

THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

APRIL 2001

VOLUME 102 • NUMBER 2



Publication of this issue is made possible
in part by the Frederick Horner Bunting
Publication Fund and

WACHOVIA

THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

APRIL 2001

VOLUME 102 • NUMBER 2

CONTENTS

- The Wit and Wisdom of Robert Quillen, 1887-1948**
by Marvin L. Cann 110
- Setting the Mark: Lucile Godbold and the
First International Track Meet for Women**
by Jane P. Tuttle 135
- On the Beat: Black Policemen in Charleston, 1869-1921**
by John Oldfield 153
- Book Reviews** 169
- Recently Processed Manuscripts** 191
- Memorials** 194

SETTING THE MARK: LUCILE GODBOLD AND THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TRACK MEET FOR WOMEN

JANE P. TUTTLE*

READERS OF THE STATE AWOKE ON AUGUST 21, 1922, TO THE news that Lucile Godbold of Estill had proudly represented South Carolina with her performance in the First International Track Meet for Women in Paris.¹ Twenty-one-year-old Lucile and her teammates successfully competed with seasoned athletes in Europe, but battled their most insidious opponents at home. The team met with hostility from national leaders in physical education, suffered from the absence of a national athletic governing body, and battled for financial support. By competing and succeeding in Paris, Lucile Godbold led the fight for acceptance of women in competitive sports.

Lucile sailed for Paris with the American team because her family and a mentor at Winthrop College encouraged her to use her natural athletic talents. Sarah, her older sister, participated in athletics while attending Winthrop and after graduating in 1919 became director of physical education at Chicora College in Columbia. Lucile followed Sarah to Winthrop, and found a friend and supporter in Mrs. Ruth Potwine Bartlett, Director of Physical Education. A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Mrs. Bartlett encouraged women's participation in athletics. Lucile's talents, especially in track and field, were evident as she set a world's record for the basketball throw and in the 100-yard low hurdles in 1920.² At a track meet on May 1, 1922, she set the American record in the 8 lb. shot put with her one-handed throw of 35 ft. 6 in.³ An official present to certify the 1922 meet events was impressed with what he called Lucile's "modesty and shyness," commenting that after her record setting throw, "a shout went up from the big crowd. [However,] Miss Goldbold girlishly laughed about the matter and lost herself in the crowd which gathered around her."⁴

At this time, athletic talent mattered little for women when wife and mother were their accepted societal roles. While women were changing society's attitudes by smoking and drinking in public, and shedding

Jane P. Tuttle is Head User Services Librarian, Edens Library, Columbia College. The author would like to thank the following for their support, comments and suggestions: John C. Pritchett, Margaret P. Ramsey, and Steve Tuttle.

¹"Estill Girl Sets New World Record," *Columbia (S.C.) State*, Monday, August 21, 1922, A, 1.

²"World records broken," *Winthrop Weekly News*, April 23, 1920, 1.

³"Winthrop College Track Meet," *Winthrop College News*, May 5, 1922, 4.

⁴Jasper C. Hutto, "South Carolina Has Great Woman Athlete," *Charlotte Observer*, Sunday, May 28, 1922, sec. A, 2.



Lucile Godbold (1901-1981) represented South Carolina at the First International Track Meet for Women, which was held in Paris in 1922. Image courtesy of the Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections.

restrictive dress in favor of more liberated clothing, substantial progress remained illusive. Women gained the vote with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, but did not vote as an influential bloc. While they were more likely than ever to work outside the home, they worked in low-paying jobs. Women did enroll in colleges and universities at an increasing rate with the number of bachelor degrees earned by women increasing by 60 percent between 1918-1922.⁵ Many colleges, including women's colleges, began programs in home economics and domestic science especially for these new students. "One of the chief ends of a college for women is to fit them to become the makers of homes," remarked Dr. Charles Richmond, president of Union College, as one of Skidmore College's inaugural speakers in 1925.⁶

Collegiate sporting activities for women were directed by the philosophy of the American Physical Education Association (APEA) and its members. Physical educators believed in the importance of helping women develop physically, mentally, and morally by providing activities "free of emotionalism, free of intense competition, free of heart and pelvic strain, and free of all attempts to imitate the boys."⁷ Physical educators wholeheartedly endorsed intramural activities for women but opposed most intercollegiate athletics. An acceptable form of competition was the telegraphic meet, in which several colleges competed in specified events on their own campuses while the results were sent to a central point and announced.

There were a number of reasons that women's track and field competitions were frowned on in these years. These events were often organized by men, held in front of an audience, emphasized individual achievement, and required clothing that allowed for more freedom of movement. All of these components were seen as exploiting women athletes. Many physical educators feared that the highly competitive nature of track and field to be dangerous to women physically and emotionally. Educators cited warnings by physicians about "the adolescent girl who is subjected to highly emotional situations is but sowing the seed for a nervous breakdown later on by putting undue stress" on the endocrine glands.⁸ Feeling they

⁵United States Bureau of the Census. *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970. Bicentennial Edition. Part One.* (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1976), 385-6. The number of bachelor degrees awarded was 12,316 in 1918 and 20,362 in 1922.

