



Joe DEAKIN

90 years old, Olympic Athletics Champion in 1908

“As long as I can walk, I shall run”....
he said

"He had to do 6ft 4in to equal him, and that wanted some doing then. Nothing like this American now jumping backwards landing on his head. That wouldn't have been allowed then. We would have called it acrobatting".

MY THREE OLYMPIC DAYS IN 1908

In 1908 Deakin was selected for the Olympic Games in the 1,500m three miles team race and five miles - a formidable programme

"And there was no blinking village for competitors. I had to travel on bus and tube every day with my bag, getting home about 9.30 at night".

On the first day he won his 1,500m heat; on the second he finished equal first in the the three miles heat at 4 p.m. and sixth in the 1,500m final at 5.20 p.m. Before this event he was told, "Take it easy, and reserve yourself for the three miles final". At 11.30 a.m. on the third day of the Games the runners appeared for the three miles, among them the brilliant Frenchman, Jean BOUIN, a future World record-holder

"We ran him off his legs. If anyone went up to the front, I shot in front and slowed them up for my other two pals, you see, and then about two or three hundred yards from home somebody called out through a megaphone, "Go on Joe, the Yankees are behind you!" So of course I shot off. and EISELE, the American champion, came with me, and I went at a hell of a pace. He'd just about had enough before we came into the straight and I eventually won by about 50 yards. Then it was lunch, and the five miles after that I went and had a big steak and a bottle of champagne and then came back on the track for the five miles. I said " Don't make it too hot MURPHY, and I'll tryàand keep up with you", but he wanted to win, so I let him go and I walked off the track. I'd had enough".

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