

INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING COMPETITIONS

The strongest athletes from Bulgaria, Iran, the Chinese People's Republic, Poland, the United States of America, Finland, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union arrive in Moscow at the invitation of the USSR heavy athletics' section. The International individual weightlifting contests open with a parade of athletes from eight countries on March the 8th at the Palace of Sports of the Lenin Central Stadium in Moscow. Greetings to the participants are extended by Vladimir Simakov, Chairman of the USSR Heavy Athletics Section, and Mr. Bruno Nyberg, President of the International Federation for Weightlifting and Physical Culture.

The first to compete are athletes of the feather weight category (up to 56 kg.). On the dais is Marian Jankowski, the Polish champion. After two exercises (the press and snatch) student Stepan Ulyanov of the USSR, world record holder, outstrips his closest rival Tchen Tsing-kai, from China, in the two hands press - by 12.5 kilograms. However, the Chinese athlete soon liquidates Ulyanov's advantage in the excellent jerk exercise and captures first place. The winners are presented with token cups, of the USSR Heavy Athletics section.

The next to compete are the bantam-weights up to 60 kg. Ali Safa Sumbeli of Iran, a prize winner at the world championship, is pressing now...

In this category the better man proves to be Evgeny Minayev of the USSR, world champion and record holder. His total for the three exercises is 355 kg. He captures first place. Marian Zieliński - is third.

Some of the world's strongest athletes now compete in the light-weight category (up to 67.5 kg.). After a two hour struggle Viktor Bushnev of the USSR, world champion and record holder, who works as a plumber at the Gorky Hydropower Station, and Huang Kiang-yu, champion of the Chinese People's Republic, get the same result in the total for the three exercises - 382.5 kg. However, the first place goes to the Chinese athlete as he is 100 grams lighter than his rival. Third place goes to Ivan Abajiyev, from Bulgaria.

On the next day in the middle-weight event the Soviet student Fyodor Bogdanovsky, 16 Olympic champion and world record holder, meets with the American athlete Tommy Kono, the world and Olympic champion. At the last competitions in Teheran, Bogdanovsky and Kono had the same results in the total for the three exercises. However, Kono was declared the winner as he was somewhat lighter than his rival. Today in the two hands press Bogdanovsky and Kono show the same result - 152.5 kg. But in the snatch and jerk events Kono's result in each exercise is 2.5 kg. better than Bogdanovsky's and with a total of 417.5 kg. Kono wins first place. Jan Bochenek of Poland - is third.

Light-heavyweight Rudolf Plyukfelder of the USSR, an electrician working in a mine, is on 15 kg. ahead of his Chinese rival Chao Chin-kuai.

Irenush Polinski of Poland - is third.

In the middleweight category the main struggle was going on between the Soviet doctor Arkady Vorobyov, repeated champion, the Iranian doctor Hasan Rahnavardi, a prize winner at the World championship, and Ivan Veselinov, the Bulgarian champion. While Rahnavardi was giving a fine performance and has set up a new national record, in the total for the three exercises he lost 25 kilograms to Vorobyov. The Bulgarian athlete Veselinov is third.

In the heavy weight (up to 90 kg.), Engineer Eino Makinen of Finland took second place with a total weight of 440 kilograms. Dentist Vaslav Syrevy of Czechoslovakia, who is third, has set up a new national record in the total for the three exercises. Alexei Medvedev of the USSR, world champion, has outstripped his closest rival by 50 kg. and has set up a new USSR clean and jerk record of 188 kilograms.

Twelve national records have been set up during these interesting weightlifting competitions.