⁶"Moore Installed as Skidmore Head," *New York Times*, Tuesday, November 17, 1925, sec. A, 24, late ed., quoted in William H. Chafe, *The Paradox of Change: American Women in the 20th Century* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991), 113.

⁷Mabel Lee, *The Conduct of Physical Education: Its Organization and Administration for Girls and Women* (New York: A.S. Barnes, 1937), 439.

⁸Jay B. Nash, "Athletics for Girls," *The North American Review*, 205 (January 1928): 103.

were safekeeping women's future reproductive health, physical educator Alice W. Frymir advised in her book on track and field for women that "girls should not be allowed to compete during the menstrual period nor to participate in the practice of any of the jumping events, or hurdling, as the uterus during this period is slightly heavier, and the jar may cause too great a pull on the ligaments sustaining this organ."⁹

In France, however, women were asserting their rights to equal participation in sports. To this end a national women's sports federation was formed in December 1917.¹⁰ The Fédération des Sociétés Féminines Sportives de France quickly grew from three athletic clubs at its inception to 400 by 1925.¹¹ Boosted by overwhelming interest from women track and field athletes, Mme. Alice Milliat and the Fédération des Sociétés Féminines Sportives de France asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to include women's track and field events. Women's participation in the modern Olympic games up to this point had been arbitrary. When Baron Pierre de Coubertin revived the Games in 1896, his vision for Olympic competition did not include women.¹²

However, the Games gradually came to include women's competitors, albeit as exhibitions rather than sanctioned events until 1908. Events were spread out over several months, and the achievements of the women who competed were sometimes not recognized until much later. For example, Margaret Abbott, a Chicago socialite who won the women's golfing exhibition in the 1900 Games, was awarded a gold medal only posthumously, sometime after 1955.¹³ In 1908 three sanctioned events for women were added to the women's exhibitions: 36 women competed officially in tennis, archery, and figure skating, and gave exhibitions in swimming, diving, and gymnastics. The sanctioned events varied from Olympics to Olympics: In 1912 the events were swimming, diving, and tennis, while in the 1920 Games the events were swimming, tennis, and figure skating.¹⁴

Under Alice Milliat's leadership the First and Second Women's International Meets in Monte Carlo were held. The First Monte Carlo

⁹Alice W. Frymir, *Track and Field for Women* (Athletics for Women series)(New York: A.S. Barnes, 1930), 22.

¹⁰Mary H. Leigh and Thérèse M. Bonin, "The Pioneering Role of Madame Alice Milliat and the FSFI in Establishing International Trade [sic] and Field Competition for Women," *Journal of Sport History*, 4 (Spring 1977): 75-76.

¹¹F. A. M. Webster, *Athletics of To-Day for Women: History, Development and Training* (London: Frederick Warne, 1930), 11.

¹²George Pallett, *Women's Athletics* (Dulwich, England: Normal Press, 1955), 19-21.

¹³Mary Leigh, "Pierre de Coubertin: A Man of His Time," *Quest*, 22 (1974): 19.

¹⁴David Wallechinsky, *The Complete Book of the Olympics*, (New York: Viking Penguin, rev. ed., 1988), 591.

Games in the spring of 1921 attracted 111 women athletes representing four countries, while the Second Monte Carlo Meet in April 1922 drew 300 women athletes from seven countries.¹⁵

When the IOC denied the Fédération's request to include women's track and field, it spurred Mme. Milliat to initiate an alternative plan of sponsoring "Women's Olympics" every four years and to form in October 1921 a new governing organization, the Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale.¹⁶ The 1922 International Track Meet for Women, with representatives from five countries, was the first in her plan and was advertised as the "Premiers Jeux Olympiques Féminins" (First Olympic Games for Women).

The invitation to bring a team representing the United States to the Paris meet was extended to a longtime supporter of women's athletics, Dr. Harry Eaton Stewart. A physician and founder of the New Haven College of Physiotherapy, Dr. Stewart established contacts with members of the Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale upon its founding and was named a vice president. Dr. Stewart's interest in women's athletics led him in 1916 to establish the National Women's Track Athletics Committee, an independent committee to promote women's track and field. He recognized the "sharp acceleration of interest in athletics for women," which "could not, even if we wished it, either be suppressed or eliminated."¹⁷ The Committee's aims were to standardize events in which women competed, establish rules for competitions, and maintain records.

Dr. Stewart's desire to enter an U.S. sponsored team in international competition highlighted the need for a national governing body for women's track and field. Dr. Stewart brought the Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale's invitation to the director of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) in April 1922 in hopes the organization would help sponsor a team. The AAU had jurisdiction over many men's sports and women's swimming. A sport benefited from AAU control because the organization established standards in the sport and held yearly national championships. While the AAU declined to help support a team, it publicly stated its intention to assert control over women's track and field in the United States, and it did so in 1923.

