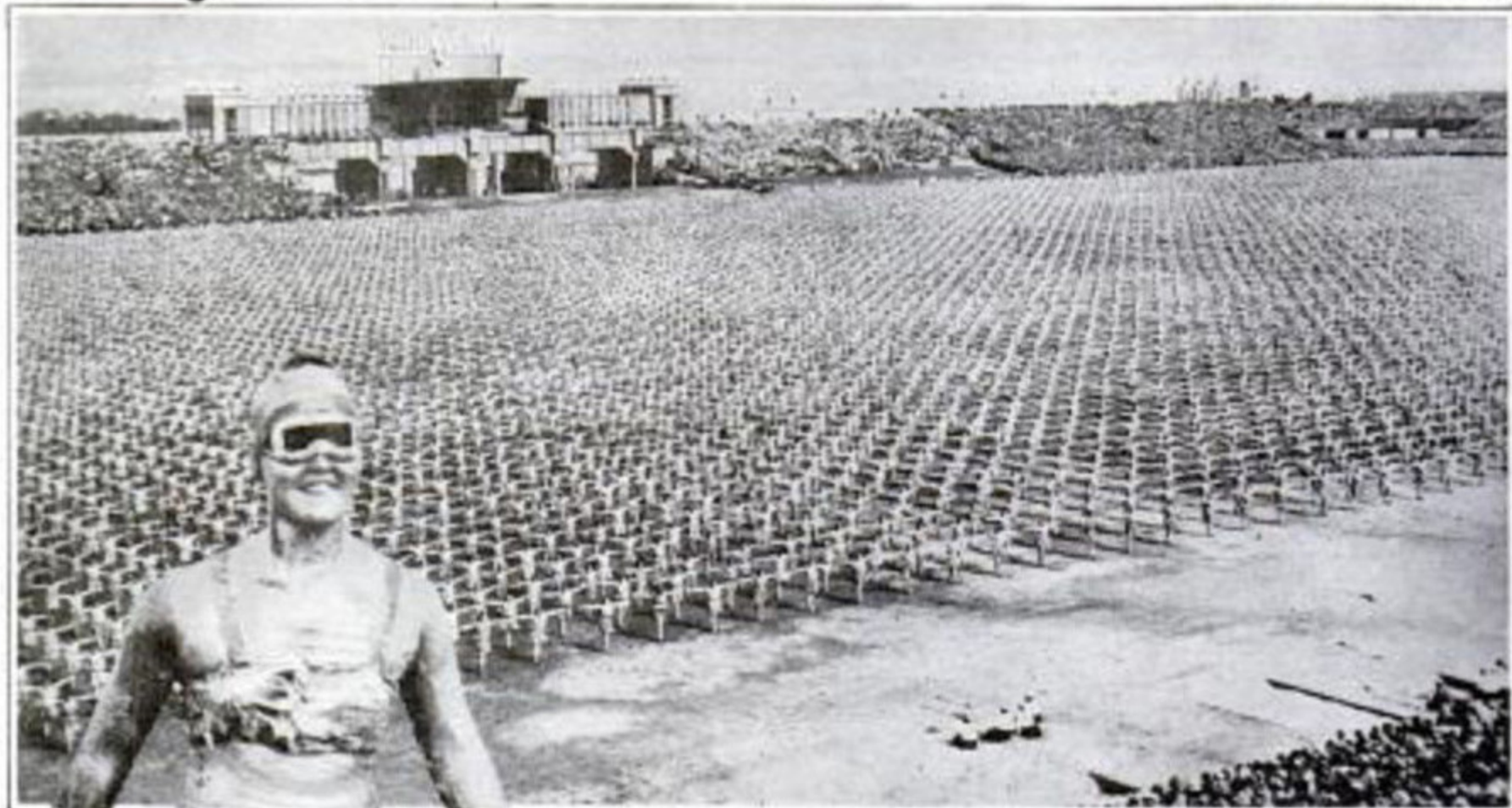


# Why MEN Beat WOMEN



Building a New Race of Women

The new interest of women throughout the world in athletics is strikingly shown by this remarkable picture of 14,400 young girls in a stadium in Prague, exercising to music



## She Beat Men!

Nineteen-year-old Gertrude Ederle, as she entered the water to swim the English Channel. She outswam all previous swimmers, but a man soon broke her record.

## Suzanne Beats Women

The greatest woman tennis player in the world has been beaten repeatedly by many second-rate men stars



**G**REASE-SMEARED and weary, but smiling, Miss Gertrude Ederle waded dripping from the dark and chilly Straits of Dover one evening recently, and walked into the ruddy glare of the driftwood fires burning in her honor on the beach at Kingston—the first woman to swim the English Channel.

