There were no big surprises in the final trials, at least to the thinking man. Rudy Haluza is the only really unexpected member and he certainly was not one to count out when you know his abilities and competitive know-how. Rudy, joined Ron Laird and Tom Dooley in the 20. In the 50 it will be Larry Young, Costz Klopfen, and Dave Romansky. Young was also third in the 20 but has chosen to bypass the double. Likely so, we might add.

There were 30 starters in the 20, in which the two veterans, Laird and Haluza, halted the surge of new-comers in American racewalking, at least temporarily. They employed completely different tactics to achieve their Olympic goal, however. Laird decided to settle the issue immediately with a 6.5-mile. This put him well clear of the field and there was never any race for first place. Although he slowed painfully in the final two miles he was still 29 seconds clear of the fact closing Haluza at the finish. Certainly this mad dash at the start had to be gambled, especially considering the altitude problem, but Ron has the courage to make something like this work. His final time is 1:37:45 is certainly not bad, at altitude and probably could have been considerably faster with a more sensible pace. But in a race like this its position, not time, that count, and Laird employed the tactics he felt were most certain to put him on the plane.

Haluza, on the other hand, gambled on the rest of the field coming back to him. In eighth place at the end of the first 2.5-mile lap, he gradually moved through the field and passed Young at 15 km for second place. From there he closed steadily on Laird, but having been nearly two minutes down couldn't catch him. Dooley got the third spot on the team, despite having what for him was a very poor race. He stayed close to second for 10 km and then really ran into trouble but had enough of a lead over anyone else to hang on. Even at that, he was faster than the tiring Laird over the last 5 km.

Others who were given a chance of making the team ran into various difficulties. Don DeLarue had a leg injury all summer, which bothered him considerably. Still he hung in third place for half the race and finally finished fifth, one minute behind Dooley, only to find he had been given a second call. Dave Romansky had some sort of a foot problem and dropped out after five laps to save himself for the 50. Ray Scorer also had to drop out after five laps with a bad knee, having never been in the race. He will still hear a lot from him, however. Martin Raud had a fairly steady race to capture the fifth spot, but was never really in contention. Larry Walker-led Raud after the second lap, but then folded completely on the final lap to finish sixth. Bill Kenney never got himself in the race. In addition to DeLorue, Laird, Dooley, Haluza, and Haluza were given cautions. Bill Shishikawa was the chief after the race, and was announced as Charlie Silcock, like Tokito, Tom Carroll, Bruce MacDonald, Jim Smith, and John Sop.
There were also 10 starters in the 50 km three days later, but this time only five finished. Most of the dropouts were probably a result of fatigue combined with being out of the race for one of the top three spots. In this one Larry Young dominated the race completely, as was expected. Only Bob Roman stayed close to Larry in the early going and he dropped back after four laps. It may not have been soon enough as Bob finally had to call it a day at 32½ km, when he was a fast fading fifth. Larry apparently tried to employ his usual tactics of a moderate start and an acceleration later after he gets going. However, the altitude evidently made this a bit difficult. After 9 km splits of 26:35 and 26:59, he picked it up to 26:33 and 26:01, but then slowed down the rest of the way, managing only 27:26 for his final 5. Still, his 4:34:18 at 7300 feet must be a commendable time.

Kloepfer and Romanovsky had a real ding-dong battle for second never being more than a second apart through 32½ km. I would imagine this was Romanovsky's tactic, realizing how dependable Goetz is these days and knowing that as long as he stayed with him he would have the third spot screwed up. Both of them slowed quite a bit after 30 km, Dave more so as he dropped over three minutes. He was still 3¾ minutes ahead of an unnoticed Bob Kitchen at the finish, however and was on the team with a real gutsy performance. Not to sell Goetz Kloepfer short. After all, Goetz was moving away at the finish. But Larry and Goetz were pretty much conceded the first two spots.

Bob Kitchen was fourth, and perhaps walked too cautiously for a race. He usually hangs on as close as possible as long as he can breath and then guts it out to the finish. In this one he chose to walk back in the early going. He just stayed a little too well back although he walked the second half faster than the first, he couldn't get up with Romanovsky. He came from over 10 minutes behind Dave at 30 km to within 3¼ at the finish. He was faster than Young over the last 15 km and gained nearly a minute on Larry in the last 5 km. Bob is still only 20 years old and will have plenty of opportunity to redeem himself, if he needs any redemption. The only other finisher was Bill Kuner, who once again never really got in the race. John Kelly was out at 25 km, Ron Halik at 30, Jim Hanley at 30, Roman at 32½, and Jerry Bocci at 40. Halik had been walking in fifth place through 25 km. Bocci took over the fifth spot and stayed there when Kitchen passed him about the time Roman dropped out.