Despite the substantial obstacles confronting them, Dr. Stewart and his National Women's Track Athletics Committee hoped to put together a team to compete in Paris. On April 16, 1922, the *New York Times* announced plans to hold an Eastern tryout on May 13, 1922, with additional telegraphic meets and already-established records being considered for team membership.

¹⁵*Chronicle of the Olympics, 1896 - 2000* (New York: DK Publishing, 1998), 224-33.

¹⁶*Ibid.*

¹⁷Leigh and Bonin, "The Pioneering Role of Madame Alice Milliat," 76.



Lucile Godbold competed in several events during her track career, including the discus. Image courtesy of the Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections.

The final team, Dr. Stewart hoped, would number twenty-five women.

The APEA's official response to Dr. Stewart's plan was a resolution adopted May 1, 1922, stating that its members, "representing the entire country, feel very strongly against participation by American women in the field and track meet in Paris to be held during August 1922."¹⁸ Blanche Trilling, chairman of the National Committee on Women's Athletics, a subcommittee of the APEA, and director of physical education at the University of Wisconsin, questioned the morality of girls who would compete in athletics. She commented in late summer to a fellow educator that "it is most surprising the apparently nice girls that are planning to go over in August—

I can't see it."¹⁹ Dr. Stewart, a member of the APEA, communicated his desire to cooperate with the educator's organization, but noted "I always felt that the APEA should share in the control of this sport when it was undertaken by those really interested, who would promote and direct, rather than try to suppress it."²⁰

The Eastern qualifying meet was held at Oaksmere School in Mamaroneck, New York, on Saturday, May 13, 1922. The Oaksmere meet, a landmark in the history of women's track and field, attracted the largest number of women athletes to a track and field meet in the United States at that time. Representing schools and colleges from Maine to Florida, 102

¹⁸Harry Eaton Stewart, "Track Athletics for Women," Part 1, *American Physical Education Review*, 27, (May 1922): 207.

¹⁹"Report of the Business Meeting of the American Physical Education Association: held at Detroit, Michigan, May, 1922," *American Physical Education Review*, 27 (September 1922): 334.

²⁰Mary H. Leigh, "Evolution of Women's Participation in the Summer Olympic Games, 1900-1948," (Ph.D. dissertation, Ohio State University, 1974), 240-241.

women participated.²¹ Winthrop College had two outstanding athletes, Lucile Godbold and Margaret Kennedy, qualify for the meet based on their performances in May. At the meet, Lucile and Margaret looked on in amusement as many of the other contestants were accompanied by coaches and trainers who rubbed them down and placed blankets around them after each event. The meet was a great success for Lucile. She won the basketball throw event with a throw of 88 ft. 3 1/4 in., placed second in the 100-yard dash, and set the world's record in the 8 lb. shot put with a throw with one hand of 35 ft. 11 in.²²

On Monday morning, May 15, 1922, Dr. David Bancroft Johnson, president of Winthrop, read a telegram from Margaret Kennedy with the results of the Oaksmere Meet to the student body at chapel service. After the celebration quieted, Dr. Johnson read a second telegram, this one from Dr. Stewart. It read: "Miss Godbold chosen for Paris. Does she desire return reservation with team, immediately after meet? Have her practice shot-put with both hands, also 300-yard dash, 1,000-yard run. Congratulations." It caused a greater celebration than the first and the junior class promptly raised "the \$100 necessary to secure Miss Godbold's reservation."²³ Dr. Stewart conceded that, "in all likelihood, those selected for the American team will have to obtain their own fare to and from New York."²⁴ The Winthrop faculty also established a fund to help defray Lucile's costs. Mrs. Bartlett wrote to Lucile with pride that: "I am happy that it came to me to have a share in discovering you and seeing you were sent to Mamaroneck."²⁵

The announced team of fifteen was composed of seven young women from three Eastern boarding schools: Oaksmere, Ethel Walker, and Rosemary Hall, three were students at public high schools: Leonia (NJ) High School, Greensboro (FL) High School, and Balboa High School, Panama, Canal Zone, and four recent graduates of public colleges: Florida State College, Ohio State, New Jersey State Normal School, and Winthrop. Two women chosen did not join the team. In Lucille's judgment, it was "a cute bunch of girls."²⁶ Two assistant coaches and two teammates' mothers who served as chaperones completed the group.

²¹Ibid., 236.

²²"High School Girl Sets World Mark," *New York Times*, Sunday, May 14, 1922, sec. A, 28, late ed.

²³"Winthrop Student Chosen for Paris," *Winthrop College News*, May 19, 1922, 1.Ibid.

²⁴"On to Paris," *Florida Flambeau*, April 29, 1922, 4.

²⁵Bartlett to Godbold, Rock Hill, South Carolina, October 1922, Lucile Godbold Papers, J. Drake Edens Library Archives (hereinafter JDELA), Columbia College Columbia, S.C.

²⁶Lucile Godbold Diary, July 27, 1922, JDELA.



