Columbus, Ohio, February 18, 1967—In the first walking race ever held in Ohio State's French Field House, Jack Blackburn returned to the scene of many futile last lap battles in two-mile runs and scored an easy victory over 1 mile in the All-Ohio meet. This was the same Field House Blackburn was once kicked out of early in his walking career, when his former coach at CSU decided such foolishness was decorating the place, or something like that. Now, with energetic young Bob Epkaemp at the helm, race walkers have been given a standing invitation for walks at affairs such as this one.

Blackburn gave the fans a good sample of what speed walking is all about as he toured the eight laps in 6:43.8. The audience was the most receptive and cordial in the history of one-mile walking so far as tonight's competitors were concerned. Every one bit of laughter was heard, and according to wives strategically placed in the stands, the people were attentive and interested. Helping in this regard was announcer Mary Crosten, ex-OTC walker, who kept them well informed on what was happening and what the sport is all about.

Besides Blackburn's fast time, the big news was the return to action of Jeff Loucks after nearly three years of growing fat and lazy. Walking in borrowed shoes and uniform, Loucks after his own were stolen from his locker, Jeff turned in a very creditable 7:39 in fourth place and beat Pete Till and Wayne Yarcho in the process. Loucks has been doing some training with Till and could be a big help to the OTC if he decides to keep at it. Till is a student at CSU, hailin' from out New York way and should afford some competition at longer distances.

Tonight, Blackburn had things pretty much his own way. He had the lead as the walkers broke free two pole coming off the first curve (the start was staggered) and was never headed. He passed the 220 in 50 seconds with Jack Morland right on his heels, but was starting to put daylight between himself and Morland by the 4:40 (1:42). From there he moved gradually but steadily away with 2:23 at the 880 and 5:04 at the 3/4. Morland's splits were 3:27 and 5:11 and he finished with a creditable 6:56.4, which marks his fastest competitive mile since his early days as a speed walker. Blackburn has only gone faster than his 6:43 on about three occasions in competition.

Charlie Knowles, who was told about the race only on Thursday night so that he would have no opportunity for some speed training, had no trouble beating Loucks for third with a 7:50 effort. Yarcho, who is usually good for eight minutes whether ready or not, was a bit off form tonight. Blackburn, with a little concentrated speed work could be a very real threat if he had any plans to go there, which he doesn't. So someone will win a cheap National.
Official results of this 'un:
1. Jack Stackum, OTC 6:43.4
2. Jack Hortland, OTC 6:56.4
3. Chuck Newall, OTC 7:40
4. Jeff Smacks, OTC 7:58
5. Pete Till, (Gee, I don't know who he is) Present results)
6. Wayne Barbo, OTC 8:07

Some results from Chicago land. These came courtesy of Bob Gray who wrote complaining that we didn't have enough results in our December issue, but got these to us one day too late for the January number. However, Bob also wrote that he would like to see more stories like the bit we had on Vickers and Matthews in December and more on training methods and theory. So I suppose he was lukewarm on the January issue which was sure full of feature stuff, but again rather short on results. Of course you can't publish results of nonexistent races and besides we don't like to take up any more space than we have to with that sort of dull trips. Don't really mean that either. But we do like a good balance. Anyway here are those Chicago results.

One mile, Jan. 23--1. Bob Gray, UCTC 7:17 2. Dan Calaf, UCTC 7:19 3. Phil McDonald, UCTC 7:21 (Gee, that's pretty close.)

One mile, Jan. 14--1. Bob Gray 7:08 2. Phil McDonald 7:17


Heck, no wonder Bob sent us those results. He won them all. Actually he does quite well for a guy who trains primarily for running.

More Indoor results:


One mile at L. Meet in January which I had the results of somewhere and lost; so these are approximate times and names and places and everything:
1. Ron Deboon 6:44 2. Larry Walker 6:42 3. Andy Halusca 6:53 (could have been someone else ahead of Andy) Jim Danley had about 6:57 and I think someone else was under 7:00. Laird way back in 7:17.
Some outdoor races:
10 Kilo, Central Park, NYC, Jan. 22 (HDCP) (we will give places on time)—

Race at Amesbury, Mass., Jan. 29 (reported as 10 miles by one source and 9.6
1:28:43 7. Dave Hasenfus 1:30:49

National Senior 35 Kilo is now scheduled for May 14 at Kings Point, LI. This
avoids the conflict with the 40 kilo in Jersey in August

