Well, well kiddies, many exciting things have happened in our sport since we last came into your homes. On the national scene, it appears I may have to do some revising of my Olympic team predictions. Don DeNoon showed he is definitely ready for more consideration than I gave him by winning the 25 km. by a wide margin in real world-class time. (A fantastic race. Four guys under 2 hours.) Ray Somers, who I didn't even consider, not even knowing he was a race walker, is a real threat in the 20. And Ron Laird, who six months ago looked like a good bet for a medal in Mexico City, and may still be, is going to have a real fight just to get there. In Ohio circles, Jack Blackburn won the Ohio 10 Kms. won a three mile in Toronto, and then staggered through the 25 on a torn up hip. Jack Mortland had his worst finish ever in a National and was well satisfied with his performance (in that unbelievable 25). And Chuck Newell is not lost after all. He too made it to Detroit for the 25 along with Forrest Conrado, to mark the first CFC team performance since last year's 20. Well, let's look at some of these exciting events in detail.

Ray Somers (Who?) Shook Troops

Catonsville, Maryland, April 21—Unheralded Ray Somers, in his first walking race of over a mile, walked off with the National 10 Kms. championship today in a race marred by some of the poorest organization in the history of the sport. Somers, who turned from walking-lacrosse running to walking only in December, moved steadily away from an unbelievable Ron Laird over the last four miles. His actual time is unknown, since he, like everyone else, had to walk an extra lap. With the extra lap he had 47:59 1/4, so was around 46:05 to 46:10 at 10 km. Although not sensational, this was very good time on a warm day, in a bright sun, on a so-so all-weather track. It was good enough to leave Laird over 40 seconds behind, anyway. Finishing third, and closing on Laird at the end, was Dave Romansky. The NTAC took the next three places in the persons of Ron Daniel, Ron Kulik, and John Knifton. Kulik moved very well over the last three miles, probably faster than anyone. Your editor managed to stay ahead of Esteban Valle, walking his first race over two miles, for seventh place.

As to the organization — it was just hardly there. To count laps we had Phil Jabuschinski standing on the track, shouting numbers, three-digit numbers at that, to one set of lap counters working on an automobile hood about 30 yards away and up a little knoll. These guys were spending more time arguing than counting. No one was told how many laps they had gone during the race. We got laps times only because Bill Jimeson had an interest in Somers and parked himself at the starting line. As a result, everything was fouled up, beginning with the fact that they made the race a lap longer than it should have been. Everyone, having seen Somers do it, walked this one extra lap without much complaint, but they wanted some of us to walk two, three, or four more after that. Fortunately,
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walkers know where they are in a race, and after the arrogant old man had left, we managed to straighten out the places to everyone's satisfaction. Nothing could actually be done about the times though since they were for one lap too many to begin with and had been recorded for place, not walkers. And being as they had the wrong people finishing there was no way to line up the times. Official times have been released, but they have absolutely no relation to actual times. I have estimated times for the first ten from my own knowledge of the race. I know that my six mile times, for instance, which gets me pretty close to my 10 km time by interpolation. And I know approximately where others were in relation to me.

As to Somers. He is 25-years old, a mathematician, and has run about 9:14 for 2 miles, and 30:00 for 6. He decided so current race walkers were that good, so he might just as well be at them at their sport. He started on December 2, following a schedule outlined by Jack Hortland (that's me) in a bygone issue of the GM. Fortunately, he didn't stay with that sort of schedule long and developed amazingly fast on his own training. Two weeks after starting he did a 14:01 two mile. He had subsequent training times like 20:35 for three, 42:49 for 6, and 8 miles 660 yards for one hour. So he was somewhat disappointed in his time in the 10. His style is good, and that he is capable of the times he reports from training is evidenced in the next story. First the results of the 10 with my estimated times.


**SOMERS is for Real**

Alexandria, Va., April 26—Ray Somers broke the American record for the One Hour Walk today, covering 8 miles 797 yards. Whether it can be accepted or not remains to be seen. Ray had no trouble with lap counters in this one, only with track measures. The track was not measured before the race, but was rumored to be about 33 yards per lap short. So, the timers moved twelve yards down the track at each mile to record times. Measurement after the race revealed the track was only 11/2 miles short per lap, and the final distance is based on this measurement. But the mile times recorded are of course wrong, the actual times being somewhat faster. No details as to who else was in the race. In any case, here are the mile times, and those should frighten Olympic hopefuls a little more. The times listed are those recorded. Those in parentheses are Ray's estimates of actual times.