It is interesting to note that the 50 km team is younger (Romanovsky 30, Kloepfer 26, Young 25) than the 20 km team (Haluz, Laird 30, Dooley 22). As to the chances in Mexico City. This is certainly the finest team we have ever sent. However, others seem to be sending their finest teams as well. For instance, I have been praising the quality and depth of the East Germans at 20 km, and they have shown tremendous quality and depth. So they sent two of their best (Frankel and Spoerling) to Leningrad and they both walked close to 1:26 only to see six Russians ahead of them. In this same race, the Czech, Milek, who was 11th in Tokyo, finished 26th in 1:27:51. Still, from last year we know that Ron Laird has the ability to hang with
A potpourri of Ohio news. The big news on the Ohio front, at least from this vantage point, is the birth on September 14 at 3:06 a.m. of Derek Douglas Mortland. Derek came into the world at 7 lbs 0 oz. and 21 inches and with a heavy head of hair. Nickie either has to get it cut or get him some beads. Strong little fellow though, By 1966 he will either be in the Olympic arena or the Center Court at Wembley, depending on whether he passes after mom's or daddy's sport. Incidentally, Nickie made quite a sight this summer playing doubles in a local league with a partner who was also pregnant. A good way to psych out the opposition or get them over confident. Anyway, dddy is now well versed in the diaper art and old Derek has already established a record for himself. On his first trip to the Doctor's, grateful at being relieved of the confinement of his diapers, he expressed his pleasure with a well aimed stream that just missed the opposite wall. We feel confident he can reach that wall the next time if he continues to practice at home.

Invitational

In other local news, the Third Annual Labor Day Mile 536 Yard Handicap was held, believe it or not, on Labor Day. If you will recall your history, last year’s race was billed as Second Annual, even though it was for all practical purposes the first. It seems the good Doctor Blackburn had neglected to invite anyone the year before and had thus emerged an easy victor. His son snapped that string of success last year. This year, Jack Mortland caught the doctor in closing strides and Doc may soon see fit to stop extending invitations again. Mortland, starting 8 minutes
Jack, eased it on down the last hill and caught Doc about 30 yards from the finish line, which he crossed in 51:36 (actual time). Doc had a 59:39 and the only other contestant, Larry Jansen, 64:20. Larry started even with Doc and led for most of the first lap (four laps) but then his lack of training for such activity caught up with him. Fortland's time does not compare too favorably to Blackburn's 49:30 of last year or even his own 50:42. Maybe it was hotter this year.

The younger, faster Blackburn has been traveling far and wide in an orgy of competition and doing quite well. After the 40 in Long Branch, reported last month, he went out to Columbia for the 30, thus missing the more important Labor Day 6 mi. 536 yd affair, and two weeks later journeyed to Atlantic City for the 15. Except for Larry Young's showing up and finishing something over two miles ahead of him, he would have had his second National title in Columbia. In Atlantic City, he finished a slim fourth in a much stronger field and just missed beating Ron Kulik for third. I am leaving two blank pages when I send this to Jack for him to brag about these outstanding accomplishments and maybe tell you a little about the other competitors as well.

The U.S. has lost its second outstanding race walker in the Viet Nam. Capt. Akos Szekely was killed near the Cambodian border on September 11 when his armored personnel carrier was destroyed. Szekely was introduced to race walking while a student at West Point by Ron Zinn, who died in Vietnam in July 1965. Zinn was sixth in the Tokyo Olympic 20 km walk.

"Sz" was one of the top walkers in this country from 1962 through 1964, when he went on active duty. In 1963 he finished third in a very fast National 20 km in Chicago's Hesner Park in 96:41 (nope! I take that back. He was fourth since Alex Lakley was there, five seconds ahead of him). Laird was this one in 94:52 with Zinn second in 96:02. somewhere Szekely was also second in that year's two mile championship and finished second to Zinn in the Penn AC 12 miler, a popular race in those days.

Akos was born in Budapest, Hungary and came to this country with his father after the Communist takeover. He graduated second in his class at West Point and later received a Master's Degree from MIT. He was 26 and had been in Vietnam since October 1967. He was serving as a company commander when killed.

Various and sundry results from throughout the whole, wide world:

5 MiLe (Somewhere in California around the middle of September) — 1. Tom Dooley 35:20. 2. Bill Ramsey 37:01. 3. Goetz Klofier 37:44. Old course record—37:21 by Ramsey. (Dooley also reports that he and Goetz plan to make a training film while in Mexico City, using Tom's slow motion camera and Goetz's command of German.)