And here, belatedly, are the full results of the 1966 Postal 20 Kilo:
Lou Neishloss, Phil. AC 2:04:36 33. Mike Ryan, Striders 2:05:40 34. George
Reedy, un. 2:10:59 37. Dennis Wieland, Gladstone 2:15:05 38. Horst
Team: Athens A.C. (Klopfer, Dooley, Hanney) 5:03:40

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payment. The whole thing would not be possible with the spirited cooperation
and help of wives, parents and people like that, or the monthly inspiration we
receive from Playboy magazine.
Whoops! A couple more one-mile races of recent vintage:


(Thanks to the trusty NY Times for these results)

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Co·m·ents

Some may be surprised to read this, but we are sorry to hear that John MacLachlan will no longer be National Chairman, just as we were very sorry that Charlie Silcock got eased out of National Office. Alan Cook had a rather rambling editorial on this subject in his most recent American Race Walker (who are we to refer to editorials as rambling) in which he expressed the same general opinion. Alan made reference to lack of cooperation and support on the part of many unnamed individuals in regard to the programs of John and Charlie. We couldn't figure out exactly what Alan had reference to, but were relieved when he made assurance that it wasn't the OMC's editor and publisher. 

We have of course questioned some things that both John and Charlie have done in the past. At the same time, even those who read our pages carefully know, we have been complimentary towards many of the things they have accomplished. Even in our infamous editorial of about a year ago. There is no doubt that both are sincere in their efforts to improve the sport and that we are better off for it. At the same time we have, and still do, disagree with some of their methods and attitudes and reserve our right to say so. We aren't afraid we might not have much chance to offer criticism of what is being done in the future so there probably won't be that much done. Men of action give us something to write about anyway.

Actually, of course, Charlie is still keeping his hand in the sport and I am sure John will, too. I hope John gets back in the limelight anyway, as I have to prove I can write nasty things about him at least as well as I can walk, if not better. Gee, Alan, I don't think either of them will be driven out easily anyway, as it is important to their egos as writing ourselves up in this rag is to ours.

The first OTC style prize for 1967 is now on its way to Bill Ranney, who has consented to handle the details of this award at the 5K mile in Oakland. This is a handsome plaque that will go to the walker selected by the judges as having the best style. This will not be some guy who brings up the rear with both feet on the ground all the time. Speed, after all, is one part of good style. Essentially it's just the guy that looks the most like what a race walker should. Gee, I even see where I would have won one last year in Columbus at the 30 kilo, at least according to Dr. Kelly writing in Distance Running News. I must have improved since the days John Allen could hear me off the ground.

Big Race in Ohio on Saturday, March 25 at the Upper Arlington High School track right here in Columbus. Distance 10 Kilo. This is the Second Annual Norm Rothe benefit race. Blackburn will probably go around 45 minutes.
Mumbelings and Murmurings from Mimm

Got a few letters this month. Here is one from a Yank abroad - Bob Mimm in Germany. Bob comments on recent issues as follows:

"1st - I notice that in Olympic predictions Bruce MacDonald is neglected. Yet the handwriting is on the wall - as indicated in your MANU 50 results. It is only 1966 and already Bruce is doing 5:02:44 for an 8th place. I think Bruce realizes that the competition will be rougher this time and is getting started a bit sooner. The point is if Bruce wants on the team - he probably will be on it. (Ed. But Bruce is taking up kayak racing, or something like that. Aren't you Bruce?)

"2nd - I think you were a bit too rough on John MacLachlan regarding the entry blank for the Postal 20. I'm sure he was only trying to stir up some competition, and his remark should have been considered in this light. (Ed: we apologize. If salty old Bob Mimm says that, we must be wrong.) I'd also like to add that I think John did a very fine job as chairman for the year. (Congratulations to J.E. for his victory in this race.) I should also like to add here that your to page 4 where you tell John he gets carried away should be too.

"3rd - Now, regarding Dr. Blackburn's column regarding pre-race exams. I'm glad to see he wants to limit a pre-race exam to just those few things listed in paragraph 2. We certainly shouldn't race before a good urinalysis, and most definitely, we shouldn't allow any one to race whose abdomen palpates (Hah! Hah!) that palpates should be palpates. This exam business is something I've discussed at length before, and, I think my thoughts regarding this are well known. To argue about such exams, I simply express the philosophy of the New England doctor who said he was going to quit examining runners so he could devote his time to those who really need it. However, I am not really against such exams. But, they should be performed as a part of the program with no expense to the competitor. It is expensive enough to compete as an amateur without having to pay $5 or $10 for a certificate to bring to each race certifying you are fit enough for competition.