The Ohio Race Walker is published monthly and costs $2.00 per year. Please address all subscription correspondence to Jack Blackburn, 733 W. Main St., Van Wert, Ohio. He's the publisher. Please address all editorial correspondence to Jack Hortland, 334 Grant St., Columbus, Ohio 43202. He's the editor.
Greatest U.S. Race Yet

Detroit, May 5 — Your old editor didn't think the time would come this early in his career that he would finish 15th and be very well satisfied with his performance. But it happened today. Figuring my present condition would carry me through to about 2:17 or 2:18, I came across in 2:11:29. And there were those 14 tough cats in front of me. I guess American race walking really arrived with this one. It was far and away the finest race in our history from the standpoint of depth of performance. Four under two hours, four more under 2:03, and six more under 2:10. No one quite believed it. Like Ron Daniel walking 8 minute miles and getting ninth. Well, I could make lots of comparisons to past Nationals to show just how great this was, but I'll leave you to do that for yourself.

My only nagging regret is that I wasn't in a little better shape so I could have seen at least a little more of the race. As it is, I can't report on it too much. The weather was near perfect, except for a strong wind that was quite bothersome on one stretch of a half-mile or so. Temperature in the mid 40s. Sun shining most of the time. Don DeKoon move into a quick lead, as usual. But this is a different Don DeKoon than in the past. When Laird, Young, and Romansky came up to him after a mile or so, he stayed right with them, and then, somewhere along the line, moved right away from them. His 1:55:13 is better than anything Laird has done at his best and would certainly put him close to anyone in the world. It certainly shows he has the strength for a really class 20 km. Hr. Larry Young also finished well ahead of Laird with 1:57:10 to 1:59:33. Not far back was a fast improving Bill Ramsey in 1:59:03. I may have sold Bill a little short in the last issue, too.

Karl Herschens is showing the benefits of his year in Denver and just missed breaking 2 hours in beating out Romansky for fifth. Dave had been sick earlier in the week and will still be a man to be reckoned with. Goetz Klopfer and Bob Bowman, two 50 km hopefuls, came next, both showing they have the good speed to go with their endurance. I have long regarded Bowman as having fantastic potential at 50 and he is doing a lot of work this year to try and reach it. That's the thing, everyone is doing the work this year and the results are there. It appears that 1:35 will really be nowhere in the 20 this year.

Among others in the race, Matt Rutyns walked his finest race since coming here from Poland eight years ago in eleventh place. Matt is finding some time to train now and has some hope of being selected for the Polish team at 50 km. Jerry Bocci continues to improve and broke 2:10 despite a pit stop and the worry of putting on the race and putting up an uncanny race walker. Jerry had measured the course with a tape and it was accurate. It was a lap course, with each lap 2:3 yards short of 5000 meters. I may get some splits from Jerry before I finish this thing up. If so, I'll stick them in the back. Oh yes, the team title went to the Striders, followed by the NYAC, Athens AC and the OHIO TRAC/CUE. Charlie Newall was there and walked a good solid 2:21:31. Jack Blackburn was done from a three-mile win in Toronto the day before, during which he had torn up his hip, and made it through in 2:23:41. Looked just terrible coming in. So, here are the results:

1. Don DeKoon, Striders 1:55:13
2. Larry Young, Striders 1:57:10
5. Karl Herschens, Gladstone AC 2:00:13
6. Dave Romansky, Phil. AC 2:00:43
7. Goetz Klopfer 2:02:00
8. Bob Bowman 2:02:47
9. Ron Daniel, NYAC 2:03:31
10. John Knifton, NYAC 2:06:59
11. Matt Rutyns, Green & Gold AC 2:06:30
13. Ron Mulik, NYAC 2:08:32
15. Jack Hortland, ONT 2:11:26
16. Bob Young,
Publisher Downs Editor in 10Kila.

Upper Arlington, Ohio, April 28 — Fat Jack Blackburn wondered down from his new home in Van Wert and walked off with the Ohio 10 km cross today. Blackburn has been careful not to overtrain since starting on his new job four weeks ago, although he did venture as far as a three mile once during that period. Nonetheless he moved away from Jack Horland during the last three miles and came home in 48:57.5. Horland at least had the satisfaction of taking about a half minute off his time in last week’s National, recording a 49:14. Only other contestant in the race was Doc Blackburn who just missed breaking an hour by .9 second. Not too big of a field for an Ohio championship. It was reported that Newell and Conrad were having their own race up in Ashland. Incidentally, the Ohio 20 km is going to be held up there on May 19, but that may already have been by the time you get this. We don’t want too many contestants anyway.


