

Oldfield: Up to his old

By KEN VELOSKEY

He wore scanty trunks, mesh T-shirts and puffed cigarettes without shame as the whirl of events played on around him at the 1972 Olympiad in Munich. A stodgy, starched collar, conservative Olympic Committee shook their heads in disgust.

Scribes from such prestigious journals as Sports Illustrated and Time labeled him behemoth, humongus, a colossus and a loudmouth.

He's South Elgin's own Brian Oldfield.

Oldfield literally turned the art of shot putting around. His discus like release for the 16 pound orb, like himself unconventional, produced a record which some feel (including Brian) will not be broken.

But like Roger Maris' record breaking home run feat, there is an asterisk after Oldfield's mark set at Bowie High School in El Paso Tex. on May 10, 1975.

Oldfield's 6-5, 275 pound frame heaved the shot 75 feet. A record toss that still stands but he did it under

the guise of a professional athlete.

The amateur associations refuse to recognize the effort in their books. "I'm like the Dr. Perry of sports medicine, said Oldfield. "He's a chiropractor, not AMA oriented, it's the catch 22 baby."

"You might say I have been disenfranchised," said Oldfield while tossing a shot like a golf ball at Larkin High School Tuesday afternoon.

It's been a little over four years since the flamboyant giant released that record toss.

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Standing in the familiar territory of the shot put ring Tuesday, Oldfield is four years older (34) and still very much into being Brian Olfield.

"I made enough money in pro track where I would have trouble paying it back," he said. "There is no pro track and field movement, it would be difficult to carry because there is no new amateur blood."

Yet while the International Track Association was alive, Oldfield was its saving grace, the showcase. He was the good copy.

And he still keeps in touch with his 'club'. "Shot putters keep close," said Brian rattling off names of former ITA members. "The club is going to get together soon, and talk over times."

Oldfield was making a short stop at home via Toronto, Ont. Canada, where he was doing such things as caiber tossing and bailing hay with pitchforks.

He'll be in the Chicago area for of an exhibition on Aug. 19 at the University of Chicago's new all

weather track. Brian does those things now and participates in Scottish game events.

Gone are the days of outsprinting women less than half his weight and size for 40 yards in television's Superstars program and topping O.J. Simpson in weight lifting. He calls the San Jose, Calif. area home now and dabbles in real estate. He has not lived in the Elgin area for any length of time since 1973.

Brien however still feels a long,

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