



## Wayne Lockwood

**S**AN JOSE — Brian Oldfield is on a campaign to convince the world he belongs in the Olympic Games.

Yesterday, he made his most important convert. He convinced Brian Oldfield.

It was no easy job, certainly. It never has been easy to convince Oldfield of anything, and now that he is approaching his 39th birthday (June 1), he has grown even more set in his ways, if that is possible.

"Show me," is Oldfield's motto. The flip side of that, of course, is "I'll show you."

On a sunny and windy afternoon in his adopted hometown, Oldfield did both during an eventful Bruce Jenner Michelob Light Classic.

He showed himself that, after two decades of competition, he remains among the leading shot putters in the world. And he did so despite a painful attack of hemorrhoids that forced him to abandon all training and just about everything else during the past 10 days.

What he showed everybody else is that he is still, well, Brian Oldfield, a man capable of things beyond the capacity of mere mortals to comprehend.

After two throws, Oldfield was laboring along behind the pack in what was to prove the highest-quality shot put competition ever.

"I knew it would take (a throw of) 70 feet to beat me," Brian recalled, "and I was in fourth or fifth place because they were *doing* it."

"They" were such competitors as John Brenner, Dave Laut and Michael Carter, each of whom proceeded to launch throws longer than 70 feet. No previous meet ever had seen more than two men surpass that distance.

**OLDFIELD, WHOSE BEST** throw in the meet at that point was 69-9½, took a deep breath and sent it chasing explosively after a throw that just kept going.

When the thing finally landed, it kicked up blue chalk, a sign that Oldfield was within range of a world record.

It was measured just short of that, but the throw of 72-9¾ resulted in an American record, an inch less than the world mark set by East Germany's Udo Beyer last year.

Even more importantly, from Oldfield's standpoint, it was enough to win this meet.

"A meter," Brian chortled. "I came up a meter on them (his competitors). A silly little meter."

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men (his competitors). A shiny little meter. Everyone enjoys winning, of course, but this is special. Oldfield is embarked upon a crusade to prove that: a) he is good enough to be in the Olympics and, b) he should not be denied the opportunity because he once, gasp, accepted money *over* the table in return for exhibiting his talents before the multitudes.

When you are about to become 39 in a young man's sport, there are doubters enough on the first point.

Oldfield has set about to show them.

"I've been competing all over the country, day and night," Brian said. "I'm not blowing smoke about wanting to be on the Olympic team.

"I have a lot to prove. I don't want to waste anybody's time saying I'm Olympic quality if I'm not."

**UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH INDUSTRY** brought about a painful side effect. Well, sort of on the side.

"I was probably working too hard in my workouts and all the meets," Oldfield says now.

The result was hemorrhoids, which had to be lanced Monday.

"I couldn't do anything for 10 days," Oldfield said. "I just laid in bed and watched the clock tick.

"Television wasn't interesting, and I don't have the personality to talk to anyone.

"I didn't know if I could do it in this meet. There are a lot of pretenders to the throne. The shot put competition in this country is better than it ever has been.

"I thought about it in the car on the way over here. The handwriting would have been on the wall if I had lost this event.

"It could have been the end of an era. Instead (his voice lowers dramatically), it's the beginning."

Ironically, Oldfield's throw yesterday was not his longest. He once heaved the shot an amazing 75 feet ("In a fairly uninhibited moment"), but the effort came under the banner of the professional International Track Association and thus is deemed beneath notice by the world's amateur-oriented governing bodies.

**THOSE SAME BODIES** now must rule on Oldfield's suitability to return to Olympic competition after sullyng his hands with a professional shot put.

Brian is confident his purity will be affirmed, and not only because his attorney is Melvin Belli.

"It's a lousy way of doing things, but I guess that's what temporary injunctions are for," Oldfield said.

"If they don't accept my application, I'll go to court, and there probably won't be an Olympic trials unless they allow me to compete."

Brian hopes there will be no need for such grand gestures.

"Aren't they letting in pros from defunct hockey leagues and professional tennis players under 21?" he inquires.

"I don't see why my case is much different.

"Besides, I should be eligible, anyway, because Ollan Cassell (executive director of The Athletics Congress) told me in 1980 the Russians didn't want me to compete because 'I threw too far.'

"Well, that problem's solved now, isn't it?"

He meant the Soviets aren't coming.

The rest is still a problem. Brian Oldfield still throws too far.