

THE SAGA OF CHRIS WILLIAMSON

by DAVE CLARK

Each weekday from 8:30 in the morning to 4:30 in the afternoon Chris Williamson is just another of the trecking masses plodding from one lecture to another. The feature which distinguishes Chris from the others is that he does not suffer from the universal affliction of the "Hill" climbers . . . oxygen debt. The task of navigating the sloping paths of the UNB campus is not an arduous one for Chris as it is for the others. Why?

Since his final year at Fredericton H. S. Chris has devoted all of his spare time to middle distance and cross-country running. In the four short ensuing years Chris has battled his way to a position amongst the top three middle distance runners in Canada. This admirable status has been achieved through hard work, uncompromising fortitude, an iron will and burning desire. Where is Chris going in such a hurry? To the Olympics, where else?

Chris first came to prominence in New Brunswick cross country circles when he won the intermediate individual honors at the New Brunswick Interscholastic Cross Country Meet. This win in addition to two other cross-country wins and two victories over Minto's Walter Williams in the 880 and mile events at the York-Sunbury Meet won Chris a substitute position on the New Brunswick team which went to the Canadian Age-Class Championships at Regina in the summer of 1961. Due to an injury to another team member Chris was afforded the opportunity to compete in Regina. Fortunately for New Brunswick Chris competed. He came from behind to capture the juvenile mile in 4:26.4 which was his fastest time to that point.

Later that summer Chris placed second in the mile at the Canadian Legion at Toronto. Chris then placed second in the juvenile mile and third in the juvenile 880 yard dash at Halifax in the Eastern Canadian Age Class Championships. Anne Banks, one of the New Brunswick coaches to travel with the team that summer wrote, "Perhaps the youngster with the greatest potential is Fredericton's Chris Williamson. Here's a boy who should go far - he has what it takes in ability plus more than what it takes up top."

In the fall of '61 Chris entered the University of New Brunswick in the faculty of Arts. This freshman present was to the surprise of no one, one of the finest gifts that Amby Legere has ever received. That fall Chris set a new intercollegiate mile mark at Antigonish with a time of 4:26, considerably reducing the old mark of 4:35.8. Chris led the Harriers to an undefeated season, personally finishing first in every meet. At Minto he clipped four seconds off the course record with 13:43.2 minutes over the 2.6 mile course.

In March of '62, Chris travelled to Winnipeg to compete in the Canadian Indoor Track and Field Championships. His performance was admirable considering that this was his first real taste of international competition. Chris placed third in the two mile event behind two seasoned American performers.