"4th - Back to that postal affair again. I don't think December (or any winter month) is good for a postal race. Who can argue that California, for example, doesn't have a tremendous advantage over New York.

"5th - Sorry I couldn't make your New Year's Race this year. Maybe next year. I think everybody should make at least one race in January.

"6th - Gee, that fellow that finished sixth in Cincinnati on Thanksgiving sure had a strange name.

"7th - Say, could you get me some information on how to become an opera singer?

"8th - The above comments are all derived from reading your November issue. I don't seem to have any regarding your December or January issue except to say that I think Blackburn would make a good full-time shoe salesman.

"Regarding my own activities here, I have not been training much but I did go 20 km yesterday. They had a winter walk here for anyone. It was not a race. In fact they even had minimum times as well as maximum times. Everybody who finished got the same medal. I walked with the German military reservists. I'll have to start getting into some kind of shape again though. The walks are scheduled to begin in April and I really enjoy them."

Thanks Bob, you took up a whole page.
Another letter of interest from SC Strider’s captain, Dick Ortiz. Dick is even more polite as to address us as Dear Sir(s):

"I like your paper (?) the Ohio Race Walker but I’ll go along with the postal walk but in a different way. Let’s have it a 2 hour postal walk. How do you all like them apples?????

"I do not like races under 10 kilo, but I know they are important in building new talent and for the public.

"So let’s keep them at home and only have Nat. Sr. walks at 1 and 2 miles and 20 and 50 kilo, along with the 2 hour postal walk. All other walks will be up to the District Chairman. In other words the 1 and 2 mile at the National Sr. Indoor Championships (T & F) and the 20 and 50 kilo with the T & F Outdoor Championships. Let’s stay with the Track and Field program where we belong and not on a show boat to nowhere. Any questions?"

No questions, Dick. Some comment however. First, your editor has long said exactly what you have, that walking races should not be less than 10 kilo. But, an awful lot of guys like the short stuff and the thrill of big indoor crowds, etc. And there is always the image building argument, although I have never been certain how much is accomplished in this line. I have also had some feeling that perhaps we have too many national races and it sort of cheapens the title of National champion. On the other hand, at least until a better program is built, they provide much needed races. Yours are fortunate in the level of competition available in your own backyard, but this is not true anywhere else except the NY-NJ area. So, I have mixed feelings about dropping some national races.

Finally, there is your suggestion to tie the races in with National T & F meets completely. I agree that race walking is part of the T & F program. As a matter of fact this was one thing suggested in an editorial last year that won me the wrath of Messrs. Silcock and MacLachlan. One thing I suggested was that we should become more closely allied with the sport instead of trying to become a separate sport. Personally, I always register as a track athlete and not as a race walker. But it is not our choice to say we will have these races as part of said track meets. This is going to be up the the Track and Field Committee and I fear they feel they already doing a great favor by having the two races they do. So, first you will have to find a way to overcome that hurdle. However, we welcome the comments of our readers on Dick’s suggestion and will gladly serve as a forum for those who want to sound off. Certainly, Dick’s ideas are worth consideration and discussion and may be worth taking to the National convention as presented or in some altered form.

Zinn Trophy to Haluza

Rudy Haluza most deservedly won the Capt. Ronald L. Zinn Memorial Trophy for 1966. This award goes annually to the outstanding United States Walker, as chosen by his contemporaries in the sport. Rudy garnered 22 first place votes and 374 total points to 15 first place votes and 349 points for runner-up Ron Laird. Larry Young edged Ron Daniel for third with 151 to 144 and Don DeNoon (108) and Jack Mortland (92) rounded out the first six. Haluza was also named to the All-America track team at 10, 15 and 20 kilo. Laird was selected at 25, 30, 40 kilo and one hour. Don DeNoon made it one and two miles, Ron Daniel at 35 kilo and Larry Young at 50 kilo.
FACEWALKERS OF AMERICA

Just pulled out of the mailbox about 15 minutes ago from speedy Don DeNoon out California way. Don is setting out to organize American race walkers and friends of the sport for the purposes of promoting and improving the sport! From the proposed constitution and descriptive letter which he enclosed, I would say this will be an organization quite similar to the Road Runners Club, for those who are familiar with that organization. This is rather interesting coming on the heels of Dick Ortiz' letter, citing the need for closer allegiance with track and field. Actually, there is no need for a particular conflict here as we can certainly improve the sport through our own efforts and through seeking more help from the track people. The road runners have certainly improved their position without alienating themselves from the parent sport. They are now sending teams annually to the International cross country championships, which the AAU never did, and are also sending at least one man to the London-Brighton each year.