Lucile Godbold (center, front row) with members of the 1922 Winthrop College Athletic Association Board. Image Courtesy of the Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections.

From the earliest planning, financing the team's trip was a key concern not only for the individual athletes but also for Dr. Stewart's Committee. A letter from Dr. Stewart indicated that "the willingness of the School, Athletic Association, or family of the contestant to assume part or all of the expenses, estimated at \$600 a person" would be considered when the team was selected.²⁷ In April, a public fund-raising campaign was launched to help defray the travel expenses of the team with a goal of raising \$20,000.²⁸ By June 1922, the Committee had raised only \$7,900 and the goal was lowered to \$9,000.²⁹ A *New York Times* article noted that "much trouble was experienced in stimulating sufficient public enthusiasm to get the money to send the team abroad, with the result that nearly all the girls are paying their own expenses—one had to borrow the funds with the promise of repayment when she leaves school—and some of the entertainment planned for them must be curtailed."³⁰

²⁷Stewart, last page of letter probably to Suzanne Becker, undated. JDELA.

²⁸"Women Athletic Tryouts Arranged," *New York Times*, Sunday, April 16, 1922, sec. A, 27, late ed.

²⁹"Women are Picked for Meet in Paris," *New York Times*, Tuesday, June 27, 1922, sec. A, 12, late ed.

³⁰"Girl Athletes to Sail on Aquitania," *New York Times*, Tuesday, August 1, 1922, sec. A, 16, late ed.

Lucile spent the summer at Winthrop practicing as Dr. Stewart had directed. Lucile told how she started practicing before breakfast, "by myself with nobody for company except the dew and the birds that used to sit up on the grandstand and laugh at my attempts to throw the javelin."³¹ On July 26, 1922, Lucile arrived in New York City, and the team began training at the Weequahic Park track in Newark, N.J. The team practiced for all events because Dr. Stewart would not assign specific events to individuals until they arrived in Paris. Lucile enjoyed her training time, spending it with friends from Winthrop, seeing plays and movies in New York City and making several attempts to visit the zoo with teammates, but all the while spending her money carefully since she had borrowed much of the money for the trip. Lucile, accustomed to competing in regular tennis shoes, reluctantly parted with \$8.50 for a new pair of running shoes at Spalding's in New York City. The uniforms the American team wore were designed by assistant coach Suzanne Becker and Don Selbie, a Spaulding representative. According to Ms. Becker Young "we decided to abandon bloomers. I guess our team was the first in the U.S. to come out in shorts, rather long shorts, but at least better than those baggy bloomers."³²

Despite the lack of competitive experience, the team and coaches were excited about their prospects. Team captain Floreida Batson's goal was to "show Americans that the girls of the country are good athletes—just as good as the men" while Dr. Stewart added, "I'm looking for these girls to win, for they've got the spirit to surmount obstacles." Lucile distinguished herself as a leader among her teammates with her attitude, spirit, and athletic ability. Her athletic gifts were noted in the same newspaper story:

"the real star of the team is expected to be a tall maid from South Carolina, Miss Lucille (sic) Godbold. Miss Godbold can run or jump, and do both in a manner that makes her a star, whether it is in a dash or a distance run, in a standing broad jump or a running high [jump], and she can accomplish all of these things in an offhand way that makes the hardest tricks look easy."³³

An enthusiastic and determined team sailed for Cherbourg, France, on August 1, 1922. The team enjoyed first class accommodations aboard the *Aquitania*, while Dr. Stewart arranged for the team to train on deck in the mornings for an hour and to use the gym in the afternoon. Lucile reported

³¹"Our Ludy Comes Home," *Winthrop College News*, October 20, 1922, 1.

³²Lucille Godbold Diary, July 31, LDELA; Becker Young, letter to James S. Dawson, Jr., June 2, 1976, Naples, Florida, JDELA.

³³"America's Girl Athletes Sail for Paris Olympics," *Newark Evening News*, Tuesday, 1 August 1922, sec. A, 14.



Lucile Godbold (second from left, second row) with the members of the Special Hockey Team. Courtesy of the Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections.

that she "had to go round the deck three times" to train for the 1,000-meter race, and described the gym as having "all kinds of interesting apparatus."³⁴

Dr. Stewart's training regime included a ten o'clock curfew and prohibited such items as "sodas, heavy pastries, and . . . fried" foods from their diets.³⁵ Lucile light-heartedly complained in her diary: "Gosh; but we have good things to eat on this ship! Anything I ever heard of I can order (If I am allowed to eat it). Dr. Stewart sat on some girls to-day for eating the wrong food."³⁶

Arriving in Paris on August 8, 1922, the team stayed at the Hotel Montréal as guests of Winifred E. Merrill, head of the Oaksmere School. While they practiced diligently at the Colombes Stadium, they also enjoyed

³⁴Lucile Godbold Diary, August 3, 1922, LDELA.

³⁵Ibid., August 4, 1922.

