It appears that the ORW staff is going to have a difficult time picking the recipient of the Second Dr. John H. Blackburn Award for the most outstanding single performance in U.S. race walking for 1968. Larry Young and Rudy Haluza certainly covered themselves with glory in Mexico City with third and fourth place finishes. Unfortunately, we do not have a great deal of detail on either race as we put this thing together, so we may not tell you much that you don't already know. But it's always nice to read it in print even if you do already know it.

The 20 Kilometer was contested on Monday, October 14, and as expected was dominated by the Russians. Vladimir Golubnichiy, gold medalist in Rome in 1960 but pushed back to third in Tokyo, was back in top on this one, albeit by a very narrow margin. He entered the Stadium with only a few yards on teammate Nikolai Smaga, who had beaten him in a one-two finish at last year's Lugano Cup. And very close behind these two, to the delight of the Mexicans was Jose Pedraza. Pedraza had not shown much this year and despite his fine showing last summer in England, had been pretty well written, at least by this observer. He was ready for this one, however, and, of course, had a distinct altitude advantage. He made a big spurt just as they hit the track, quickly passed Smaga and was gaining rapidly on Golubnichiy. Vladimir had the situation well in hand though and with a glance over his shoulder stepped up his easy, but oh so powerful stride, and went on to the gold. Pedraza had looked a bit suspect to my eye during his big spurt but was evidently okay, as I don't think a group of international judges would be swayed by his being a Mexican at home. But wouldn't it have created a fine riot if they had thrown him out. Golubnichiy had a 1:33:51:34. This is probably an improvement over his 1:33:30 in the USSR championships, which were held at about 6500 feet. Pedraza was less than 2 seconds behind and Smaga only another 1 seconds back.

Meanwhile, sneaking through undetected by the ABC cameras until he had crossed the line, was Rudy Haluza. This 37-year-old wonder was only 62 seconds back of the winner in turning in easily the best Olympic performance by an American to that date. The only international performance to exceed this was Ron Laird's close third in the '67 Lugano Cup. Certainly these two performances have proven that we are ready to compete with anyone. This race was certainly a terrific one for Rudy who had been beset by injuries for the better part of a year and was never sure he would hold together to make the team. But he did hold together and when Rudy is right and has the time to prepare, look out. His biggest asset is his keen sense of pace and competitive know how. I don't know the details of this race, but the chances are he was moving up throughout.

Rudy won the National 20 in both 1959 and 1960 and competed internationally both of those years. In the 1959 USSR meet in Philadelphia he finished a not too far distant third with the ever-present Golubnichiy out front. The next year he ran in to dysentery problems, as did many others, and had a bad race in Rome. He then spent a couple of years in England in the Air Force and raced quite successfully there. His Air Force duties kept him from any serious training for the next three years, although he came fifth in the 1964 Olympic trial. Then in 1966 he suddenly shot to the fore again, better than ever and completely dominated the scene. In the Spring of 1967 he pulled a leg muscle in a race and only raced two more times in the next year, pulling a muscle again in one of those. But in the meantime,
he was able to train enough to stay close to competitive form and pointed himself for being ready when it counted. He walked well enough in the AAU 20 to qualify for the final trial and when that came, he was ready, finishing a close second to Ron Laird. In Mexico City, he improved that performance by over three minutes and almost made a liar out of your editor, who said we would not get a medal. I would have been very happy to have been shown in this case, however.

Tom Dooley also improved on his Trials performance and finished a very respectable 17th in 1:40:08, only five seconds behind 15th. Ron Laird managed only 25th place and we have not yet heard what happened to him. Obviously something affected his performance. Had he been up to his Lugano performance, we would have had 4th and 5th and second only to the Russians on a team basis. As it was, the team performance was only a slight improvement on Tokyo, where we had 6th, 17th, and DC. Scoring the Mexico City 20 on a Lugano basis, the Russians won easily with 48, East Germany had 36, Mexico 30, the US 22, Sweden 22, and Great Britain 14. The British were evidently not at all prepared for the altitude, as only Arthur Jones was close to his potential. Others of local interest in the race were Karl Merschenz, just 3 seconds back of Dooley and Matt Rutyna, who finished behind Laird.