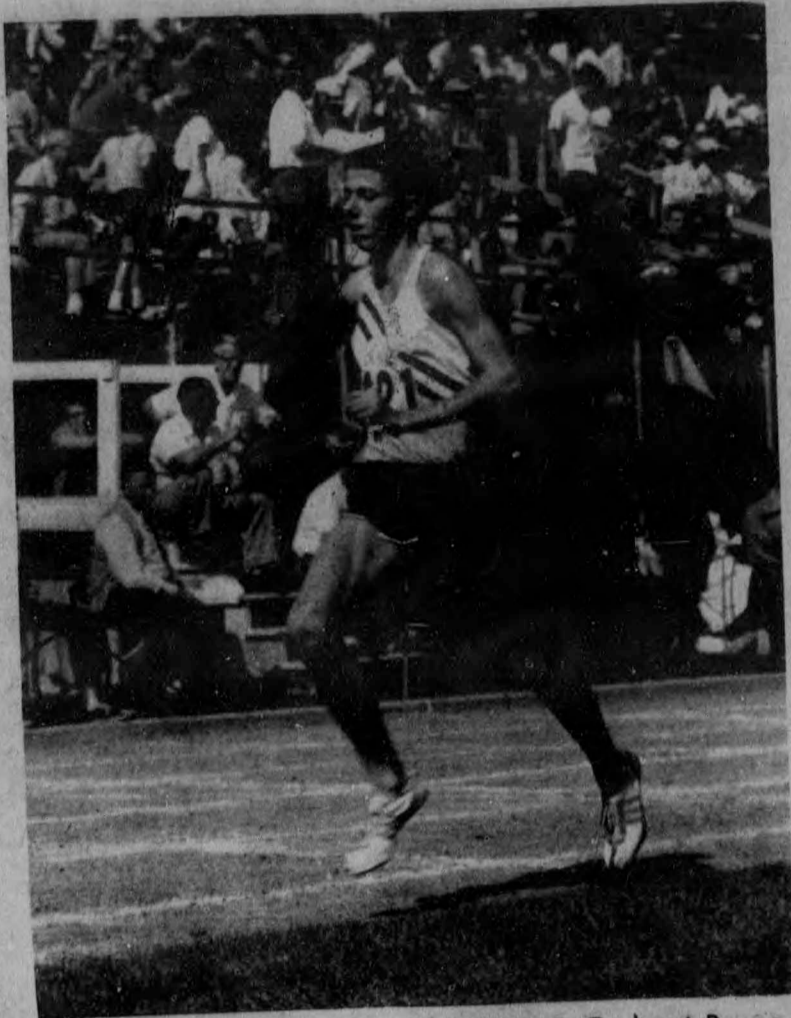
Chris spent the best part of the following summer in England where he enjoyed an overseas vacation while he continued to train and compete in meets in that country. He returned to run in the Canadian Age-Class Championships at Waterloo, Ont. This time there was no doubt as to whether Chris was going to represent New Brunswick. With the additional years experience, Chris had shown potential greatness in every outing. In the 3000 metre event Chris hit the tape in 8:51.7 minutes to establish the Canadian junior record for the distance.

Chris returned to UNB in the fall of '62 to again lead the Harriers to an undefeated season. In the process, he broke the Ricker College course record by covering the 4.1 mile course in 20:26 minutes. That same fall, Chris erased the old Maritime Intercollegiate mile mark of 4:26 by running it in 4:19.3 minutes. Chris and three of his Harrier teammates were chosen to run for New Brunswick in the Senior Six-mile National Cross Country Championships at Hamilton, Ont. Chris ran extremely well considering that it was the first time that he had competed at this distance and that the course was impaired by ice, snow, slush and mud. He finished in third place just 29 seconds behind the winner in 33:12 minutes.

Last winter Chris again travelled to Winnipeg to compete in the Royal Canadian Legion Golden Boy Track and Field Meet held indoors. In the two mile event Chris beat out Dave Ellis the British runner in the time of 9:2.3 minutes. In March, Chris ran the mile at the University of Maine indoor track in 4:09 which was a personal best up to that time. At the annual athletic awards dinner at UNB last spring Chris was chosen the most valuable athlete in track and field.

This summer Chris went to Toronto to work so that he might run with the East York Track Club and benefit by the competition in that area. While in Toronto he stayed with Orville Atkins, a long distance runner with the E.Y.T.C. and worked as an office clerk with the R. Williams Sales Company. Each night Chris worked out with the Track club under the experienced tutelage of Fred Foote, the coach of Bruce Kidd.

At Hamilton Chris came third in the National Steel Car War Veterans annual two and one half mile junior road race finishing behind Kidd and Dan Shaugenessey. Again at Hamilton Chris came second behind Kidd in the two mile event at the National 10 mile championship meet. At Windsor Chris was edged by Steve Ball in the mile event at the International Freedom Festi-



Chris Williamson running for E. Y. T. C. beat Bruce Kidd's 5000 metre record.

val Meet. In the Eastern Canadian Age Class Championships in St. John, New Brunswick, Chris broke Bruce Kidd's junior Canadian mile record in 4:07.3. Chris came fifth in the mile event at the Toonto Police Games. In August, Chris was a member of the E.Y.T.C. relay team that broke the Canadian four mile record by running the distance in 16:50.3. At the Canadian Age Class Championships at Waterloo, Ontario, Chris, running the 5,000 metre for the first time knocked almost 11 seconds off the junior Canadian record set by Bruce Kidd with a time of 14:40.4.

