

1974 AAU JUNIOR OLYMPIC EDITION

CHEVY APPOINTS YOUTH DIRECTOR

The Chevrolet Motor Company, sponsor of the National AAU Junior Olympic Multisport Championships, has named Donald R. Jones, its Director of Youth Activities, on the retirement of Mason Bell served in that position for 10 years.

A native of Indianapolis, Ind., Mr. Jones has served Chevrolet in many capacities since 1946. He was Administrator in Parts and Accessories Sales and Promotions at the time of the appointment.

As announced in the September issue of AAU News, Mason Bell has joined the National Office of the AAU as Director of Sports Development with emphasis on liaison with industry.

'OH BROTHER'

At least six sets of brothers and sisters competed in the AAU-Chevy JO Multisport Nationals at the University of Nebraska. Marie and Sara White of California teamed up to win gold medals in the synchro duet competition. New Jersey's Preston brothers, Mark and Greg, entered the freestyle wrestling events, along with Jim and Tim Clark of New Mexico.

Diving had a brother-sister act in Ben and Denise Christensen of Arizona. Trampoline's Region XIII entries were Doug and Michiko Dawkins of California. A Pair of swift sisters---Barbara and Mary Macleod of Minnesota---entered the track and field competition.

Peggy Liddick of Lincoln, Neb., waited for AAU Vice President Joel Ferrell to call for the lighting of the Olympic flame to officially open the 1974 National AAU-Chevrolet Junior Olympic Multisport Championships at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Photo by Ken Merlin.

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Lincoln Hosts Junior Olympics

MULTISPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS ATTRACT 1,519

On August 9-12, 1,519 teenaged athletes from throughout the United States assembled at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln for the 1974 National AAU-Chevrolet Junior Olympic Multisport Championships. The youngsters had earned the right to compete in the eighth annual event by winning in local, state, and regional competition. The record turnout of athletes more than doubled the number of competitors at last year's event at the University of Michigan. The sports contested were track and field, swimming, diving, gymnastics, trampoline, synchronized swimming, wrestling, and judo.

Opening ceremonies took place on Friday, August 9, at the Ed Weir Track on the University of Nebraska campus. Bob Devaney, UN Athletic Director and former Cornhusker football coach, was master of ceremonies. Mike Burton, the 1972 Olympic swimming champion, read the Olympic Creed to the competitors. AAU President Dave Rivenes, Nebraska Lt. Governor Frank Marsh, Lincoln Mayor Sam Schwartzkopf and Donald Jones, newly appointed Chevrolet Director of Youth Activities, addressed the audience. Jones told the athletes, coaches, and spectators that Chevrolet was proud to sponsor the Amateur Athletic Union's sports development program, which has produced some of the top national and international American athletes.

Chevrolet, as national sponsor of the meet, provided for the transportation of all athletes, swimmers accepted. In addition, Chevrolet funds paid for all the athletes; room and board and their medals

The ceremonies drew to a dramatic close as Joel Ferrell, Vice President of the AAU and National Junior Olympic Chairman, called for the symbolic lighting of the Olympic torch. Peggy Liddick, a Nebraska runner, circled the track. "With the lighting of the Olympic flame," said Ferrell, "I declare these Junior Olympic Games open!" With those words, Miss Liddick lit the torch. The crowd of 4,000 gave her a standing ovation.

Along with Mike Burton, several prominent amateur athletes were on hand for the events, including divers Dick Rydze and Captain Micki King, swimmer Donna DeVarona, gymnast Linda Metheny, trampolinists, Mark Langeneckert and Ronnie Merriott and Ralph Boston and Bill Toomey of track and field fame. Toomey and Boston were in town to assist in filming the meet for CBS TV's Sports Spectacular. Highlights of the competition appeared on national television that Sunday.

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The record number of athletes was due to the addition of two new sports---wrestling and synchronized swimming---and a rule change that allowed swimmers to enter the nationals by meeting time standards rather than qualifying through regional meets.

Hundreds of volunteers from Lincoln, under the direction of Dr. Richard Hammer, meet coordinator, had been preparing the meet since last fall. The efforts paid dividends as AAU and Chevrolet officials called the meet “the biggest and best” in the 25-year history of the AAU Junior Olympic Program.

From 1967 until last year, only one regional qualifier per event had been allowed to enter the National AAU-Chevrolet Junior Olympic Swimming Championship. This year the rules were changed, permitting swimmers to qualify through time standards.