The official results:


Then, 3 days later, Larry Young did make a liar of me, capturing the bronze medal, bless his soul. We have less detail on this one, and only the first ten finishers. Christoph Hohne proved just how tough he is by decimating the field in 4:20:13.6. Antal Kiss, walking his second race, was over 10 minutes behind. This must be about the most decisive victory in Olympic history (i.e., until Bob Beamon took wing and that was really unbelievable). Hohne's time, at altitude and on what was evidently a very hot day, might be almost as fantastic however. In third place, Larry Young proved he is very definitely an International competitor now, if anyone doubted it. He improved on his Trials time by over two minutes and reportedly ran several in the last 15 km to capture the medal. He clearly beat Peter Selzer, the young East German who usually shadows Hohne.

Goetz Klopfer showed even a greater improvement over his Alamosa race in capturing 10th in 4:39:13.8. I don't know where Romansky was, but on a team basis we may well have been second to the East Germans. No one else had two in the top ten. Certainly the overall performance in both races should convince someone that it will be worthwhile financing a team to the Lugano Cup competition next fall. The American continent did quite well in this race, with Pedraza and Merschenz doubling back for 8th and 9th places.

Perhaps you have noticed by this time the new look of the Ohio Race Walker. The ditto was always rotten at best and we surpassed the limits of a ditto master in our number of subscribers some time ago. So here we are, now go out and get us a couple of hundred more subscribers and we can afford to go to offset without raising the rates. Of course, in any case, you are still stuck with the same lousy typist, namely me, but you can't expect everything, and I can always blame my misspellings on my typing. Anyway, we hope the mimeo will be more satisfactory from the reader's standpoint. Our freewheeling editorial policy will remain unchanged though, for those of you who were either worrying or hoping along those lines.

Here I am, back at the old typing stand one night later. Passes up my training to get the ORW to all you loyal readers as soon as possible. Besides, what semi-serious race walker wants to work out when it's 40 degrees and raining. As always I acted too fast in starting this thing, for what should appear in today's mail but a big, fat letter from ever-reliable Elliott Deman. Sent direct from Mexico City, it contains all sorts of juicy details. (Actually it wasn't sent from Mexico City. He just tried to fool me by using an Olympic Press Center envelope and stationery.) Elliott has sent copies of his Asbury Park stories and complete results of the 50, including 5 km splits. Its the latter that your editor really goes nuts over. Ever since my little kid days I have reveled in spending hours at a time pouring over dull statistical stuff. Splits are the greatest. Like, they tell me that gutty Goetz Kloofen covered the last 5 km faster than anyone else in the race, including Hohne who he beat 27:10.8 to 27:15.6. Too bad Goetz wasn't 19:00.3 closer at the start of that lap.

In looking over these 50 km results, I find that only the U.S. and Mexico finished all three men. Dave Romansky was sick but struggled to the finish taking about 3:15 for the second half. John Kelly, walking for Eire, was also quite sick and didn't get very far. Only one Russian finished and I don't see Nihill or Panich anywhere. What happened to these worthies is not reported. Anyway, on a team basis, the U.S. was on top. Elliott didn't know exactly what Laird's problems, but felt he was sick too. But seeing as I have these splendid accounts from Elliott's own golden typewriter, why not let him tell the story. Much better than the bungling account on the first two pages. May as well fill this whole issue with the splendid performance of our heroes. They certainly deserve it.

20 Kilometer—Rudy Haluza is one of the quiet heroes of the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team. The soft-spoken former U.S. Air Force captain, now 37 and a commercial jet pilot with United Airlines, pulled a major breakthrough with his fourth-place finish Monday in the 20-Kilometer walk in the games of the XII Olympiad.

No American had finished as high as Haluza did since the 20-Kilometer walk was added to the Olympic program in 1956—the late Capt. Ronald Zinn's sixth at Tokyo in 1964 was the prior best. Only Joe Pammnam's second place in the 10-Kilometer race at Antwerp in 1920 tops Haluza's feat in all the annals of American in Olympic race walking.