I think the next thing we should put in here, before we use up all the space with boring results, and there are a lot of them, is a letter from the father of American 20K walkers, Chris McCarthy. Chris is evidently becoming affluent, or at least contaminated in some way, since he sent a check, and personalized to boot. Didn’t think Chris believed in things like checking accounts. Anyway, he says:

"I am glad to see the CR turn into a journal of miscellaneous opinion—if only because it gets Charlie Silcock irked. Can’t say I like the Modern Jazz Quartet, but if you want a good rendition of Summertime, try the version of Atlantic SD 1361 by John Coltrane. (Ed: Can’t say I like John Coltrane. He messes up a few of my Miles Davis hits with his horn and blowing.) As for your political choices, you should have waited until DB announced he was going to run before you endorsed him. Clearly he is out and you prefer somebody who is crude, vulgar, overambitious, deceitful, etc., I guess hobbycracy in your man. Prefer McCarthy myself, but he might be too civilized; as you fear, the other boys might take his marbles away from him.

"On the walking front not much too report. I’m right back where I was in 1959—don’t walk a step if I can possible drive. Never took out, don’t follow the sport, etc., (except of course for the CR, which has more to it than mere results.)

I am still in school, but bad news: they are having a crackdown. I got a letter last July saying I had 6 years to complete my work. This, of course, is ridiculous, so one can do good work under pressure like that. Maybe they will give me a 6-year extension if I don’t take it. If they do, I’ll get it in 26 years. Not bad, but that will still leave me too young for social security. Maybe I’ll go on to law school."
From the Late Great McCarthy

"I think Jack Blackburn turned out the track at Stagg Field. He was here last summer and walked a fast two miles. Next day the tractors came and dug up the track, putting it in a museum, I think. They are building a library on Stagg Field. The new Stagg Field goes where I live now, so I'm being evicted. After May 1st I'll be at 5430 S. Kimbark, a couple of blocks away. I had rather hoped they'd leave my house standing. I wanted to sit on the back porch, stop watch in hand, and watch the boys pound out those 4:40's.

"It's gratifying to see so many good walkers. It makes me feel wise for having quit when I did. It's especially nice, though, to see回到家 Klopfer getting so good. He's worked a long time and deserves it. As does Laird, of course. Larry Young and Tom Dooley have more *natural* talent, apparently, but they too deserve whatever they work for. Best thing of all, I think, would be for Laird to win in Mexico to avenging his defeat in Tokyo. He might just do it."

J.C.B. Wins Toronto 3 Mile

Toronto, May 4 — Fat and easy, but still possessing a good turn of speed, the 26-year-old Jack Blackburn strode to victory in a 3-mile walking race today. Pressed hard by Frank Johnson for the first two miles, Blackburn finally broke away on the final mile to win in 22:34 on the hilly course. Johnson also broke under 23 minutes and Alex Gould showed surprising speed in third. Blackburn chalked a solid victory in his hip as a result of his efforts. But it figures that he would. Racing along like that for a distance of the distance for which he is trained. The results:


Young Sets 50Kilo Mark

Columbia, Mo., April 14 — Larry Young journeyed over from Kansas City with his father for the Missouri Valley One Hour Championship and stayed around long enough to shatter his own American record for 50 kilometers. On the way, he set new records at 2:35, 4:0, 4:35, and 30 miles. In the course of the thing he also won the One Hour Race covering 7 miles and 236 yards. Bill Clark had officials and watches on hand, and was kind enough to let Larry keep going. And keep going he did, picking up the pace after 7 miles and finally finishing in 4:25:40. His other records were 2:59:12.2, 3:26:16.4, 3:53:59.2 and 4:11:59.4. Thus, he covered the last 10 km. in under 35, which is a good strong finish, and better than he did when he set the previous record at 4:25:40. His time at 10 miles was 1:3:19 and at 20 2:4:58. So he had 1:40, or 10 miles for the second 10. And he still held on for a 1:27:01 on the third ten. His last full mile was in 6:33. In the One Hour, Bob Young was the official winner with 6 miles 1:52 yds. Others were 2. John Rose 6 miles 49 yds 3. Darrell Fauber 6 miles 32 yds. Larry is certainly losing more and more as a threat for a medal at Mexico City. In both his recent races he has started out rather slowly, had a very strong pickup in the middle, and then finished relatively strongly. He should be down at least to 4:15 by the time of the Olympics.
Point Pleasant, N. J., April 21—And yet another record fell to a veteran record-breaker. Saul Ledany broke his own record for 50 miles in Elliott Deman's annual blister feet. This marked the third year in a row Saul has set a record in this meet. Today he covered the distance in 8 hrs. 5 minutes and 18 seconds, an average of about 9:42 per mile, which ain't bad. Last year he had 8:11:41. Saul is pointing for a berth on the Israeli Olympic team and has to do little things like this to impress the committee. There were only three other finishers, and apparently age helps. Fifty-year old George Macelard captured second in a time 9:12:12 and 50-year old Don Johnson was third in 9:29:17. John Czumian of Boston, 49, and a mere 35, was fourth in 9:44:03. Saul is really a kid at 32. Dennis Lewis of Point Pleasant made it as far as 35 miles and five others got to 50 km.

