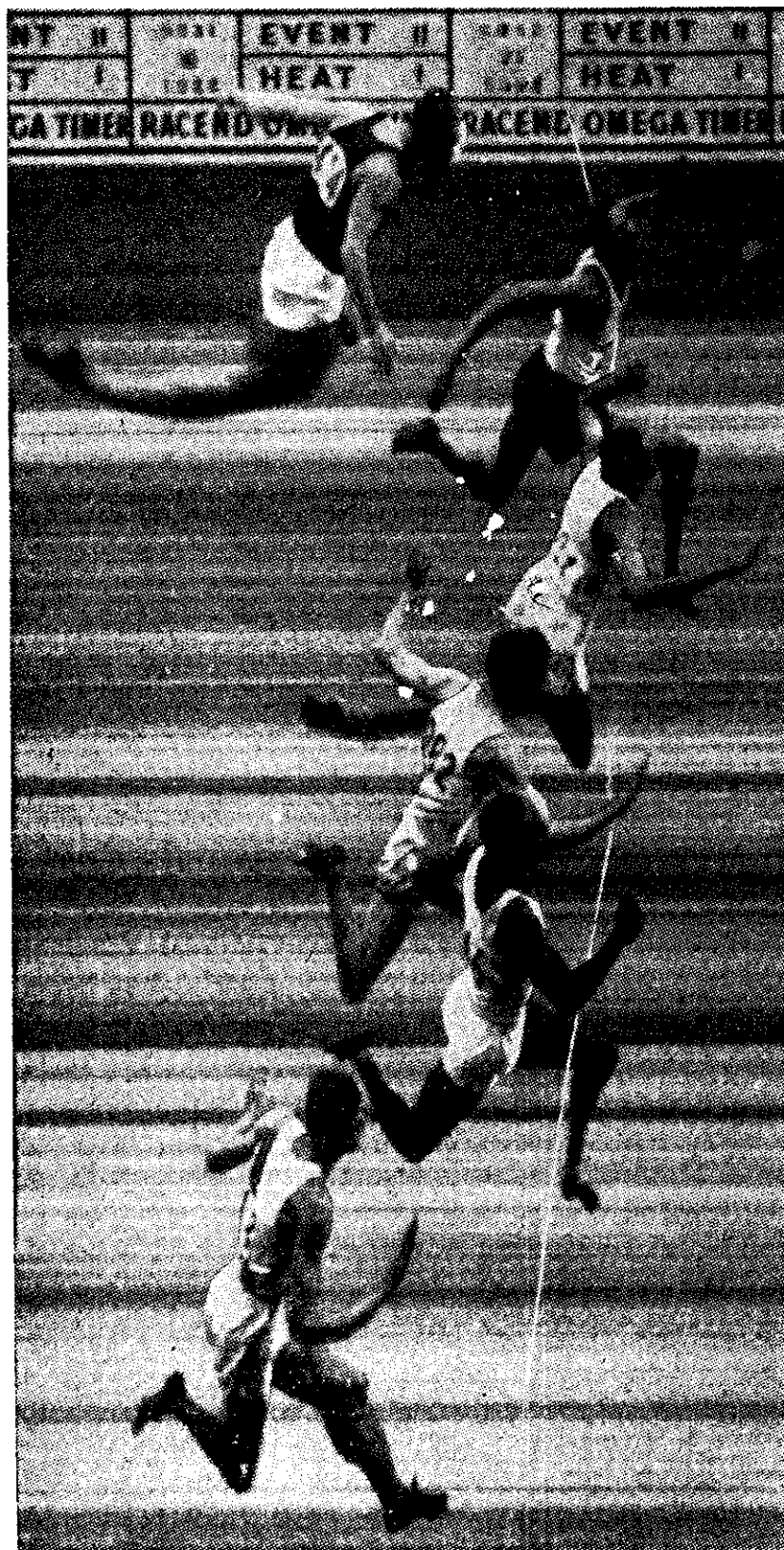


XVI Olympiad



Omega photograph

THE NZBS team covering the Games in Melbourne will have very little time for sight-seeing; they will be working through from nine in the morning till midnight six days a week. Though called a team, the members will very rarely be together, except first thing every morning, when the day's coverage of the Games will be discussed.