This broad-shouldered and stouthearted American girl had good reason to smile. She had done more than win the high honor of being the first of her sex to swim the twenty-one-mile stretch of current-wracked and storm-swept salt water that up to then had defeated all but five of the many powerful male swimmers who had challenged its might; more than set a new record of 14 hours 31 minutes for the nautical passage from Cape Gris-Nez in France to the English coast.

For the first time in sport history a woman had out-done man's best in a task demanding to the full the qualities of speed, stamina, skill, and red, raw courage.

Within a few weeks another woman, Mrs. Clemington Corson (Mille Gade) of New York, mother of two children, struggled through the breakers beneath the white Dover cliffs and strode up the beach the second woman to swim the Channel. Her time for the crossing was an hour slower than Miss Ederle's, yet it surpassed by an hour the record of Sebastian Tiraboschi, fastest of the male Channel swimmers up to that time.

More than one man rubbed his eyes dazedly. Woman, having made good her invasion of many other fields of endeavor once wholly masculine, now was competing against man on equal terms in sport—and beating him at the hardest of his own games! The male's world-old boast of physical superiority seemed to have become decidedly shaky.

**A**ND then, forty-eight hours after the news of Mrs. Corson's feat was broadcast to the world, the Channel was conquered again, this time by a man, Ernst Vierkoetter, of Germany, in the fastest time ever, 12 hours, 43 minutes—an hour and forty-eight minutes better than "Trudy" Ederle had done. Less than two weeks later another man, Georges Michel, of France, bettered Vierkoetter's time by one hour and thirty-eight minutes—or three hours and twenty-six minutes faster than Miss Ederle's.

Which was as it should be, for, despite male fears and feminine achievement, man remains supreme in sports, and, in the opinion of many experts well qualified to judge, will remain supreme in sports for many generations—probably forever.

Why?



# at SPORTS

*Feminine Stars Who Make World Gasp Still Lag Behind Men, and Always Will—Experts Tell Why*

By ARTHUR GRAHAME

Although it is only in the last few years that the doings of women sport stars have been featured in our newspapers, there is nothing new in women's participation in some of the highly competitive athletic sports. Our first women's national tennis championship was held almost forty years ago. Our first women's national golf championship was played back in 1893. In 1904 Miss May Sutton found it possible to play really high-class tennis even while handicapped by a voluminous duck skirt that flapped about her ankles and a shirt waist with wide sleeves. Women proved their love for sport by engaging in it while wearing the clothes they had to wear in those days!

WHILE tennis and golf were possible—if uncomfortable—in the "sport" clothes of the early years of the current century, speed swimming and track and field athletics, the two other branches of sport in which the woman of today has shown the most interest and the greatest ability, were next to impossible. No girl could run fast or swim fast while hampered in every movement by the clinging folds of useless cloth demanded by a convention of false modesty. It was not until the dawn of the present "jazz" age disclosed the startling fact that girls have legs like other people that woman discarded the senseless athletic clothing that had hampered her, and began to make real progress in sports.

That progress has been startlingly rapid, but in every sport there still remains a big gap between the best performances of men and the best performances of women. And

in the opinion of most sport experts, women athletes will never be able to close that gap.

It is in swimming that women have approached most closely to the masculine standard. Miss Ederle, indeed, has surpassed that standard in some swims in open water. But in the shorter events the men lead by a good margin. Miss Mariechen Wehseleau's women's world record for 100 yards is 1 minute 3 seconds; Johnny Weissmuller's men's world record is 32 2/3 seconds. Miss Ederle's record for 130 yards is 1 minute 45 seconds; Weissmuller's record is 1 minute 27 2/3 seconds.

LOUIS DE B. HANDLEY is considered to be the world's greatest authority on swimming. As volunteer coach of the Women's Swimming Association of New York he developed Gertrude Ederle and many other record-breaking girl swimmers. I asked him if women ever would be as fast as men in the water.

"No," said Mr. Handley, "they will not. There are biological differences that make it impossible. A woman's bodily conformation causes too great resistance to her progress through the water. Even the extremely thin woman is handicapped heavily by this fundamental bodily difference. At present there is a difference of ten seconds in a hundred yards between the fastest man and the fastest woman



Coming Ahead with Giant Strides

Helen Filkey, America's champion woman all-round athlete, hurdling in excellent form. Women track and field athletes will always lag behind men, experts say, because of their inferior speed, strength, and stamina.

swimmer. Possibly some woman sometime will be able to lessen that difference, but no woman speed swimmer ever will be able to equal the records of men."

"That being so," I asked, "how do you account for Miss Ederle's remarkable time for the Channel swim?"

