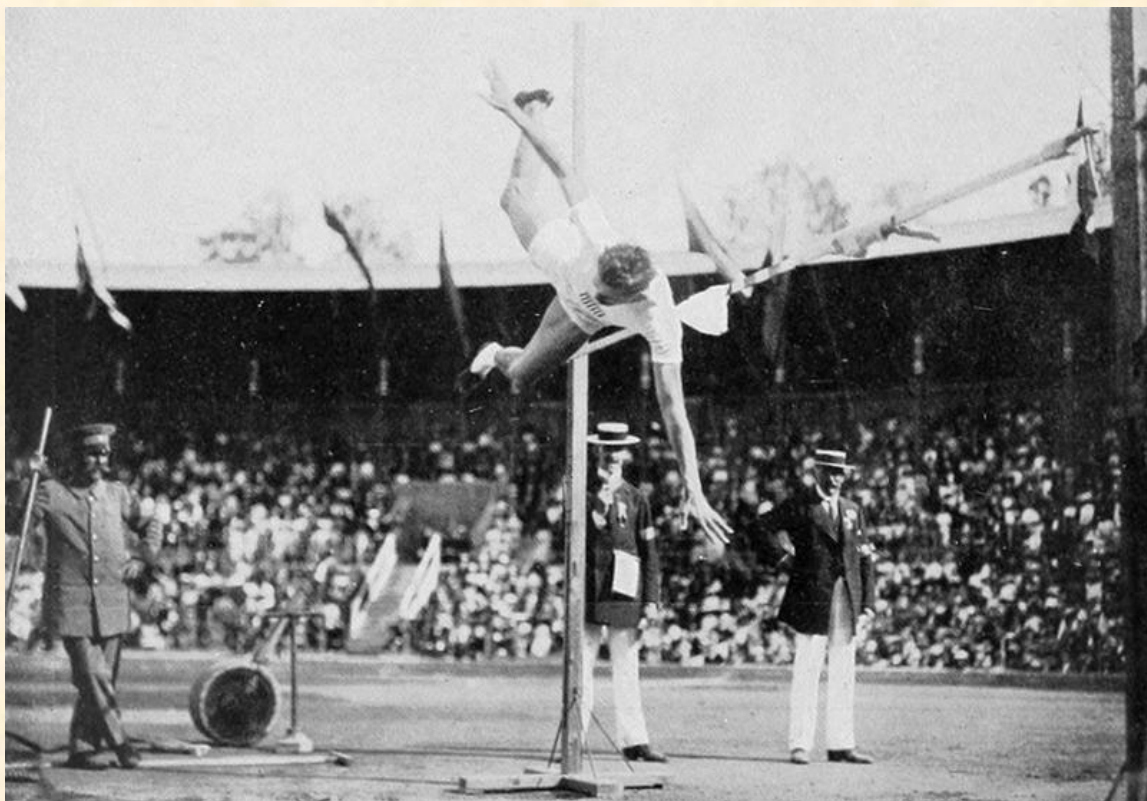


George Horine
Athlete: Track & Field
Santa Ana HS – Class of 1908

George Horine was a record setting athlete with a style all his own. A 1908 graduate of Santa Ana High School, Horine gained fame in high school by becoming the first ever at the school to jump 5'1" in what was then known as the "running high jump." After clearing that hurdle, he turned his attention to pole vaulting until he entered Stanford, having graduated with high honors from Santa Ana High, where he started competing in the high jump again.

Horine was the originator of a new style of high jumping, a half roll-over style that came to him naturally when practicing in his back yard. This style was considered "backwards" at the time but became the forerunner to what would be known as the "Western Roll." Horine, as a new member of the Stanford track team, had received no formal training when he surprised coaches by clearing a six-foot jump without any effort. Coaches "corrected" his technique to the more conventional jumping style of the time, and his sophomore year, he equaled the NCAA record at 6'4". In his junior year, 1912, he reverted to his old style, improving to 6'4 3/4" and then he cleared a world record jump at 6' 6 1/8". A few weeks later at the Olympic Trials, Horine improved again, jumping 6'7", making him the first man to break the 2-meter barrier.

Horine went on to compete in the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm but was unable to duplicate his world-record jump, finishing the games as the bronze medalist in the high jump. His world record jump of 6'7" held for two years and was the first high jump world record ratified by the IAAF (International Amateur Athletic Federation). At those same 1912 Olympic games, baseball had its first appearance as an exhibition sport, and Horine played left field for the United States in a 13-3 victory over Sweden.



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