

The North American Scottish Games Association is dedicated to the promotion and understanding of Scottish Athletics. Published quarterly at \$3.00/year.

Forward: Gatherings of the clans and the accompanying contests of athletic skill have been popular in Scotland for well over a thousand years according to some authorities. Over the years the martial aspect of these gatherings gave way to a country fair type atmosphere with an emphasis on athletic contests, Highland Dancing, and bagpipe playing. In the early part of the 19th century, Queen Victoria, realizing the considerable loyalty of her Scottish subjects and their value to the Empire, gave her blessing to the Games by attending the Braemar Gathering. Traditionally, the reigning monarch has attended these Games annually since then (all Games were suspended during war years).

From the 1820's until today the Games have swollen in number to about one hundred per year in Scotland although roughly forty are considered on the Heavyweight circuit.

In the United States within the last few years many Scottish Games have begun in areas particularly high in Scots ancestry and this year alone will see Bath, N.Y.; Savannah, GA.; and possibly Jacksonville, Fl. will join such "oldtimers" as Grandfather Mtn., N.C. and the Caladonian Club of San Francisco's annual gathering in Santa Rosa, California.

#### Explanation of Selected Events:

1. Stone Toss: Tossing or putting a stone which may weigh from 16 lbs. to 28 lbs. requires a good deal of skill in holding the stone, moving or gliding with it in position and delivering a timed thrust. Only those men who can combine this skill with strength and speed can become proficient in the event.

Stones of varying sizes and weights have been tossed in Europe for centuries as a means of contesting individual strengths. The Shotput grew directly out of these stone throwing contests. It is reputed that Henry VIII was one of the better stone tossers of his day.

Nowadays the stone toss or clachneart is usually the first event in a Games. It is thrown from a dirt or grass area seven feet six inches long and behind a trig or wooden tie four feet six inches long and about six inches high. The throw is measured from the center of the trig to the first mark made by the

stone in the ground.

2. Weights for Distance: The 28# and 56# weights were standard measurements (1/4 and 1/2 a hundredweight) in nineteenth century Scotland as they were readily available, they became the standards for some other strength contests.

The object is to throw the weight as far as possible with a one hand delivery. The weight is attached to a ring or triangular handle by means of a chain. The overall length of the implement should not exceed 18 inches, and a nine foot approach is allowed. The throw must be delivered from behind a 4'6" X 6" high trig and is measured from the point on the trig behind which the athlete has planted his left foot prior to the release of the weight (if he is a right handed thrower; and using the right foot plant if he is a left handed thrower). Furthermore, two sticks of roughly 1 1/2 feet each should be laid at 45 degree angles to the back and from each end of the trig and if the thrower touches the tops of these sticks, trig, or the ground outside this area, the throw shall be a foul. This method is used at several Games in Scotland, including The Argyllshire Gathering at Oban. As in all Heavy events, three throws per competitor are allowed in competition. Although it is up to the discretion of the field judge, each athlete should be given a minimum of three warmup throws per event.

Dunedin Scottish Games: March 26, 1977 Dunedin High School, Dunedin, Florida  
Field Events Chairman, Dr. Norman Ross; assisted by George L. Murray  
Attendance: 3000

Warm, sunny weather contributed to a good start for the Heavies at the first Games of the new year. Veteran athletes Ed McComas (Baltimore, Md.), Pete Hoyt (Altamonte Springs, Fla.), and Fred Vaughan (N. Myrtle Beach, S.C.) were joined by Bryant Robertson (Tampa) and several novice competitors in an exciting competition. After four events the top three men were separated by only six points; McComas 28, Vaughan 26, and Hoyt 22. The Championship was not decided until the final event, the 56 lb. wt. over the bar, which Vaughan won, giving him the trophy with 52 points to 50 for McComas.

McComas had two firsts and one PR. and Vaughan had four firsts and two PR.'s, a new U.S. Record (56# wt. Throw: 36'8") and a 4th attempt exhibition throw of 38'9" with the big weight. Hoyt finished third with 31 pts., a win in the Sheaf toss and four personal records. Hoyt also set a record of sorts by smashing the scorers table with the 56# wt. . This is the leading foul throw of the year and added some excitement to the afternoon.

All winning throws were Dunedin Games records and all events were thrown with the same implements used there in 1976.

28# wt.

Vaughan...75'6"  
McComas...67'5"  
Hoyt.....52'9"

56# wt.

Vaughan...36'8" \*(U.S. Record, old record 36'2";  
McComas...33'8" Vaughn, 1976, Stone Mtn, Ga.)  
Hoyt.....25'1"

Sheaf:

Hoyt.....21'6"  
McComas...21'6"  
Vaughan...20'3"

Caber:

McComas  
Hoyt  
Vaughan

22# Hammer:

Vaughan...80'5"  
McComas...79'3"  
Hoyt.....74'2"

16# Shot:

McComas...50'6 1/2"  
Vaughan...47'2 1/2"  
Hoyt.....41'4 1/4"

56# wt. for ht:

Vaughan...13'11"  
McComas...13'5"  
Hoyt.....11'11"

Overall Championship: Vaughan... 52 pts.; McComas... 50 pts.; Hoyt... 31 pts.