"At the time she made the swim," he said, "Gertrude Ederle was the fastest swimmer, man or woman, who ever had attempted to swim the Channel. Men of Weissmuller's type are much faster than she is, but they lack endurance for so long a swim. Women have one great advantage over most men for distance swimming—they have more fatty tissue on their bodies, and this fatty tissue increases their buoyancy, increases their endurance, and protects them from cold. Good women swimmers are being developed all the time. But the fastest of them never can hope to be as fast as the fastest men. Man will hold on to his present advantage in the water."

GOLF would seem to be one widely popular sport in which women and men could meet on an equal footing, for in golf skill is of much greater value than strength. Yet in golf the gap between the best women and the best men is as wide as in other sports.

Speaking of her match with Miss Joyce Wethered in the British women's championship last year, Miss Glenna Collett, our national champion in 1922 and again in 1925, remarked that Miss Wethered "is as perfect a golfer as a woman can be with the handicap of being a woman." Asked if she thought that a woman golfer ever would be able to beat a man, she countered by replying: "I'd hate to be able to beat a man!"

Miss Collett is known as "the girl who can drive like a man." She can, in fact, drive a longer ball than most men—she averages about 200 yards off the tee—but her drives stop fifty or sixty yards short of the

(Continued on page 152)



A Diminishing Handicap

Two pictures of May Sutton Bundy, former women's tennis champion: in the approved tennis costume of twenty years ago, and as she is today. Women's progress in tennis has kept pace with the abbreviation of her skirts. Short as they are now, they are still a handicap





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## Why Men Beat Women at Sports

(Continued from page 31)

mighty wallops of long-hitting men stars. That is one of the reasons why good men golfers beat good women golfers—their superior driving ability, the result of greater strength and usually of better timing, makes it possible for them to get closer to the green with their first shots.

But it is not only in driving that men golfers are superior. They have more finality—more finishing punch—than women. Their short game is better. Women golfers—with a few outstanding exceptions, of whom Miss Collett is one—do not hit their approach shots with the same confidence as do the male stars. And, strangely, in putting, a golfing art that requires no strength at all but much delicacy of touch, gentle woman is completely outclassed by blundering, heavy-fisted man!

QUITE possibly women labor under a temperamental handicap on the links. Golf is a game that demands many decisions, and decisions which when once made must be acted on with confidence. Women never have been remarkable for the ability to make up their minds quickly, and to keep them made up. This lack of decision may account to some extent for the undisputed fact that men can beat women playing golf.

Outshining all the other colorful personalities who have adorned our sport pages and illustrated supplements during the last eight years is Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen, greatest of woman tennis players.

Suzanne has been no blushing violet of the fields of sport. Possessed of the stormy temperament of the conventional prima donna, coupled with the publicity sense of a high-priced press agent, she has kept herself before the eyes of the world. Speed of foot unusual in a woman, sound strokes, and a fine tennis brain kept her the almost undisputed queen of the amateur courts until, a few weeks ago, she startled the tennis world with the announcement that she had become a professional, and was going to tour America under the management of Mr. Charles Pyle.

Mlle. LENGLEN is the world's best woman tennis player, but she is a long, long way from being the best tennis player in the world. Big Bill Tilden is reported to have beaten her in love sets, without taking his sweater off. Little Bill Johnston and a dozen other male stars undoubtedly could dispose of her quite as handily. She has been beaten, in more or less friendly matches, by several third-class men players. There probably are at least two hundred men in various parts of the world who could beat her.

Women's tennis has been much over-rated. Action pictures of woman stars in play give the impression that their game is as fast as the men's game. It isn't anything like as fast. Mlle. Lenglen has a certain degree of speed of foot, but little speed of stroke. (Continued on page 153)

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Read Interesting article on Page 4. "How \$100 a Month, Invested Properly, Can Make You Independent."



## Why Men Beat Women at Sports

(Continued from page 152)

She wins her matches against other women by being able to reach their best shots and send them back safely; most of her points are won on her opponents' errors. A man of Tilden's caliber would put so much speed on the ball that she could do nothing with it even when she reached it, which would be seldom.

Miss Helen Wills, our ex-champion, gets good pace on her ground strokes when her opponent allows her to get comfortably set for them, but she is painfully slow of foot. Any of the really good men players could rip her game to pieces by forcing her to run after the ball.

One explanation of men's ability to beat women in tennis is that usually men are taller and heavier than women. But that explanation becomes no explanation at all when we think of Billy Johnston. No taller, and considerably lighter than Miss Wills, her fellow Californian can hit a forehand drive as hard as any man, and a lot harder than any woman, in tennis.

**M**EN tennis players beat women tennis players because the men have greater speed of foot, more endurance, greater hitting power, and—nine times out of ten—greater tactical ability. Can you imagine any woman ever being able to play the sort of tennis that "Red" McLoughlin played to defeat the great Norman Brookes by the score of 17-15, 6-3, 6-3 in the Davis Cup matches of 1914? During every one of those fifty hard-fought games "Red Mac" went storming in to the net behind every service and behind almost every ground stroke. No woman who ever lived could have stood that strain.