The climax to a very profitable summer came on September 3rd when Chris won the two mile race at the Canadian National Exhibition Invitational Track and Field Meet when he outdistanced Kidd, Pat Clohessey, an Australian British Empire Games Winner and Charlie Clark of Los Angeles. Chris completed the event in 8:55.1. He gained the lead in the sixth lap from Clohessey and was timed for the lap in 60.6 seconds. Clohessey is quoted as having said, "He's a comer. When you consider that the track wasn't great and there was interference from the wind, you'll find that was a very respectable time." Chris felt that it was a great way to end the season and remarked, "When I made my move they didn't take me seriously. I saw Kidd's head wagging and I knew that Clohessey wasn't coming with me." By way of reward for this fine demonstration of running, Chris was chosen the meet's outstanding athlete. This was an exceptional honor considering some of the Great American stars that were present such as Jim Dupree, John Pannel and Hayes Jones.

How does Chris feel about his summer under Foote? If I am permitted to use a secondary source, Chris' father, Mr. W. Alex Williamson said that Chris went to Toronto primarily for the competition. He enjoyed running for Foote who changed Chris' style to some extent. Foote shortened Chris' stride and gave him a higher knee kick after the European fashion which is designed to conserve energy over the course of the race. Other than this innovation, Mr. Williamson felt that Chris prefers to run for our own Amby Legere.

What does the future hold for Chris Williamson? The Olympics, Gold medals, world records and world recognition. Only time will tell. If these things unfold on the path of success of Chris Williamson then they will do so with the blessings of every student at the University of New Brunswick, all the people of Fredericton and New Brunswick and every Canadian across the country. To borrow a time worn cliché which is most applicable in Chris' case . . . It couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

The secret to Chris' success is formulated in a poem which is pasted in the front of Mrs. Williamson's scrap book. I would like to take the liberty of reprinting it.

If you think you are beaten, you are,
If you think you dare not, you don't,
If you'd like to win, but think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, your lost,
For out of the world we find,
Success begins with a fellows will,
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think your outclassed, you are,
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself,
Before you can win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go,
To the stronger or faster man,
For sooner or later the man who wins,
Is the one who thinks he can.

BEST WISHES, CHRIS, WE ARE ALL BEHIND YOU.

Bumps & Bruises

by the

"PETERED PIGSKIN"

After last weeks crushing defeat at the hands of the MOUNT ALLISON MOUNTIES, there were many people on this campus who fully expected to see the BOMBERS give up and die. I, am very happy to report that quite the opposite has happened. The Bombers appear to have hit bottom and are on the up-swing.

The practices this week have been designed to weed out the men from the boys. Gone is the attitude which has prevailed in the past were Coach Nelson pampered his ball-players, once the season had started. For the past week and a half the boys have been driven through a series of practices which stressed continuous body contact and increased physical conditioning. In fact the players have done so much running that some of them are beginning to think they are on the track team.

It is my opinion that this is just what the team needed, for the first time in many years the players are really hitting and what's more relishing the contact.

Many of the Bombers fans may be wondering what exactly the team is doing at about 7:00 o'clock each evening. For your information they are being put through a specializing form of Circuit Training set up by Professor Walters of the Physical Education Department.

The Circuit consists of 10 football orientated events. There are 3 levels red or (softies) green, (tough-guys), and Black (pros.) Each of these levels, is divided into 3 parts Red 1-2-3.

Each player starts at Red 1. At each section they must perform the designed exercises with the correct number of repetitions.

Each player must complete the circuit 3 times each night. When they have done so under 14 minutes for two days in a row they can move up a section.

To date there are only 3 players at Green 2. Coach Nelson has now set a time limit on the circuit. All must be in Green section in two weeks.

Even Jack (the Duck) Dedman is working hard to get out of the softy zone. He is followed closely by Rolley Labonte and Mike Ross. Gabe Barban and Pete Bjorn are the top linemen in the green zone.

In the next issue the leaders in the circuit will be posted along with the summeries of our wins, Saint Dunstons, Saint Mary's and Acadia.

J. V. FOOTBALL

SAT. OCT. 12

1:30