

GORDON PIRIE - ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.

Each morning a tall, almost frail-looking young man strides through Greydon to work; his name, Gordon Pirie. Britain's most brilliant athlete can be found in the Executor's and Trustee's department of a bank every day. Yet Pirie, here with bank manager Mr. Frayling, has won himself two world, two European and six Empire records in his spare time. Some of his many trophies stand on a desk at his home in Coulsdon.

Each week this twenty two year old wonder man receives training instructions by mail from his German coach, Woldemar Gerschler, whose advice has made many champions in the past. Recently Gerschler, who met Pirie at Helsinki, had a chance of coaching his new pupil personally at Freiburg. Here's the sort of style and rhythm that Gerschler believes can make Pirie the athlete of the century. One of Pirie's greatest assets is the fact that the rate of his normal heart-beats is only 39, compared with 78 of the average man.

Back at Coulsdon, Pirie continues his training each evening. 365 days a year, whatever the weather, he's out on the track for a 26 mile run. Interviewed by Pathe News about his prospects of achieving a mile in four minutes, Pirie says this:

And here is Zatopek. Pictures just released from behind the Iron Curtain of an international 5 kilometre race show the amazing Czech setting-up his latest record. Watch how he leans forward every now and again - that's a point that Pirie noticed when Pathe News showed him these pictures.

Gordon Pirie, recently elected "Athlete of the Year" aims, to topple Zatopek from his throne - and he'll keep on running 'till he's done it'