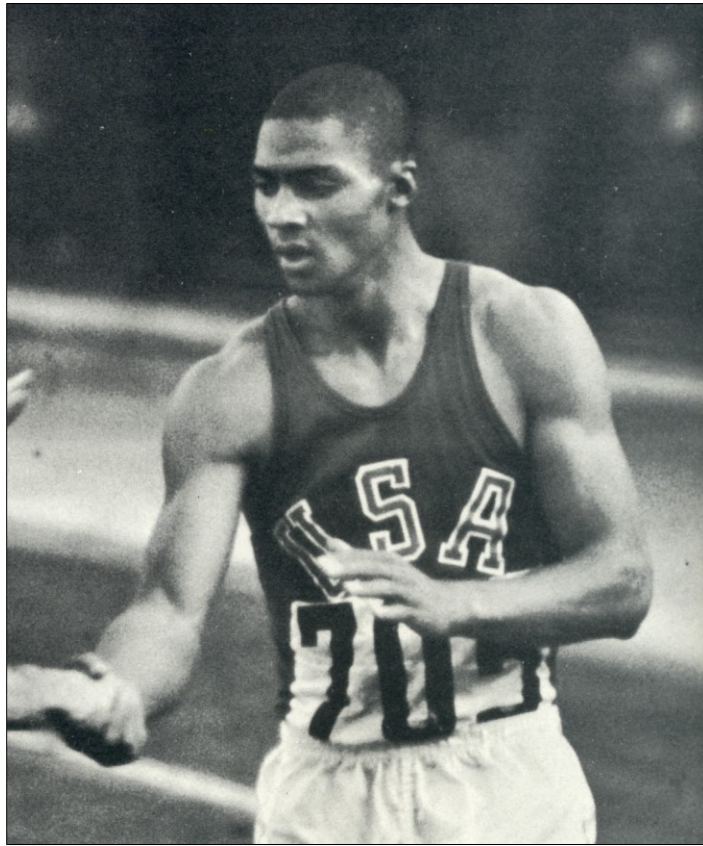


Henry Carr - Detroit Northwestern High School 1961



Henry Carr was large and powerful even as a 9th-grader at Southwestern, when he weighed in at 200lb. He won the West Side titles in both the 100 and 220 that year. The next season he won his first City titles, before transferring to Northwestern.

As a senior, he clocked 9.5 for 100 yards (only 17 men in the world were faster). In the 220y, run on the straightaway as was typical back then, he went 20.6. In a wind-aided race in Detroit on May 18, 1961, he blistered a 20.0. He never went to the state finals, because from 1931-61, Detroit schools did not participate in MHSAA events. In all, Carr won 3 City titles at 100, 2 in the 220, and 2 in the long jump.

At Arizona State, Carr won 1963 NCAA title at 200m in 20.5. He took 2nd in the NCAA 100 that year though the photo later showed that he won. The same year he ran 20.69w to tie for the USA title. Twice he ran World Records: an unrated 20.4 for 200m, and a 20.3 for 220y three days later in a college three-way meet. He hit 45.4 for 400, becoming the No. 6 man ever.

In 1964, Carr ran even faster, hitting a WR 20.2 for 220y, but missing the NCAA with an injury. At the Final Olympic Trials, Carr was assured of an Olympic spot as long as he demonstrated fitness. He finished 4th and his selection to the team was controversial.

In Tokyo, Carr delivered by winning the gold in the 200 in 20.36, an Olympic Record. "I didn't think it was that fast," he said. "This was the easiest of my races." He came back to anchor the United States team to victory in the 4 x 400, his 44.5 anchor—the fastest of the race—finishing off a World Record 3:00.7 for the Americans.

During his career, he earned 3 *Track & Field News* World Rankings at 100, topped by a No. 3 in 1963. In '63 and '64, he ranked No. 1 in the world at 200. He also made the World Rankings at 400 (No. 5 in '63). He would go on to play three seasons in the NFL for the New York Giants.

Michael Johnson wasn't the first man who could sprint both the 200 and the 400 well. Many experts feel that, had the schedule allowed, Carr would have won gold in both events some 32 years before Johnson completed the historic double in Atlanta.

Carr died May 29, 2015, in Georgia.



Carr winning the Olympic 200.



Carr taking off on the anchor leg of the gold medal 4 x 400. He split 44.5 on a dirt track.