



3:59.4: The Quest to Break the Four Minute Mile

By John Bryant

Cornerstone. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, 3:59.4: The Quest to Break the Four Minute Mile, John Bryant, The years 1953-4 were marked by the conquests of two unattainable peaks - Mount Everest and the Four Minute Mile. But the dream of setting a new track record for this distance started as early as the 1880s, by the American Lon Myers, a stick-thin hypochondriac who was sick before and after every race, yet still held every US record from 50 yards to the mile. By 1902 a record of 4 minutes and 16 seconds was set by the Englishman Joe Binks, an amateur runner who in his spare time worked as a journalist and writer. And again in 1923 the world inched ever closer to the elusive four minute record thanks to Paavo Nurmi, the 'Phantom Finn', who won nine Olympic gold medals and set so many world records that statisticians are still arguing over the total. Finally, in 1945, when the Swede Gunder 'the Wonder' Haegg ran the mile in 4 minutes and 1.4 seconds the world knew at last that it was on the brink of conquering the Everest of all sports. But it wasn't until three Englishmen...



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