³⁶Ibid., August 10-12, 1922.

the sights of Paris. Lucille reported trips to the Louvre ("Gosh! That's a wonderful place!"), Notre Dame, Pantheon, Versailles ("Prettiest place I have ever seen in my life") and a trip by the team to a "Paris cabaret" that "shocked some of the kids, but I (wise, I am) thought it was pretty mild (ahem!)."³⁷ She did some limited shopping but wrote that there are "lots of things to see, but I'm no bloated bond holder so I'm not buying everything I would like to."³⁸

A tour of the World War I battlefields left a strong impression on Lucile. Team member Anne Harwick, a recent graduate of Florida State College, reported that this trip was possible because a "purse of \$800 was made up for us by the first-class passengers" of the *Aquitania*.³⁹ The team traveled to Belleau Wood, where they saw a "cemetery with over 1,500 American soldiers in it . . . very sad. Graves marked with white wooden crosses with name of soldiers on each cross." At Reims Lucile saw the Cathedral "just about blown to pieces but still there," and visited Quentin Roosevelt's grave. Lucile remarked that it was "all alone on a hill. Saw the spot where he went down."⁴⁰ Quentin, a 18-year-old Harvard student and Theodore Roosevelt's youngest son, died in 1918 during an aerial fight and was buried by the Germans. Lucile wrote to her mother about this trip: "wouldn't have missed it for dollars. Sho have a better idea of the war, now—."⁴¹ Publicity surrounding the Meet kept Lucile's mind focused on the challenge at hand. On August 12, she wrote that the team walked down to "The Matin newspaper house and looked at our pictures that are on the outside of the building. Had one of the whole team and one of me throwing the javelin and a few others."

Lucile was facing incredible pressure to excel in the meet. Winthrop president Dr. Johnson, who traveled to Paris to watch Lucile compete, noted that "everyone connect-[sic] to the team did not hesitate to say that the chief reliance for victory rested upon her."⁴² On August 16 Lucile received a letter from her mother in which Mrs. Godbold advised: "I don't know the 'rules of the game', but try to get Dr. Stewart to let you enter every thing you think you can win in—remember you want the individual score as well as the American record. He of course will be thinking only of America now—but

³⁷Ibid., August 12, 1922.

³⁸Harry Eaton Stewart, "Track Athletes for Women (concluded)", Part 2, *American Physical Education Review*, 27, (June 1922) : 280.

³⁹Lucile Godbold Diary, August 13, 1922, LDELA.

⁴⁰"Anne Harwick, Miami Girl, Returns Home from Paris with Many Olympic Triumphs," *Miami Daily Metropolis*, Thursday, September 14, 1922, sec. A, 9.

⁴¹Lucile Godbold to Mrs. W.A. Godbold and family, August 15, 1922, JDELA.

⁴²Dr. Johnson speech, no date, Winthrop University Archives, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

you must look out for your self now, and forever more."⁴³ One factor contributing to this concern may have been Lucile's borrowing money to pay for her trip with the understanding she would pay it back from the job at Columbia College that awaited her in September. Additionally, her mother may have seen an opportunity for Lucile to make a name for herself in South Carolina and in Lucile's chosen field. Her mother's brother, William H. Ellerbe, was a former governor of South Carolina, and Lucile was told in the same letter that any news of the meet is to be sent "to the 'State'[newspaper] as every S. Carolinian reads it."

Lucile also had placed high expectations on herself but it is evident that she kept the trip in perspective, writing to her mother: "Well, I have been having the interesting and thrilling time—Of course, I'm hoping I'll do something in the meet, but if I don't I shall have had a wonderful trip, anyway."⁴⁴

The Meet's events were held on Sunday, August 20, 1922, and attracted a crowd to Pershing Stadium estimated at 20,000, including a large contingent of Americans. Seventy-seven women representing Great Britain, France, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, and the United States were ready to compete in eleven official events and in four demonstration contests afterward. In the morning preliminaries, each county entered two contestants in the six official events with four contestants in each event advancing to the afternoon finals. The meet used a system of points to determine a national winner, and records of the times and distances would be recorded in order to establish world records. The United States team was facing women who had considerable experience in international competition. The team from Great Britain had at least six members who had competed in either the first or second Monte Carlo games or both.⁴⁵

At the opening ceremonies, Lucile was chosen to carry the American flag. Her response was: "I was proud to lead that American team around the track."⁴⁶ As was the custom at Olympic Games, the contestants in the International Meet took the oath of Amateurism and the National Anthems from the winning athlete's country were played.

In the morning preliminary events, Lucile was listed in the program as a contestant in the standing broad jump, the shot put, the 300-meters, the javelin throw, and a possible substitute for the running broad jump. In the afternoon session, in addition to competing in the finals of any events she qualified for, she would also compete in the 1,000 meter run. After the International Meet, the American team held demonstration contests of the

⁴³Mrs. W. A. Godbold to Lucile Godbold, no date, JDELA.

⁴⁴Lucile Godbold to Mrs. W.A. Godbold, JDELA.

⁴⁵Webster, *Athletics of To-Day for Women*, 30-35.