There were drop outs at earlier stages including race-impressario Deman who only made it 10 miles suffering from a stomach virus.

Ledany started out at 9:07, and 45:11 at five, 1:31:12 at 10, 2:17:29 at 15, and 3:16:54 at 20. His 50-kilometer time was 4:56:14 and he had 6:27:40 at 40 miles. He had enough left to make his last lap his fastest in 1:57.

And now all sorts of results from hither, thither, and yon (whoever they are.)

Here are some Relays, April 7—1. Ron Kulik, NY 6:42:25 2. Ron Daniel, NY 6:45:30 3. Paul Schell, Nortz Medford, no time available. Dave Romanyuk failed to finish this one. This certainly stamps Kulik for serious consideration at 50.


These don't mean a whole lot for the leading cats in this race, since they are just training through races like this. Daniel had done 15 miles on the way to the race, Kulik 30 the day before, and Romansky 25 on Friday night.

Lots of racecats overseas, with Steve Ayer winning most. His wins include:
5 K, March 9 — 39:50 2 Mile, March 16 — 15:39.6 20 Km, March 23 — 1:46:16
2 Mile, April 6 — 15:21, and 25 Km 1:22:18. On April 20, Ed Glanzer won a 50 km in 1:59:40. Oh, I see, the 25 km was the same day as the 50. These results are courtesy of Don Jacobs.

Out in Iowa, Bitch Hammer is cleaning up with the following wins: 5 K, March 16 — 21:40 15 K, March 30 — 1:23:20.6 10 K, April 6 — 50:32.1 Larry Dickson 52:21, Dean Jungrman 52:24 30 K, April 20 — 39:45. Finally, Bitch won the National Junior 10 K in Des Moines.


15 Mile, London, March 23 — 1. Paul Mihill 1:55:30 (beats Pullager's course record of 1:56, but doesn't quite measure up to what we bloody Americans are doing)

All you walkers over 40. Don't forget to make your plans for the first Master's Track and Field Championships to be held in San Diego, Feb 19 and 20. The meet includes a 6 mile walk on the first day and a 3 mile run on the second. Also, a full schedule of running, jumping, and throwing events. If you are interested, sign up. This should be a very interesting meet. Almost makes one wish we were seven years older.

Sorry we are a little late again this month. Well, only about a month late. We got held up last month when Blackburn moved and took three weeks to get the thing run off and mailed. Got hold of this month merely because your editor got tied up with other things, like bone tiling in the bathroom and journeying to walking races.

Still try and get another issue out right after the exciting Zinn memorial 10 Mile on Memorial Day. Hope we don't have so many results to clutter that one up with.
But since we are cluttering this up with results, here are a few more:

10 Mile Ontario Championship, April 6 — 1. Karl Horwitz, Gladstone AC 1:13:15


Don't know why everyone but DeNoon was so slow in respect to their capabilities. In the 5 km the day before, reported earlier, DeNoon went out in 6:39 and had 20 seconds on Laird. He still led 14:01 to 14:16 at two miles, but at three it was Laird 21:30 and DeNoon 21:36. Haluza had 7:00, 14:27, and 22:47. Walker and Tothorh were de'd.

Think I'll leave the rest of this for Blackburn to scribble on if he wants to. Nothing more worth saying right now. May give you my final predictions for the National 20 and 50 next month. And I may chicken out, too. Tried that last year and really looked bad.

Thanks a hell of a lot, Mort!

Traveling through Canada is always a pleasure. It's the only part of the continent where I can take a Negro boy with me and be sure of a good warm reception. During my trip to Toronto I took Nate Pittman with me, an old Negro boy under my charge and got nothing but very warm welcomes wherever we stopped. No cold looks, no extra slow service, no pointed questions. Just a real Fine Trip for Nate, Son Tim and ol' J.B.

For all the belly aching and excuse making I did in Detroit, I wouldn't have done much better if I hadn't coned up. This was not only an unbelievable pace at the organization was real fine too. Congratulations to Bob Young for a real quality performance. He will be even tougher when he Matures - Look at Larry O'Neal! Thanks to Jeannie Decci from all of us for the words of encouragement along the way. -Keep those cards & Letters Comin'!