June 17, 5:10, Anchorage, July 27 — 1. Hans June 43:13
June AAI 2 mile, June — Butch Hamner 15:14.7. 1000 meters, Des Moines, June 28 —
29 — 1. Mike 5:44.4 (American Record). 3 km, Des Moines, July 12 — Hammer 14:29. 1 mile
Hammer, 14, July 20 — Hammer 6:46 (Setters Jack Blackburn's Iowa All Comers record
Dickes 7:53. 10 km (track). Seattle, Aug. 30 — Martin Rodov 45:30. 5 mile,
Black Diamond, Sept. 1 — 1. Don 29:18 2. Steve Tyler 31:27. 3. Karl Johansen 31:30 (where has he been?), 4. Ed Glader 3:44.8, 5 mile, Ingleside, Sept. 2 —
long from the altitude camp at Martin Rodov), Phil. AC 10 mile HEP, Sept. 6 —

Choice! Here's some more results in this stack of junk. This is definitely not an organized operation. Last German 50 km, July 21 — 1. Berhard Mesochrich 4:06:32
last month) — on the track — 1. Young 2:53:49 2. Manny 2:53:49. 5 mile,
1:30:07, Dooley 10 miles in 78:51:35, Radon 10 miles in 80:36, Sonner 20 km in
1:16:51, Walker 20 km in 1:39:15, and Nallen 15 miles in 2:00:49. Junior National
62 km, Kellogg, Sept. 24 — 1. Larry Poland 2:35:18 4. Bob Long 2:35:18. 2 mile,
2:47:50 4. Don Loafman 2:50:00 5. Don Jacob 2:59:21 (Fowler and Long had
the early lead, but O'Neill was ahead by 15 km and pulled steadily away.
All-Song. Lots, Yukon, Steve Tyler 6:52.0 and 15:10.9. Alaska AAI 2 mile
June 17, 5:10, The Grant 10:02. 5 mile, Anchorage, July 27 — 1. Hans June 43:13
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long from the altitude camp at Martin Rodov), Phil. AC 10 mile HEP, Sept. 6 —
Tough Cat of the Month

This month's tough cat is David L. Romanusky of Penrsville, N.J., and the Philadelphia U.S.A. In his second year of race walking, Dave has compiled an outstanding record topped off with a berth on the U.S. Olympic team at 50 kilometers. During the spring and summer Dave has had a consistent record placing third in the 10 km., 2nd at 15, 5th at 20, 5th at 25, 1st at 40, and 4th at 50.

Now 30 years old, Dave was a better than average distance runner before taking up the heel-and-toe sport at the urging of George Brasland. He had times of 32:35 for 6 miles and about 54 minutes for 10 miles but also had chronic hip problems and bad feet that pushed him to the decision to switch. I'm not sure how race walking helps his chronic hip problem but he seems to be thriving on it. Since turning to walking, this big (6'2, 165), likeable, truck driver has turned in best times of 13:47 for two miles, 1:34:33 for 20 km., 3:30:33, 6 for 40, and 4:23:10 for 50; the last three on the road.

Dave trains 7 days a week and puts in two workouts when he has the opportunity like on holidays and vacations. His training is really much the same the year around, but he increases the mileage somewhat during the summer, covering 70 to 100 miles a week as compared to 50 to 80 during the winter. His training apparently consists primarily of straight distance with the pace varying with how he feels. As an example, he lists what he considers a very good week of training late last spring: Day 27 — 2 miles very slow — tired from race and double workout 21 — 11 miles in rain — no time 29 — 10 miles, first 9 — 1:32, 2nd 9 — 1:31 30 — morning — 10 miles, afternoon — 5 miles 37:30, ran 5 slow around — 2 mile warm up, 15.440's at 1:43 average, ran mile in 5:16, 2 fast 440's, weak at first, stronger as workout progressed June 1 — morning — 11 miles slop, afternoon — ran 5 miles 2 — 25 miles, First 12. — 2:19, 2nd 12. — 2:10, very hot.

Dave does some running in his training, as indicated above. He feels this breaks the monotony, builds up resistance to oxygen debt, and is beneficial when his leg muscles are sore. He does some work with light weights when he feels he needs added strength and does a considerable amount of warming-up exercises, including situps and squats.

Romanusky is married and has two children. In addition to his competitive activities, I know he has done considerable work with the youth in his community, including promoting an age-group running program. He advises the young walker to get advice from the veterans and to try and get movies of themselves and go over them with someone who knows the score. Dave feels stricter judging is going to be needed to further improve the sport in this country. He feels our sport is now gaining in respect with other athletes and that the recent training camp did much to enhance the image. He credits people like Charlie Silkock and Elliot Berman with doing much to push race walking ahead in the U.S.