⁴⁶"Our Ludy Comes Home," *Winthrop College News*, October 20, 1922, 1.

hop, step, and jump, the basketball and baseball throws. Lucile was a contestant in at least two of these demonstrations. The United States had requested these events be included in the Meet, but were excluded because the majority of the other countries were unfamiliar with them.

The first event of the meet was the standing broad jump. No record of Lucile's participation in the standing broad jump could be found and in Lucile's recounting of the day's events she does not mention competing in this event. If she competed in the preliminaries of this event, she did not advance to the finals. Lucile's next event was the shot put, an event in which she held the American record. In international competition, the contestant's best distances with each hand were totaled for a final distance. Lucile's main competitor was the world record holder from France. Lucile made a throw with her right hand of 36 ft. 117/10 in., a World's record and personal best. The throw with her left hand measured 29 ft. 42/5 in., for a combined distance of 66 ft. 41/10 in. Lucile won her first event and set a new world's record beating the old distance by more than six feet. Lucile recounted the event by saying: "When I stepped into the circle, our coach, Dr. Stewart, shouted 'Now, 'ol South Carolina Mountaineer, show 'em what the South can do! I put the pill and broke the world's record.'" The announcer introduced Lucile to the crowd after her victory, in French, and she later joked that "he may have been cussing me out for all I know, but as everybody clapped, I reckon it was all o.k."⁴⁷

The 300-meter run was her next event. Lucile earned a spot in the finals by placing second in the faster of the two heats. In the finals, according to Lucile, Dr. Stewart instructed her to not give her best effort in order to save her strength for the 1,000-meter race. Lucile, always the competitor and with her goal of accumulating the most individual points, recounted later that "I couldn't picture myself not running my fastest and I urged him to let me do my best, but couldn't budge him." She placed fourth in the 300-meter finals. Lucile later joked that she ran so slowly that the judge didn't know if she "was the last in that race or the first in the next."⁴⁸ Lucile's next event was the javelin throw. In this contest, like the shot put, the best throws with each hand are added together for a final distance. Lucile placed third with a total distance of 130 ft. 3 in.

It is doubtful Lucile competed in the running broad jump since both of her teammates, Elizabeth Stine and Camille Sabie, competed in the finals. Again in Lucile's recounting of the day's events, she does not mention competing in this event. The 1,000-meter race was Lucile's final event in which she could earn points for herself and toward the team's total. The race

⁴⁷Ibid.

⁴⁸Ibid.

was run at world-record speed and near the finish, Lucile recounted that the contestant in front of her fell down, causing Lucile to "leap over her (leap-frog-like)" and fall onto the cinder track so hard she thought she "was through with this old world."⁴⁹ Lucile fought back to her feet and finished a disappointing fourth.

At the conclusion of the official events, Lucile had finished short of her goal of accumulating the most points. She finished second on the U. S. team with 13 points to teammate Camille Sabie of New Jersey, who set the world's record in the 100-yard hurdles, won the standing broad jump, and placed third in the running broad jump earning 19 points. Great Britain won the overall meet with 50 points followed by the United States' 31 points.⁵⁰

In the demonstration events the contestants were awarded medals but no points toward the individual or the national scores. Lucile won the hop, step, and jump and placed second in the basketball throw. While not garnishing the most individual points, Lucile displayed her athletic versatility by earning an impressive six medals in the meet and the exhibition events. Reflecting on the day, Dr. Stewart remarked that "the girls did remarkably well and we all were delighted with their showing. Most of our team was composed of school girls who were pitted against trained and seasoned athletes. In Europe women have been competing in athletic games for years, while the idea is new in America."⁵¹ A reporter for the *New York Times* reported that "the youthful representatives created an excellent impression in fitness and grace."⁵²

The long day of competition was capped off by an evening banquet for the athletes. No longer confined by Dr. Stewart's prohibitions Lucile celebrated, recounting that she "ate so much French pastry, I thought I would pop. Did I drink wine? Can a fish swim?"⁵³ After dinner the winner's cup was awarded to England and the medals were distributed. For Lucile and eight of her teammates, the celebrations were short lived; the next day they had to depart aboard the *Saxonia* for New York. The return trip on the smaller and less luxurious *Saxonia* was an uncomfortable one. Unlike the *Aquitania* where Lucile had a room to herself, on the *Saxonia* the women existed four to a room that was "so small that half the furniture was painted on the wall." The sea was also very rough, and Lucile joked that they started

⁴⁹Ibid.

⁵⁰"American Girls are Second in Olympics," *New York Times*, Monday, August 21, 1922, sec. A, 7, late ed.

⁵¹"Women Athletes Back from Paris," *New York Times*, Sunday, September 3, 1922, sec. A, 17, late ed.

⁵²"American Girls are Second in Olympics," *New York Times*, 21 August 1922, A, 7, late ed.

