing seventh in the field championship, while one of the Malayan swimmers brought glory to himself and his team by breaking the National record in the 1,500-meter free-style race. It is to be hoped that as the National Meets are held, more and more participants from overseas will compete.

As was expected, the swimming events were exceedingly popular, and the spectator accommodation of the beautiful, modern swimming pool was taxed to capacity on all the days the events were held. More National records were created, both in the men's and women's events. An upset in the 50-meter free style race for women caused a furor when Miss Yeung Sauping, China's premier woman swimmer was narrowly beaten by Miss Lau Kwei-chan of the Canton team. Miss Yeung, however, staged a great comeback by winning later the same afternoon the 100-meter backstroke championship in time which constitutes not only a National but a Far Eastern record. The swimming championship of the Meet was won by the Hongkong team.

When the swimming events came to an end, the close of the most successful of the National Meets was very near, and it finally wound up in a blaze of glory on October 20, when a team of local foreign athletes competed with men picked from various units. The results of that competition was a foregone conclusion in view of the superior condition of the Chinese athletes, who placed first and second in all the events except one, the discus throw, and in the 400-meter race a new National record of 52.2 seconds was established.

I have before me a comparison of National and World athletic records from which it is evident that our athletes still have considerable progress to make. However, they have definite marks to aim for and if they enter into their training and their competitions with the knowledge that in one respect the equality of the country lies with them, we may safely, I believe, rest assured of China's athletic future.

New Records Made In The National Meet

By K. S. CHANG (張國勳)

THE advancement of a nation's athletics can be best measured by the way the records topple in a national meet. While China should not feel over jubilant on the achievements of the 2,670 athletes of both sexes from all over the country in the 11-day contests at the Civic Center Stadium last month, she has ample reason to be satisfied with the fact that despite the disastrous floods and communistic uprisings which have wrought havoc with

the people's lives and property and disturbed their peace of mind, her young men and young women are continuing in their strides toward athletic development.

The records of the Chinese athletes, both new and old, are still way off the standards set by the leading performers of other nations, but when you compare them with those that were in the books of a decade ago, you will find that progress has been made all round and that

all existing records are as fresh as daisies and only one of them has remained unbroken for four years.

It is true that the national, sectional and intercollegiate meets have produced no startling feats during the past several years, but it cannot be denied that athletics in this country is making some headway. The progress has been slow but steady.

The advancement made by China's young women has been more marked than her young men in recent years. The nation-wide movement of giving women new freedom and new rights has undoubtedly much to do with the rising tide of girl athletes who proved in the Sixth National Meet that they can run, jump and throw weights with as much grace and agility as the boys. Out of the eleven events in the Meet, they smashed nine records and only two remained intact. Dashing on the cinder path, leaping high and wide and hurling the weights just like boys with athletic inclinations, the young ladies thrilled the thousands with their record-breaking performances every afternoon for five days in the National Meet. Only in the shot-put and 100 meter dash, they failed to lower the standards.

The Shanghai girls, in particular, stood out in the performances, both on the track and in the field, Miss Lee Sun, a tall, slim girl from the Southeastern Physical School, created a great sensation by taking all three of sprinting events, the 50, 100 and 200 meters. She was the only athlete who turned in a triple victory and had she known better how to breast the tape, she would have shattered every one of the three races. As it was, she bettered the 50-meter mark in 6.8 seconds in a semi-final sprint and sent the 200-meter record into discard by negotiating the distance in 27.5 seconds.

Miss Lee's rise has been phenomenal. A year ago, she was an unknown, but today, her reputation as China's best girl athlete has spread to every corner of the country. She first came to prominence in the international track and field meet held in Shanghai last June, outclassing Miss Y. S. Chien, the champion of the Fifth National Athletic Meet held in Nanking two years ago, and all the other foreign entries. In that international meet, she showed an awkward form, but being a born runner, she won the dashes with ease. In the summer, she put a lot of training in her preparations for the National Meet, and it was indeed surprising to note that she showed remarkable improvement in her form which enabled her to cover the distances with more smoothness and less effort.

Her new mark of 6.8 seconds in the 50 meters bettered the old record held by Miss Y. S. Chien by one-tenth of a second, and her 200-meter time of 27.5 seconds lowered the old standard also held by Miss Chien, by the same margin. Her failure to smash the 100-meter record could be attributed to the severe strain of three days of continuous competition.

While Miss Chien was overshadowed by Miss Lee's sparkling feats, she still managed to retain some of her old glory. In the 80-meter hurdle race, she cleared the

barriers with a handsome style and bettered her own record of 14.5 seconds by one-tenth of a second. Miss Chien also wore a Shanghai uniform in the Meet.

Another Shanghai girl who covered herself with glory was Miss Y. D. Chen who, in spite of her medium size and height, won the discus throw and shot put with new records. She heaved the iron platter for a distance of 30.055 meters, an improvement of 1.395 over the old mark, and in shot put, she broke the meet record with a toss of 10.05 meters.

Among the visiting girls, Miss N. J. Dun of Malaya was about the most versatile. Although she was outclassed in the sprints, she shattered the broad-jump mark with a leap of 5.06 meters which was an improvement over the old standard of 4.88 meters. Miss S. Y. Tang of Fukien and Miss E. S. Yuen of Honan captured the high jump and javelin throw respectively with new national records.

In the men's division, only four records were smashed. Because of the long standing of the men's competition, it is more difficult to hang up new marks than in the ladies' division. Furthermore, the track was newly laid and extremely loose which did not give the athletes a sure foothold as they dashed toward the tape. More records would have been made if the track were in condition.

L. C. Chia of Shanghai stood out as the only double winner. He took the 800 meter race in the new national record time of 2 minutes, 3.1 seconds, slicing 1.8 seconds off a record that had stood since May 27, 1931. On the following afternoon, he romped home a winner in the 1,500 meter event in 4 minutes, 23.2 seconds, only 1.8 seconds above the national standard.

The most outstanding feat among men was, however, performed by Paul Fu, also of Shanghai. This sinewy athlete lowered his own national record in pole vault by clearing the bar at a height of 3.90 meters. He tried to break the Far Eastern record of 4 meters held by Nishida of Japan, but he failed narrowly by knocking down the bar with his hands.

Y. S. Peng's improvement on his own javelin record was another high light of the meet. The Peiping athlete tossed the long spear for a distance of 50.2755 meters which is a fraction of a meter better than what he did in Tientsin last year.

The fourth national record was established by S. K. Tai, also of Shanghai, when he broke the tape in the 400 meter race in 52.2 seconds, cutting two-tenths of a second off Liu Chang-chun's mark created as far back as May 31, 1929, in Mukden.

F. C. Liu of Hopei equalled the meet record in the shot-put when he heaved the iron sphere for a distance of 12.30 meters to defeat P. C. Chen of Hupeh. Other athletes who turned in creditable performances were Liu Chang-chun, China's only delegate to the World Olympiad in Los Angeles in 1932, who won the 100 meters in 10.8 seconds, only one-tenth of a second above his own record, W. B. Sun who clinched first place in the 400 meter hurdles, and S. C. Lin who triumphed in the 110 meter high hurdles.