

MURPHY HAS GREAT PRAISE FOR DREW

Famous Trainer Willing to Back Springfield Sprinter Against the World.

COLORED BOY BACK HOME

High School Star Tells of His Experiences in Stockholm.

As unpretentiously as he left town the latter part of June, so returned Howard P. Drew, the Springfield high school athlete yesterday afternoon from Sweden where he went with the victorious American team of athletes to the Olympic games in Stockholm. With Drew on the same train, which pulled into the Union station yesterday afternoon, was Peter S. Dolfen, another Springfield man, who went with the pistol team that proved its match against the best in the world.

Drew hasn't changed a bit. He regrets above everything else that an injury to the muscle in the fleshy part of his left leg prevented him from competing in the finals of the 100-meter flat race, especially because he was the logical winner of the event. However, the colored boy consoles himself with the thought that an American won the event and consequently it did not make any great difference whether or not he or someone else ran in the event. Drew would have liked to compete and to have won the final heat of the race and it is perfectly natural that he should feel as he does.

Drew's own story of his part in the Olympic games is perhaps best told by himself. There is an undercurrent of regret that he was not the man to win the 100 and 200-meter dashes, but that is the natural part of the story.

"There was no seasickness on the trip over, although the journey was a trifle tedious," he said yesterday. "We all kept working out each day and by the time Antwerp was reached were glad to get on shore and work out on the turf track that was placed at our disposal. We were there two days and after the workouts laid off until we reached Stockholm.

"It was on the second day after our arrival at Stockholm that Murphy gave us a time trial. I did the 100 meters in 10 3-5 seconds, according to Mike Murphy's watch, other watches caught me in 10 2-5 seconds and another in 10 4-5 seconds, all in world's record time. There were a number of foreigners watching the trials and after our workouts that day, it was believed that I would win the 100 meters without any difficulty. This was on a Monday.

"Tuesday was a cold day and I sat around on the concrete benches in the stadium with the result that I caught cold. My leg muscles began to bother me a bit, and I told Murphy about it. He sent me to the Finland and told me to stay on board the ship until the day of the games. Two days after that it warmed up and I went to the stadium and took a workout. Murphy bandaged my leg and when the first trial heat came, I seemed to be in first class shape.

"There were no fast men in my heat and I took things easy. In the semi-final heat I figured that I might as well go after a record as I appeared to be all right, although I was up against two fast Americans, Courtney and Gebhart, both of whom have been clocked in flat time in the 100.

"I went out of my holes strong and soon had a lead of six yards. About half the distance I struck a piece of soft track and all of a sudden I felt my muscles in the fleshy part of my left leg give way and I finished the heat hopping. I had such a big lead that the others in the race could not pass me.

"Mike Murphy, when he saw what had happened, came to me and said: 'I wouldn't have had this happen for \$500. There is nothing to do now. The leg was baked in salt water, but that did not seem to do much good and I was out of the remainder of the events in which I had been entered. It was pretty tough I can tell you, after getting away so well.'

Trainer Murphy told Drew that he thought the runner could beat the fastest sprinter he ever handled and when one takes the trouble to look over the list of flyers that Murphy has handled, Murphy must figure Drew to be about the fastest man that ever donned spiked shoes in this country. Murphy has had them all in the last decade.

Every effort was made to get Drew's leg in shape for the 200 meters event. The limb was artificially numbed and at one time it was thought that cocaine might be tried with success, but this was given up. All of the athletes who came at all in contact with Drew were free to express their regrets over the unfortunate occurrence. Drew was kept out of the 200 meters for the reason that Trainer Murphy felt that permanent injury might result from the attempt.

Swedish students took a hand in giving Drew a good time when they learned of the accident and took him to their homes and showed him all of the pleasure places in that section of the country. Drew says that he had the time of his life and is mighty glad that he was able to make the trip.

According to the Springfield boy, Ralph Craig, the winner of the 100 and 200-meter dashes, will quit the running game. He has been out of college for two years and his business will not permit him to keep in training. For this reason, Craig will not appear against Drew in the Scottish games in this city. He also says that Reidpath, the Syracuse athlete, and Edmunson are to retire from the running game.