Eleventh Annual Ohio Track Club Distance Carnival is scheduled for November 16 and 17. 7 mile walk on the 16th and 15 mile on the 17th. Second U.S. Seniors Championship (50 and over) will be held in conjunction with the 7. (It was held at six last year.) Entry blanks out shortly. For further information, write your editor at 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202. For subscriptions to this rag ($2 per year) write your editor at 733 Main St., Van Nuys, Ohio.
Columbia Mo. Sept. 1st - I Protest! How many members of one family are allowed in the same race? If there are more than 2 doesn't that make the first Finisher in the Family ineligible? Most kidding aside, there are more young tough Youngs than I care to Count. If the Young Family had a team of their own they would have easily captured the Team Title. Son Larry and Father Bob weren't enough, they had To drag Uncle Fred into the Picture. Well, Uncle Fred, who is several years older than Father Bob, completed his First race, under his Safari Hat, with the Fine Young style and the strong Young Finish that we are all so used To seeing.

The race For second, third, and fourth was an interesting race for a while with Larry never really in it. He already had a 3 min lead at the 5 kilo, you'd think we had --- well ---- bad breath or something. Fat Jack was a couple of steps behind Howie Jacobson Through the 15 kilo with Father Bob 51 sec. Back. By 20 kilo Blackborn had a 1 min lead and moving (rather just slowing down less) and Bob was beginning to suffer. John Rose walked pretty much by himself the entire distance in 5th while Old Friend Bruce McDonald was busy holding off Barry Willworth and Uncle Fred from start to Finish.

Outside of the Young family performance the next most notable feature of this event was the gutsy showing of a pretty Little Lady from Kansas City who finished the distance with 4:21.10 (14 to 15 min per). What was really nice though, was the fact that she didn't look like a race walker even though she had Fine Form.

14 Starters & 12 Finishers on the same Hilly road with Moderate Heat (and poor spelling)

1. Larry Young-striders - 2:31:30.1
3. Howie Jacobson - Long John's 3:00:59
4. Bob Young - West Kansas 3:03:57
5. John Rose - 3:08:46
6. Bruce McDonald - NYAC 3:11:44
7. Gerald Willworth - 3:11:56
8. Fred Young - 3:12:29
10. Aubrey Anderson - 3:33:24
12. Brenda Whitman - 4:2:10
13. Brenda Whitman - 4:2:10
14. Brenda Whitman - 4:2:10

YOUNG-EASY-30-VICTOR
Laard takes Quick 15 Kilo

Sept. 15 - Atlantic City N.J. - Laard, Romanski, and Kulick came down from high altitude training into the thick moist hot air of the eastern seaboard to place one, two, three in a fast 15 Kilo. The change in level didn't seem to hurt the Three as they blasted out hard from the start. Fat Jack was in slightly over his head as he usually is and was warned that he might get a call if he wasn't careful. He walked the first half of the out & back course all out and then hung on to Kulick until the last two blocks. Kulick walked his fastest 15 Kilo and from a very close vantage point looked good and strong doing the job. Daniel and Hayden walked close together all the way with the fast improving John Markon close behind and looking good. Gary Westerfield continues to show good improvement while 50+ year old Canadian Max Gould showed amazing speed and seems to be taking care of his form problems.

Hay - look! Whose back after 6 yrs! Fred Timcoe! For those of you who don't know, Fred represented the U.S. in US vs. USS.R. in Phil: in a some years ago. I look for Fred to work his way back to the top if he doesn't take it too seriously and stops having fun. I must apologize for not having the complete results. The weather was warm, sunny and at least I noticed the fumes - ugh! Very Flat out & back with 34 starters.

(Still can't spell Laird - or much else.)

1. Laard - 1:10:03
2. Romanski - 1:10:42
3. Kulik - 1:11:08
4. Blackburn - 1:13:16
5. Ron Daniel - 1:15:11
6. Steve Hayden - 1:15:24
7. John Markon - 1:17:36
8. Gary Westerfield - 1:18:04
9. Max Gould - 1:19:36
10. Bob Minim
11. Howie Jacobson
12. Paul Shell
13. Gerald Willworth (very good)
14. John Schilling
15. Bruce McDonald
16. Don Johnson
17. George Bracklow
18. Fred Timcoe
19. Elliot Oenman
20. Ray Leach
21. Sam Monestario
22. Randy Minim - (Guess who's first?)
23. Mike Johnson

Really fine job of officiating by George Casper.

(Flash)

O'Neil took 100 mile again!