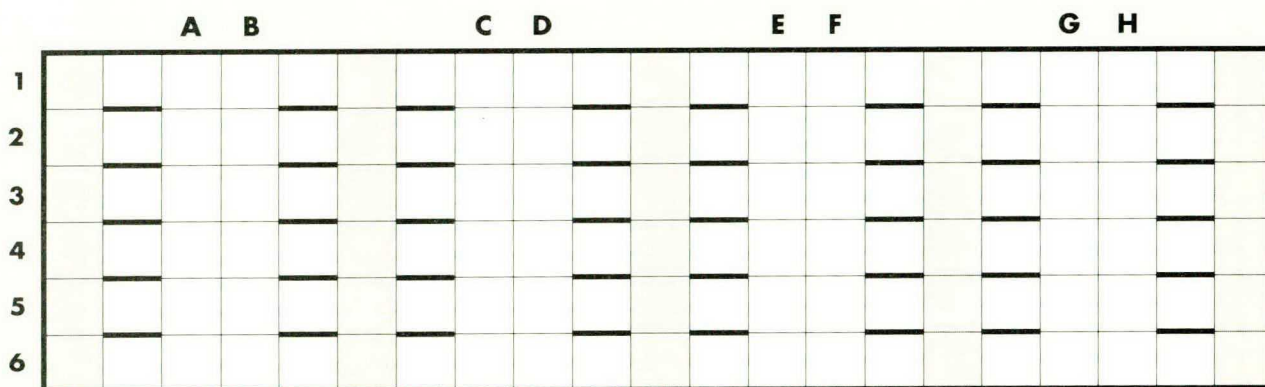


THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

RELAY RACE

This puzzle represents a six-team relay race. Each team, which consists of four 6-letter words, begins the race in its designated lane of the leftmost shaded column and ends somewhere in the rightmost shaded column, with its words overlapping their starts and finishes in the other three shaded columns. After the first leg a team *may* change to any other lane, but only on the second letter of a word (directly after a shaded column). Clues for each team are given together but out of order, leaving the solver to reconstruct the race with the help of answers to Down clues, which are normal. A team's placement in the race corresponds to the number of the lane in which it finishes. As a bonus, the shaded columns will show the names of four famous runners and, at the end, their common goal. Seven answers are capitalized, and 3a may be unfamiliar.



The solution to last month's Puzzler appears on page 94.

RUNNERS

- 1a. Survey start of course in a Spanish-speaking country
- b. Giving track and field mostly inside
- c. African country has participant in trials after a gun goes off
- d. First-rate talker's lackluster time (*two words*)
- 2a. Record time held by group in combo
- b. Reformer's unhappy without starting blocks
- c. Muslim official holding finish list
- d. Weakness of Tanzania after the midpoint taking me aback
- 3a. O'Neill lost, getting something inlaid in metal
- b. Showy, neat sports—going after gold
- c. Vitamin C and iodine given to Nina after collapsing
- d. Go too far with dove flying around middle of torch at opening of Olympics
- 4a. Officiating winning leg, chewed gum
- b. In preliminary race, run hard in place to warm up
- c. Sponsored kid left out of gold, running around second
- d. Famous athlete from North America on course with numbers
- 5a. Phony tears spilled at the end
- b. During competition, let out bug
- c. Last two in Barcelona corrupted true character
- d. One wearing bronze, having dropped baton at first, changed focus (*two words*)
- 6a. Get angry about start of relay run
- b. Promotional tapes about one Olympic attendant
- c. Pussyfooted last half of race, within reason
- d. Spanish and German articles on last of events for seniors

DOWN

- A. In first place, nearly through, sprang through the air
- B. Drive is visible to audience
- C. Coming in relaxed, runner finally wiped out
- D. Olympic awards of food including bit of dessert
- E. Guys on a team rejected communist doctor?
- F. Racetrack great arrives with coach and oxygen
- G. Congratulatory touch in a film on bronze
- H. Bronze placed around odd fellow who ran in 1948

NOTE: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. It is assumed that you know how to decipher clues. For a complete introduction to clue-solving, send an addressed, stamped envelope to The Atlantic Puzzler, 745 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.