The stated purpose of the proposed organization in the proposed constitution is to:

A. Raise funds to promote the sport, send deserving athletes to foreign competition, and help potential champions to the qualifying events for international competition.

B. Better communications between walkers, press, AAU, and any other group which would better our sport. (Ed. Here, of course, I would suggest the T & F Committee as such a group)

C. Give a more interested and stronger representation by interested and capable walkers.

I haven't had an opportunity to consult with the rest of the editorial staff on this, but personally can see a place for such an organization if Don can get it off the ground. As noted above, the RRC has been a very productive group, and there is no reason an organization of race walkers couldn't do as well. Don is proposing membership dues of $1.00 per year. As a beginning fund raising gimmick he has some decals prepared which can be sold for one buck a piece to those who want to contribute. Dues, or request for further information, or requests for some decals to peddle may be sent to Don DeNoon, 4100 E. Seventh St., Apt. 5, Long Beach, Calif. 90804. Incidentally, Don is not trying to set himself up as a crank, or anything. He has taken it up on himself, evidently, to try and get something going. The constitution, of course, calls for officers, which who would be elected as soon as the thing got going, providing the interest is there. If interest is not sufficient, any money contributed will go into the AAU Race Walking Fund. I would suggest we get behind this and see what we can make of it. It sure won't hurt anything to try.

Another change in the National schedule as originally announced (gee, my typing is worse than ever today, and it's usually horrible). The 10 Mile in Kelispell, Montana will be on the evening of Saturday, August 26 and not on September 3. Also, Bill Clark out in the Columbia squadron is asking for suggestions for another date for the 30 Mile. Right now it is set for July 2. If he has to go then, the race will start at 5:30 or 6 a.m. He is open to suggestions for any date after April 15. If you don't want to compete in the wee hours (when I have found it may be cooler, but usually more humid) give him some suggestions for non-conflicting dates.
Some more results from the deep dark past:

1956 NA/U and Olympic Trial 20 Kilo - 1. Alex Oakley, Tor. Gladstone AC 1:39:06  

St. YMA, no time.

Finishing sixth in the National 10 Kilo run, which was the Olympic trial, was a  
young Ohio State sophomore name of Jack Mackburn.

1956 Olympic 20 Kilo, Melbourne - 1. L. Spirine, USSR 1:31:27 2. A. Mikere,  
GB 1:34:01.8 8. Roland Hardy, GB 1:34:40:6 9. G. Dordoni, Italy 1:35:06  
Laskau, USA 1:36:16:8 Macdonald finished 16th in 1:43:25:6 and Hewson 17th in  
1:45:24:6. Oakley was 31'd and Dieter Lysaner and Josef Dolezal did not finish.

1956 Olympic 50 Kilo, Melbourne - 1. Norm Reid, New Zealand 4:30:42:8 2. E. Maiske,  
4:39:00 5. A. Roka, Hungary 4:50:09 6. R. Smith, Australia 5:00:08 7. Adolph  
Weinacker, USA 5:00:16 8. A. Johnson, GB 5:02:19 9. E. Hall, GB 5:03:59  
USA 5:12:34 13. Ron Crawford, Australia 5:22:36

During the course of the year, Henry Laskau won the 10, 15 and 25, plus the  
50 miles and 3000 meters (they use to have that rather than 2 miles in Olympic  
years, or maybe we still do). Weinacker won the 30, 35 and 40 in addition to  
the 50.

Let's go back further, like to the 1934 European 50 kilo championship and see  
what they were doing in those days. The meet was held in Turin from Sept. 7-9.  
Italy 4:54:05:4 4. M. Orignol, Italy 5:01:52:8 5. E. Leisz, Fr. 5:06:40:6  
*This is from a Romanian book and some of the countries are a bit different.  
Like Schwab in second is from Swita, which I have managed to figure out is  
Switzerland. But I haven't figured out Letonia yet. Or was there a country  
by that name in yo old days before the face of Europe was changed. Will  
appreciate help from anyone not so stupid as I.

Moving on to 1938, the European Championships were held in Paris, Sept. 3-5.  

Like it or not, you can look forward to some of these trips into history  
in the future.