



## The "Boy of the Golden West" Wins High Jump at Perth Games

The glamour event of the Commonwealth Games—the high jump, was won by Australian champion Percy Hobson, a slim 19 years-old part Aborigine from Bourke, who set a new Games record of 6 ft. 11 in.

The previous Games record was 6 ft. 9 in. set by E. Haisley of Jamaica at the Cardiff Games in 1958.

Percy's gold medal performance was one of the highlights of the 1962 Games in Perth which were opened in November by the Duke of Edinburgh, who made a special flight from England for the great occasion.

Another gold medal was won for Australia by Aborigine boxer, Jeff Dynevor, of Queensland.

Percy Hobson rocketed to fame at the national athletics titles in Sydney last March. On the first day of the Australian championships he was too ill to jump after a bad bout of 'flu.

On the second day he came out and beat his old rival, Tony Sneazwell of Victoria on a count back when both had reached 6 ft. 7 in. Percy's clean, decisive jumping won the day then. Sneazwell had knocked the bar at 6 ft. 2 in. and 6 ft. 5 in.

Percy's previous best jump had been 6 ft. 10 in. at an interstate match in Melbourne in February. On that day Sneazwell pipped him by setting a new Australian record of 6 ft. 11 in.

Sneazwell has never done anything like this since and in Perth finished last at 6 ft. 7 in. behind Hobson, who

soared over 6 ft. 11 in. to win the Commonwealth championship gold medal.

"Chilla" Porter of Queensland was second with a jump of 6 ft. 10 in.

Percy, who is 5 ft. 10 in. tall, jumped 13 inches above his own height to set the record, and he did this by training mostly in his backyard.

The world record jump is 7 ft. 5 in. credited to Russian athlete Valerie Brumel, in July last year.

### Hero's Welcome

The entire town of Bourke to which he had brought international fame, turned out to welcome Percy home from Perth and the local brass band played "Hail, the Conquering Hero".

His success was perhaps the biggest sporting triumph in Bourke's history.

Townsppeople, who praised Percy's fine spirit and sense of sportsmanship, are hoping that their hero will represent Australia at the Tokio Olympic Games in 1964, in just 21 months time.

### OUR PICTURE

The boy from Bourke, Percy Hobson, sailing over the crossbar at 6 ft. 11 in. to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games