Women's interest in track and field athletics is, to a great extent, a post-war development. For some years a few girls' schools and colleges had encouraged this branch of sport, but it was not until 1922 that the Amateur Athletic Union took over the government of the sport, and open competition became common.

**W**HILE they have made great progress in the spiked-shoe game, their best efforts still are a long way behind the efforts of second-rate male athletes. The women's world record for 100 yards is 11 seconds, made by Miss Fanny Rosenfeldt of Toronto last year. Almost any boy high school runner can equal that mark. The women's record for 220 yards is 27 4/5 seconds, 7 seconds slower than the men's.

The women's record for the running broad jump is 18 feet, the men's record is 25 feet 10 3/4 inches. The women's record for putting the 8-pound shot is 38 feet 3 3/4 inches; twenty years ago the gigantic Ralph Rose tossed that weight 67 feet 7 inches. The men's official discus weighs 4 pounds 6 3/4 ounces. Jim Duncan threw it 156 feet 1 3/4 inches to make the present record. The women's official discus weighs 2 pounds 12 3/4 ounces. At this year's championships Miss Lillian Copeland set a new record with a throw of 101 feet 1 inch. (Continued on page 154)

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## Why Men Beat Women at Sports

(Continued from page 153)

George Vreeland, chairman of the athletic committee of the Prudential Insurance Company Athletic Association of Newark, New Jersey, has, as a volunteer coach, trained many successful girl athletes, among them Miss Hazel Kirk, joint holder of the record for the 60-yard hurdles. I asked him if women track athletes ever would become as good as men athletes.

"I DON'T think that there is a chance of it," he said. "Girl runners have improved greatly in the last few years, and they will continue to improve, but I doubt if they ever will develop the strength to compete with men on equal terms. You know how untrained girls run on the street—almost waddle. It is astonishing how quickly they get over that when they put on spiked shoes—how they learn to stride right out like a man."

"Competitive temperament? Yes, they have every bit as much as men. And they're every bit as good sports. They like to win, of course, but the track game soon teaches them how to lose gracefully. There is an exception now and then—but I've seen one or two men athletes who weren't good losers!"

"Women have to be trained rather more carefully than men—they can't stand as much work, and must be brought along more slowly."

I ASKED Mr. Vreeland if any outstanding girl athlete had been developed in the United States.

"Probably the best all-around girl athlete we have developed in America is Miss Helen Filkey, of Chicago. In the 1925 national women's championships in Pasadena she won three events—the 100 yards, the running broad jump, and the 60-yard hurdles. Possibly she could have done even better than that, but no girl athlete is permitted to compete in more than three events in one day."

"Just how much women will be able to improve their track records is a matter for guessing. In the 100 yards, for example, a second has been clipped off since 1922. But the next second will be harder. I doubt if any woman ever will run the hundred in ten seconds flat. In fact, I doubt if a woman ever gets under 10 2/5 seconds."

Men, it seems, are able to beat women in sports just because they are men, endowed by nature with superior qualities of speed, strength, and stamina!

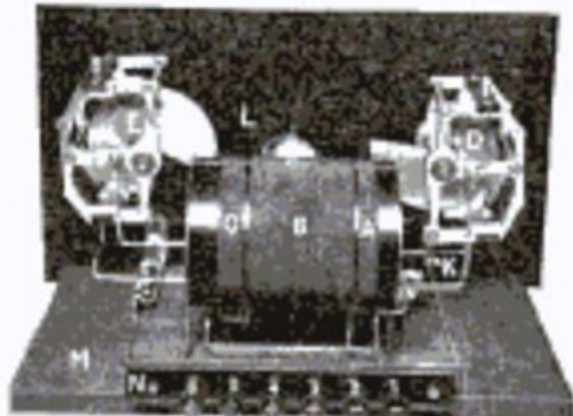
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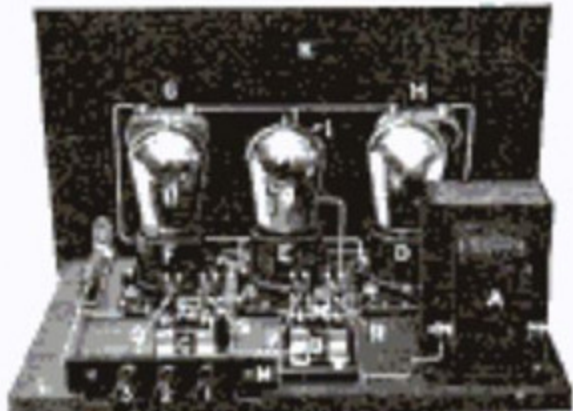
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