

Mike Boit

Born Jan 6, 1949

High School

St. Patrick's High School in Iten, Kenya

College: Eastern New Mexico University 1976

Stanford University 1977

University of Oregon 1986

High School Career

Representing St. Patrick's – Iten, Boit won the Kenya national high school title in the 800 meters in 1969

College Career

Mike Boit held NAIA records in the 1500 and 880m runs and compiled 12 National Titles over his cross country and track & field career at ENMU. His titles included performances in the 1500, 800, cross country, indoor 880m, and indoor mile.

Boit helped ENMU to win the 1973 and 1974 NAIA Cross Country Championships and the 1974 and 1976 NAIA Track and Field Championships.

Professional Accomplishments

Boit won the 800 metres bronze medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics, in a race better known for the last-to-first comeback kick by US Olympian Dave Wottle. Boit also earned a fourth-place finish in the 1500 meters behind fellow legendary Kenyan runner Kipchoge Keino.

A Kenya boycott of the 1976 Montreal Olympics and 1980 Moscow Olympics denied Boit a second chance for Olympic glory. Boit however remained one of the world's top middle distance runners throughout the 1970s winning the 800 meters silver medal at the 1974 Commonwealth Games and a silver medal at the 1977 World Cup of Athletics in a much anticipated face-off against the 1976 Olympic gold medalist Alberto Juantorena of Cuba. He finished 2nd at the 1977 IAAF World Cup 800 metres race.

Boit won the gold at the 1978 Commonwealth Games and a bronze in the 1500 meters at the 1982 Commonwealth Games. He won the 1500 metres at the 1st African Championships in 1979. In Sebastian Coe's record breaking Summer of 81 Boit could often be seen at Coe's shoulder in 1500 meter and mile races, pushing him all the way to the line as the records tumbled. In 1983 Boit ran a downhill mile in 3:28.36, the fastest mile in history.[This did not count as the world record because of the course's downhill grade. Boit ended his athletic career in 1990 breaking the Master's Division Indoor World Record for the mile in Meadowlands, New Jersey.

Other honors

- 1982 Commonwealth Games Bronze in 1500 Metres at Brisbane, Australia.
- 1981 Drake Relays Hall of Fame
- 1981 Sports Man of the Year in Kenya
- 1980 Indoor World Record in 880 yards, San Diego, California
- 1978 Gold Medalist at the Commonwealth in 8000, Edmonton
- 1977 Silver Medalist, World Cup in Athletics, Dusseldorf
- 1976 African Record Holder in 800 Meters
- 1975 Ranked Number One in the World in 800 Meters
- 1974 Silver Medalist, Commonwealth Games Christ Church
- 1972 Olympic Bronze Medalist in 800 Metres, Munich Germany

Honors

- 1996 Honored by the Special Olympics International for Contributions as Member of the International Rules Committee.
- 1995 Order of the Grand Warrior of Kenya, National Honors In Recognition of contribution to Sports and Sports Administration.
- 1989 Indoor World Record in one Mile, Masters Division at the Meadowlands, New Jersey, USA
- 1985 Honorary Life Member of the Kenya Athletic Federation
- 1984 Eastern New Mexico Hall of Honor
- 1984 Honorary Life Member of the Zurich Association for Major Track and Field Events, Leicht athletic Club Zurich
- 1982 National Associations of Intercollegiate Athletic Hall of Fame
- 1982 Commonwealth Games Bronze in 1500 Meters at Brisbane, Australia.
- 1981 Drake Relays Hall of Fame
- 1981 Sports Man of the Year in Kenya
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