

Local

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Manchester: Pirie does it again

18th Oct. 1955

Manchester: An international line-up for the Mancastrian Club Meeting at the White City Stadium, and flowers for the Lady Mayoress - presented by ~~Olympic Champion~~ ^{Olympic Champion} ~~the Mrs Zatopek~~ ^{Dana Zatopekova, an Olympic champion,} and Diane Leather - Britain's 1956 Olympic hope.

Thirty thousand fans welcomed this meeting of leading British and Czech athletes - (sponsored by the Manchester Evening ~~News~~ ^{Chronicle}) and they cheered home a local girl, Margaret Francis - who won the 100 yards in eleven-point-four seconds.

Winner of all her internationals this year, Thelma Hopkins cleared five feet five inches - to gain yet another victory.

The Zatopek family got off to a good start/- when Dana, with 151 feet ~~xxx~~ one inch, set up a British All-Comers record.

So to the highlight of the meeting - the Five Thousand Metres - with Emil Zatopek taking an early lead - hoping ~~xxxxxxxx~~ to gain his revenge... Earlier in the week, Pirie had beaten his friend and rival over Ten Thousand Metres for the first time. And now, on the advice of Zatopek - (given during the race) Gordon steps up the pace - going right out in front.

And despite a gallant last-lap effort by Zatopek - Gordon Pirie completes a great double - winning by thirty-five yards.

~~The race over~~ ^{And} - there's a consoling handshake for ~~xxxx~~ ^{the immortal Zatopek} for out of the fiercest track rivalry has been born a close international friendship