"Ensuring complete coverage of the Games will be no picnic," was the comment made to *The Listener* recently by Ashley Lewis, who will co-ordinate the programme broadcast from VLR daily. "For the past few weeks," he said, "we have been working out a plan of coverage that the NZBS team can follow. The paperwork involved is very heavy, including the production of day-sheets for the period of the Games, checking and cross checking."

He explained that to have a precise timetable of events as they would be broadcast was literally impossible for a variety of reasons. On any one day of the Games they would be broadcasting descriptions of all the main events, but it would often happen that events which they wished to cover would all be going on at the same time. "At this point we have to decide which of the events we will broadcast direct, and which will be recorded for broadcast later. To do this we have to evaluate the events in the light of their potential interest, always allowing for the unknown factors, of course—for if something unusual happened we'd probably have to make a split second decision and drop all priorities."

Roughly, priorities would go something like this: the event in which a

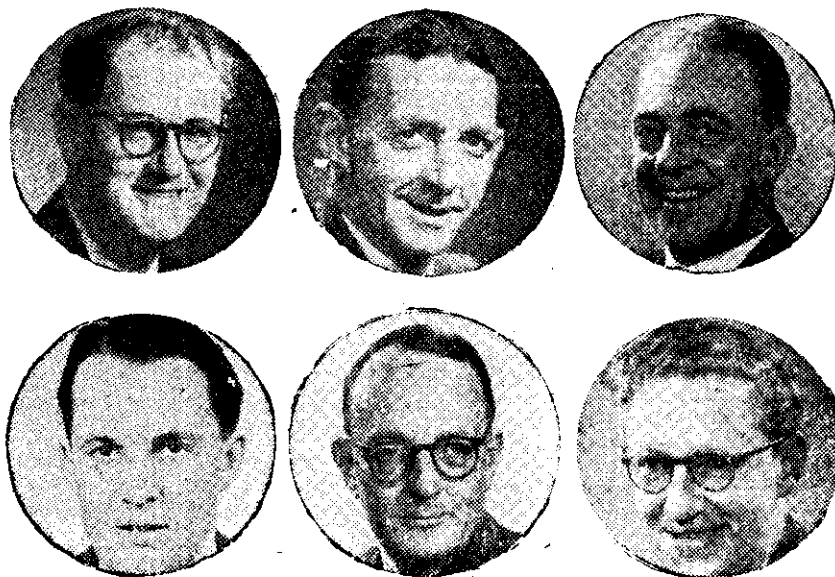
New Zealander is competing with what is thought to be a good chance for success; also general New Zealand coverage. Then there is the event in which there are no New Zealanders competing, but which is of world interest; for instance, a heat in which Zatopek and Chataway might be competing. Again, there is the heat in which a time put up may have a bearing on the chances of a New Zealand representative who has won an earlier heat of the same event. There are also many events which are significant, if not in themselves, then as measuring sticks for New Zealand chances. On Friday, November 23, for instance, there will be interest in New Zealand, in the result of the hockey match between Pakistan and Belgium, for on the following day New Zealand in turn plays Pakistan.

"All recordings made will be played back as soon as possible," said Mr. Lewis, "so that New Zealand gets its commentary even though it is delayed. But you will see that it's impossible to have a rigid schedule."

All events, therefore the NZBS team's coverage, are based on the Olympic timetable. Commenting on this fact, Lance Cross, NZBS Head Office Sports Officer and leader of the broadcasting team going to Melbourne, said that any upsetting of the timetables would also naturally upset the broadcast scheduling.

"And it's almost impossible to keep to timetables. First of all, since entries do not close until fifteen days before the event takes place, though the Olympic Organising Committee know how many countries are entering, they don't know the number of entries in each event from any one country—which

(continued on next page)



THE NZBS TEAM—left to right, back row: Ashley Lewis, Lance Cross, Winston McCarthy. Front row: Brian Russ, Dick Wade and Bob Irvine. Dick Wade, who is at present in London, will join the others in Melbourne