

A Failed Comeback

On March 6, 1987, Eamon Coughlan, the Irish world record holder at 1500 meters, was running in a qualifying heat at the World Indoor Track Championships in Indianapolis. With 2.5 laps left, he was tripped.

He fell, but he got up and with great effort managed to catch the leaders. With only 20 yards left in the race, he was in third place -- good enough to qualify for the finals.

Coughlan looked over his shoulder to the inside, and, seeing no one, he let up. But another runner, charging hard on the outside, passed Coughlan a yard before the finish, thus eliminating him from the finals.

Coughlan's great comeback effort was rendered worthless by taking his eyes off the finish line.

It is tempting to let up when the sights around us look favorable. In our personal and professional lives, we finish well in the race only when we keep our eyes fixed on the goal.

--Beecher Hunter