



ADOLPH PLUMMER

Adolph Plummer stands head'n shoulders above every track and field athlete this city has ever watched perform on the prep or college level when it comes to pure excitement.

The Brooklyn-born Plummer, who never ran on a competitive basis until joining the Air Force after high school graduation, WAS the attraction in the early-1960s when UNM track hit an all-time popularity peak. Plummer picked UNM over several other schools following Air Force discharge in 1959, and proceeded to be named NCAA All American

three times, AAU All-American six times and 1963 Western Athletic Conference Athlete of the Year.

The WAC accolade followed one of the greatest cinder feats ever recorded in the '60s — a :44.9 clocking in the 440-yard dash at the 1963 WAC outdoor championships in Tempe, Arizona. Plummer's awesome performance knocked eight-tenths of a second off the previous world's mark of :45.7 by Glenn Davis — unheard of then and now.

But Plummer's fame at UNM goes beyond that night in Tempe. Adolph twice represented the U.S. against Russia in the 220-yd. dash, and twice won the gold (1964-1966).

But Plummer's major asset for Labo track buffs was to be anchor for UNM relays in the 440, 880 and mile. In the final Skyline Conference track meet held in Denver in 1963, Adolph was clocked at :44.2 and :44.3 in the anchor lap of the mile relay.

Adolph joined a national retail chain in management after graduation from UNM, moving to Denver in 1969. But his thirst for more education (Master's public school administration certificate) found him entering the teaching field in Denver in 1970. Today, he is student advisor at Denver's Cole Junior High and is working toward his doctorate in education at Denver University.

Wife Ora is assistant professor of nursing at the University of Colorado Medical Center and has played a giant role in her husband's success. The Plummers have three children — Kim, 13, Kevin, 8, and Cheryl, 5.