⁵³"Our Ludy Comes Home," *Winthrop College News*, October 20, 1922, 1.

getting "six meals a day—three going and three coming." When the team arrived in New York on September 3, Lucile exclaimed that she was as "glad to see the Goddess of Liberty as a Carolina mule is to see Sunday."⁵⁴

Newspaper coverage of the team's accomplishments was extensive along the East Coast where the majority of the team members lived. In South Carolina Lucile was front-page news in the *State*. The *Greenville News* reported the meet results and included photographs in the magazine supplement for two consecutive Sundays. The *Charleston News and Courier* carried three stories in the week following the meet accompanied by several photographs.⁵⁵ At the end of the week, the newspaper reprinted a column written by Walter St. Denis, sports editor of the *New York Globe*. St. Denis noted "several of our girls hung up new marks for the Europeans to shoot at, the team as a whole, finished better than was expected of it, and the idea is now firmly rooted in the minds of other American girls who may be heard from latter on."⁵⁶

Celebrations were held to welcome home South Carolina's heroine in both Estill, her adopted hometown, and at Winthrop. September 7 was Godbold Day in the Hampton County town and a holiday for miles around.⁵⁷ The celebrations included a public reception with Mayor Walter Theus and Governor and Mrs. Wilson Harvey, the first governor to visit Estill, in attendance. Lucile entertained the crowd of about 1,500 with tales of her trip and joked that she slipped two bottles of French wine in her suitcase, one for the governor and one for the mayor, but they were confiscated by customs. It was a grand day for Lucile as "Miss Godbold was feted and adored and admired the livelong day by her home folk and those who came to pay her homage. She was a veritable queen and Estill was glad to be her kingdom."⁵⁸ Lucile triumphantly returned to her alma mater on October 7 during a staged "surprise" appearance at chapel. There she described the trip, the Meet, and thanked everyone for their support. She

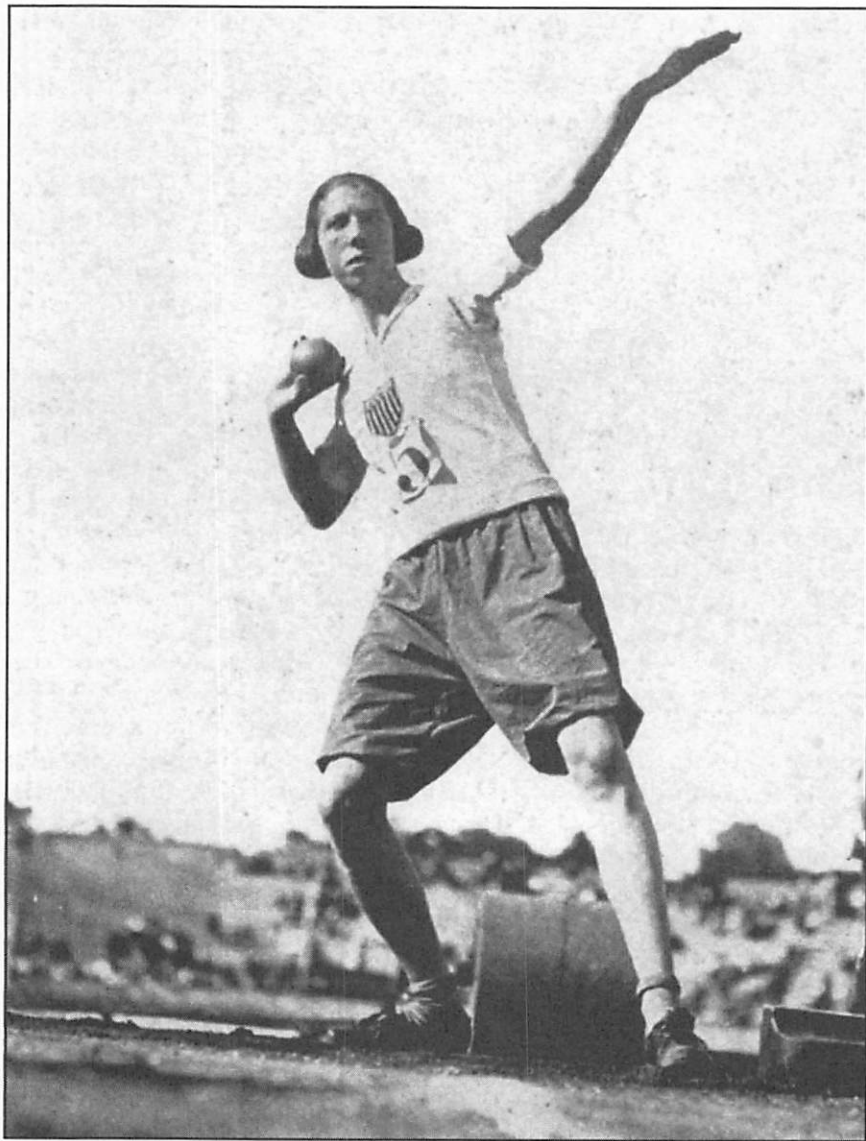
⁵⁴Ibid.

