

Miss Coachman Soars To Olympic Win

Miss Coachman--Champion

ALICE COACHMAN, a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute High School and a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute two-year college course in home economics, set a new Olympic and world record in the high jump with a leap of 5 feet 6- $\frac{1}{4}$ inches at London last week. The New York Herald Tribune of Sunday, August 8, 1948 said:

"The women's closing track and field program was distinguished in its final moment as the rains came again by the first American triumph. Alice Coachman of Albany, Ga., a twenty-four-year-old Tuskegee graduate engaged in a duel that transfixed the entire crowd of 82,000 to the bitter end. Because she was jumping against a British woman, Mrs. Dorothy Tyler. They both cleared five feet six and an eighth inch breaking the Olympic record shared by Babe Didrikson and Jean Shiley of the United States, sixteen years ago. But Alice cleared it on her first try and had fewer misses and won the Olympic title from Mrs. Tyler. Mrs. Tyler who as Miss Odom, also tied the winner but took second twelve years ago."

In her first and second year high school days; she was a good high jumper. In her third and fourth years, she was gradually converted into a sprinter. This was done by having her run on the "B" relay team. Her first major triumph in the high jump was at the women's outdoor track and field championships at Waterbury, Conn. in 1939. As a youngster of fourteen years, she leaped 5 feet 2 inches to win the event.

Beginning here, she continued to win the high jump each year since, reaching her great peak at the Olympic trials July 12, 1948 at Providence, R. I., where she jumped 5 feet 4-13/16 inches only stopping because of darkness.

WON FIRST SPRINTER VICTORY IN 1942

As a sprinter, her first major triumph was in 1942 at the women's outdoor track and field championships held at Ocean City, N. J., with a time of 12.1 seconds for the 100 meter run. She next showed promise of greatness as a sprinter when she was beaten by a step in the 100-meter run at the women's

national outdoor track and field championships held at Lakewood, O., in 1943 by Stella Walsh. The time of 11.6 seconds equalled the world's record.

She scored her first victory over the great Stella Walsh at the women's national track and field championships at Harrisburg, Pa. in 1945. The time was 12 seconds flat. In the national championships in 1944, also held at Harrisburg, she equalled the world's record of 6.4 seconds for the 50 meter dash. She again defeated Stella Walsh in the 100 meter dash at the National Outdoor Track and Field Championships held at Buffalo, New York in 1946. The time was 12.3 seconds.

During her four years in the Tuskegee Institute High School, she was a member of the Tuskegee Institute choir, star forward on the girl's basketball team, was an excellent swimmer and tennis player and was a member of the Tuskegee Institute A. A. U. track and field group.

RETAINED YOUTHFUL PROWESS IN COLLEGE

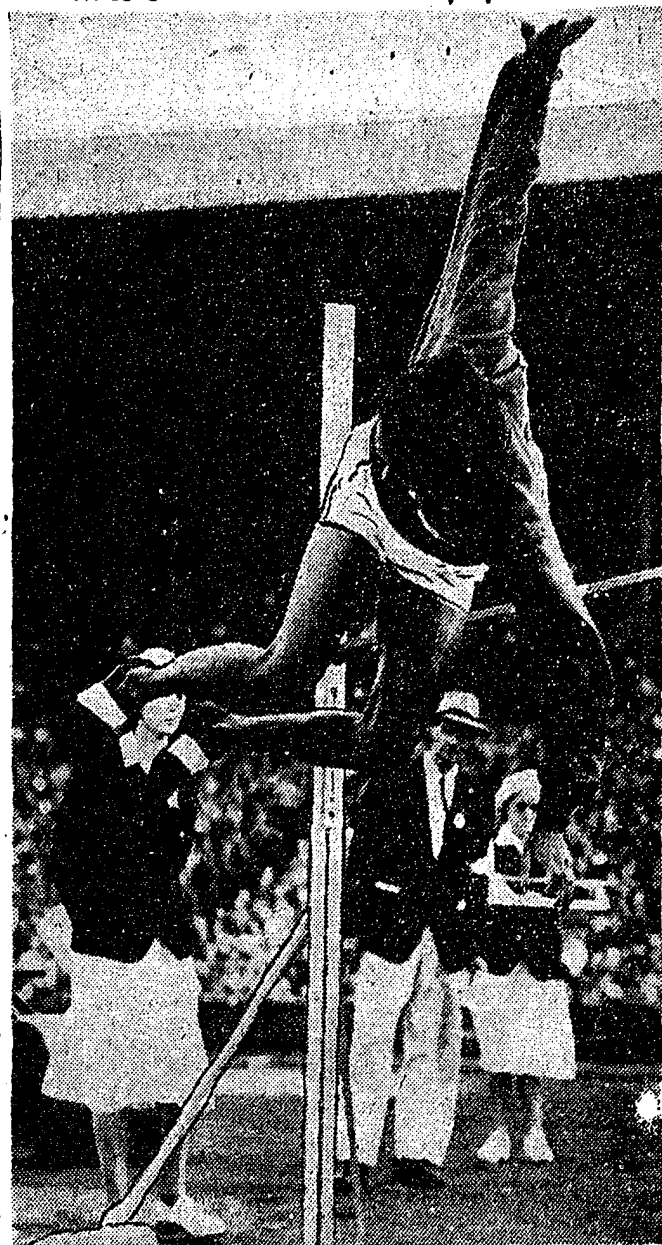
During her college days, she continued to carry over her high school activities. She was popular with the students and enjoyed the highest esteem of the faculty.

During her athletic career at Tuskegee Institute, she won 23 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals of the Amateur Athletic Union of United States. During her entire competition in National A. A. U. track and field events, she has won a total of 26 gold, 6 silver and 2 bronze medals. She also has won dozens of gold medals in local and intersectional meets.

Now, Miss Alice Coachman, daughter of an Albany, Ga., laundry worker, is a world champion, the only world champion woman track star produced by the United States during the 14th Olympiad.

Her championship has caused something of a precedent: Upon her return, Albany will turn out in her honor. A giant parade will be staged. She will wagon sent by the president of Albany College to be met at the docks in New York City by a station-meet her.

For Miss Coachman it has been a long grind.



Miss Alice Coachman of Albany, Ga., and Tuskegee Institute, goes up and over the bar to win the gold medal in the women's Olympic high jump competition. Miss Coachman won the event with a jump of 5 feet 6- $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, breaking the former Olympic record of 5 feet and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches set by Mildred (Babe) Didrikson in 1932. Mrs. D. J. Tyler of Great Britain went over the bar at the same height as Miss Coachman, but placed second because she had more misses.