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## AND STILL TRYING

**I**N the decade since Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile, so many have done the same thing that it no longer seems an unusual feat. Indeed, the list of sub-four minute miles has become so long that most record books, in noting the world's fastest miles, don't consider anything over 3:57 worthy of mention. Even at that, the list is long, and it reads like a "Who's Who" of track.

One name which pops up often is that of Jim Beatty. He's a stubby little fellow, but he has a big stride, an enormous drive and a fair amount of speed. At an age when most men are through with serious competition (29), Jim still works out regularly, still runs with the best, and still has competitive goals he wants to reach.

One of his prime targets is a gold medal in the Olympic Games, and he goes after it this year. Whether he tries for one at 1,500 meters or goes for the longer 5,000-meter run is still to be decided. In any event, if he, or any other American, wins one at either distance, it will be quite an accomplishment. No American has ever won at 5,000 meters, while only three have won at 1,500. And, if the latter seems like a creditable showing, it's deceiving. The last time an American took the metric mile was back when Teddy Roosevelt ruled the land (Mel Sheppard in 1908 to be exact). In other words, there's a unique spot awaiting some American in Tokyo this year. It could easily belong to Beatty.

Through hard work, Jim has developed from just a so-so collegiate runner into one of the outstanding runners in history. He holds the world record at two miles (8:29.8) and owns the fastest mile ever run by an American, a 3:55.5. That, unfortunately, wasn't a winning one as he came in second to New Zealand's Peter Snell who hit 3:55 in California last year. (For the record, another strong American runner, Dyrol Burleson, was third in 3:55.6). Beatty also has the fastest winning mile for an American, a flashing 3:56, and, until this last winter, held the indoor record at 3:58.6.

A foot injury sidelined Jim for most of the 1964 indoor season, but he should be back in time for the Olympic trials and a strong run at a medal in Tokyo.

In '63, Jim Beatty set indoor mile mark of 3:58.6. He may try 5,000 meters in Olympics.