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FRIDAY APRIL 4, 2003



Itchin' to play

Brady Anderson, 8, a left winger with Chudleigh's tyke division team, watches the final minutes of another tyke division game in eager anticipation of his own battle against Hunt Chrysler during Saturday's House League Day of Champions. For full results of all the day's action, see page 24.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Whitlock sets another world record — maybe

Avid Milton runner breaks official 1,500m mark, but finds better time overseas

By STEVE LeBLANC
 The Champion

Ed Whitlock already holds his fair share of national and international running records.

So the idea that his recent world record-setting effort in the indoor 1,500-metre might not stand up isn't too difficult to swallow. In fact, it was the 72-year-old Miltonian who prompted an investigation into whether or not his mark is truly tops.

Need a little clarification? Okay, here goes.

Since rebounding from knee problems that kept him sidelined for about a year-and-a-half, Whitlock has twice beaten the 1,500m indoor world standard in the 70 to 74-year-old division — each time on the York

University track.

He bested American Austen Newman's 5:27.4 record by nearly three seconds in February and then decimated both performances with a 5:14.15 finish at the Ontario Masters Indoor Track and Field Championships March 8.

But just one day later the new record holder discovered that his mark may not necessarily be the best ever delivered.

Through coverage of the European track championships — held the very same weekend — Whitlock found out that Scotland's James Todd ran a 5:13.1 more than a decade ago.

For whatever reason, this time isn't recognized as the world record.

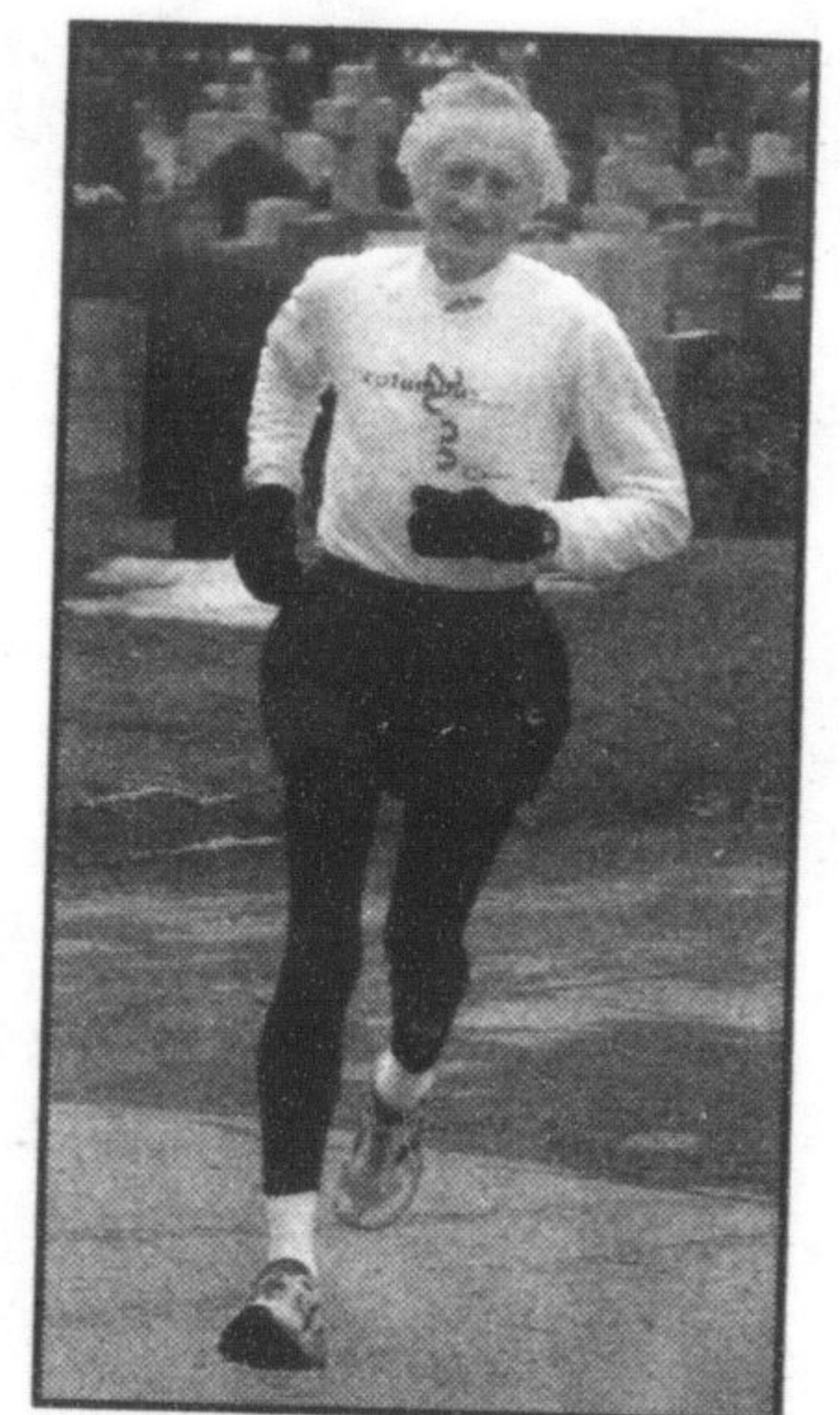
Whitlock wants to know why.

"I told the powers that be about his time and they're looking into it," said Whitlock, who owns three other official world records and a couple of unofficial ones. "There's plenty of reasons why it may not be considered official, but if it is he should get credit for it."

The fact that this would overshadow his own accomplishment isn't much of a concern. Added Milton's ageless wonder, "I'm not too uptight about it. Perhaps if it was my first world record I'd be more uptight."

And if Todd's time proves to be a legitimate world record, it presents the local racer with another challenge to conquer.

After all, he did consider the old 1,500m benchmark a bit soft, and improved on it two times in as many months.



Ed Whitlock

• see RUNNER on page 24

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