

BRITAIN-FRANCE ATHLETICS AT WHITE CITY

10 French athletes for the 8th time since the war competed with Britain ~~at the White City~~. In the four-by-one mile relay the British team set a new world record. C. J. Chataway ran the first mile in 4 minutes, 11.8 seconds.

Chataway smartly handed the baton to Bill Nankeville. He was on the top of his form, taking only four minutes 6.6, the fastest mile he's ever run.

Don Seaman took over on the third leg.

Seaman, slower than Nankeville by more than eight seconds, was all in when he passed the baton to the long-striding champion Roger Bannister. He knew that a new ~~world~~ record was now up to him, and he nobly responded.

Here of the three-mile was 22-year-old Gordon Pirie. Even in the early stages this was clearly going to be another British victory.

Pirie beat his own British All-comers' record. If he'd been only five seconds faster (not much in three miles) he'd have beaten the world record.

France won the 100-yards.

Bonino's time - 9.9 seconds.

The half-mile was another triumph for Roger Bannister.

Lying third in this scene he ran a beautifully judged race.

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Half way in the second lap Bannister stepped on it, passed the famous dark-skinned El Mabrouk and had the race in his pocket.

Bannister's half-mile was his quickest ever, one minute, 50.7 seconds, only 1 and a half seconds slower than the world record ~~set before the war by Sidney Wooderson.~~

El Mabrouk, collapsing at the finish, was aided by Bannister who's a medical student. No charge, it came under the International Health Scheme.