⁵⁵"Estill Girl Sets New World Record," *Columbia (S.C.) State*, Monday, August 21, 1922, A, 1; "American Girls are Second in Olympics," *Greenville News*, Monday, August 21, 1922, 7; Ibid., Sunday, September 3, 1922, Magazine Supplement, 1; Ibid., Sunday September 10, 1922, Magazine Supplement, 1; "South Carolina Girl Breaks World Record in Paris Meet," *Charleston News and Courier*, Monday, August 21, 1922, 3; "American Girl Record Breakers and Olympic Scorers," *Charleston News and Courier*, Thursday, August 24, 1922, 3.

⁵⁶Walter St. Denis, "American Girls Make Fine Start," *Charleston News and Courier*, August 26, 1922, sec A, 3, originally published in *New York Globe*.

⁵⁷"Estill Honors Olympic Victor," *Hampton County (South Carolina) Guardian*, Wednesday, September 13, 1922, sec. A. 1.

⁵⁸Ibid.



In Paris, Lucile Godbold set a new women's world record for the shot put with a right-hand throw of 20 meters, 2 centimeters. This image was taken at the meet. Courtesy of the Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections.

singled out Mrs. Bartlett, saying "had she not been a regular live wire, had she not kept up with what was going on in other parts of the county, I doubt I would ever have gone to Mamaroneck to take part in the try-out meet in the spring. I have much to thank her for."⁵⁹ Dr. Johnson declared it "Ludy Day" and canceled classes. The writer for the *Winthrop College News* described Lucile's reception as "the storm of twenty-six hundred hands trying to tell in one volume the welcome that was stirring in thirteen hundred hearts, but it was trying to say something that after all could never be said, even by twenty-six hundred hands and thirteen hundred hearts."⁶⁰

After her home coming, Lucile shifted her focus from athlete to teacher, assuming the responsibilities as director of athletics at Columbia College, S.C., on September 30, 1922. Only two of her teammates, Maybelle Gilliland and Elizabeth Stine, continued to compete in track and field on national Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) teams. No other member of the American team received the long-term recognition in their home state as Lucile did in South Carolina.

Thousands of young women from all over South Carolina were taught and inspired by Lucile in her 58-year career at Columbia College and in turn, they spread the lore of "Miss Ludy" to all parts of the state. Lucile's inspiration was noted soon after her arrival on campus: "when she told us about her experiences before and after going to Paris, did it not make your blood tingle with determination to get to work on the athletic field? Deep down in your hearts, have you not resolved to try to go to Paris for the same reason she did? 'Fes up! Yes, 'our Ludy' is the ideal of many hearts at 'C.C.'"⁶¹ Lucile introduced several new sports, including field hockey and organized an athletic board to promote and oversee athletic events. As a symbol of Miss Ludy's importance to the campus and to women's athletics, the student's began an annual touch football game, the "Ludy Bowl" in 1952 and the College named, in 1971, the newly built physical education complex in her honor.

Progress in women's intercollegiate athletics came slowly on college campuses in South Carolina and around the nation. Nationally, leaders in physical education supported intramural competition, while working against intercollegiate sports for women well into the 1960s. At the state level, Julia H. Post, chair of Winthrop's Department of Health and Physical Education from 1932 until 1962 argued against women's intercollegiate competition. She articulated her concerns for the young women engaged in intercollegiate sporting events in a 1940 editorial: "what of the 'flower of Southern Womanhood' of which we have been so justly proud? Is it not possible that

⁵⁹"Our Ludy Comes Home," *Winthrop College News*, October 20, 1922.

⁶⁰Ibid.

⁶¹"Athletics," *Criterion*, December 1922, Columbia College, 20.

constant exposure in public contests, to cheering-for-victory, booing-at-defeat audiences might develop a type of young women of whom we would be far from proud?"⁶² At Columbia College, Lucile taught physical education without a gymnasium for forty-nine years until the one that bears her name was constructed. The stars of women's track in the 1930s and '40s, Mildred 'Babe' Didrikson and Stella Walsh, rose not from college programs but from the AAU's ranks.

In 1961 Lucile Godbold was inducted into the South Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, the first woman to receive that honor. In Lucile's lifelong involvement with athletics a defining moment was her participation in the First International Track Meet for Women. The Meet helped to define more than just the individual competitors, for it was a first step in the acceptance and phenomenal growth of women's track and field in the United States. Lucile Godbold's name belongs on the list of South Carolina women who were pioneers in the 1920s: Julia Mood Peterkin in literature; Kate Vixon Wofford and Mary Gordon Ellis in politics; and Irene Dillard Elliott in education. Lucile Godbold, once described as "the greatest woman athlete the South has ever known," died at age 80 in 1981.⁶³

⁶²Julia H. Post, "Case Against Intercollegiate Athletics for Women," *Columbia (S.C.) State*, Saturday, February 24, 1940, sec. A, 6.

⁶³Hutto, "South Carolina has Great Woman Athlete," *Charlotte Observer*, Sunday, May 28, 1922, sec. A, 2.