Typically, Haluza is taking all his success in stride. "I can hardly believe that I finished fourth in the Olympic Games", Haluza confided hours after the race, "After all these years, I finally did it."

"I put in a hard summer of training and knew I was in excellent shape, but I never expected a fourth. Maybe I'm just a good altitude man and the others aren't" he joshed. .....for most of the race, Haluza was in an excellent spot to pick up one of the three medals. He was in front of the 41-man pack after five kms and trailed only the two Russians by narrow margins at the 10 and 15-kilometer checkpoints. (Your old editor was sort of off on his speculation I guess.)
Pedraza charged past at the 17-kilometer mark and got up to Golubnichiy's shoulder with 200 meters left before settling for the silver medal. (In his letter Elliott noted that Pedraza's form was terrible in both races and that according to Joe Tieman, he got three cautions but no DQ in the 50.)

"I thought about a lot of things in that race. Maybe one of them was Zinn (who fell on a Vietnam battlefield July 7, 1965," said Haluza. "I knew how strong the Russians were but I walked my own race. I got out with the leaders and never looked back."

Elliott then says some more about Rudy's career, which I have already said.

50 Kilometer—"When I got to the Stadium and saw that I was in third place, I almost cried. I just couldn't believe it." Talking was emotion-charged Larry Young, who had just made U.S. Olympic history with his come-from-behind bronze medal performance in the longest individual track and field event of the games, the 50 kilometer walk. The event was held Thursday.

It was an amazing performance by the 25-year-old athlete from San Pedro, Calif.

The best any American walker had ever finished in prior Olympic 50-kilometer competition was seventh achieved by Dr. Adolf Veinacker at Melbourne in 1956. If Young was the happiest American athlete at Estadio Olímpico, the happiest people in the stands had to be his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Young, and his sister, Mrs. Leah Kay Kern. The three set out form Sibley, Mo. last Friday and completed an 1,800-mile drive here in 3 1/2 days.

Three summers ago, Larry went to an AAU all-comers track meet in Los Angeles and competed in the one-mile walk. He quickly became "hooked" on the event and has made a rapid climb to the top. By the 1966 indoor season, he was rating invitations to the one-mile races at the major meets and that fall he annexed the first of three national AAU 50-kilometer crowns at Chicago....

"I planned to walk my own pace and let the other guys take off if they wanted," he disclosed afterward. "I just wanted to feel good at 25 kilometers and work it in from there. If I had anything left, I was going to really blast the last 10 kilometers."

Everything seemed to work according to plan. He was eighth at 25 kms in 2:14:15 and gradually began to close on the leaders. He moved to seventh at 35 kilometers and passed three more laboring rivals to take fourth at 40 kilometers. The disqualification of West Germany's Bernhard Nemerich at 43 kilometers moved Larry up into medal position and he almost made it a silver by coming to within 100 yards of Antal Kiss three different times. "I saw him ahead of me and drove with all I had, but I guess my legs couldn't go any faster," he reported....

Whereas other walkers in the race suffered all kinds of after effects, and several collapsed at the end, Larry was relatively fresh. "I was in better shape than I thought," he admitted....

One of the heartiest greetings came from Ted Haydon of the University of Chicago, an assistant Olympic team coach. "Walkers have been really doing a job down here and the whole team is mighty happy with the job they're doing. A lot of people don't pay any attention to an event until it gets you into the medal column. Maybe more people will pay attention to those guys now." Thanks Elliott.


While on the Olympics, a few thoughts Bruce MacDonald, who was certainly a big help to our walkers in their pre-trials training, has passed on to us in a recent letter:

"This is a letter I meant to write a long time ago, but one I have to write now. I thought a long time ago that our sport was on the way up and that it would move into a place of respect with the other track and field events. As you know, the walkers have always received great respect from the members of the Olympic track and field team. The race walkers received even greater respect from the track men and coaches out at Lake Tahoe because of the quantity and quality of work which they were showing. The others couldn't believe the amount of work.

"I know that you two have had your doubts about race walking ever getting out of the cellar as far as track and field goes (respect I mean), but I don't believe this at all and the job the walkers have just done down in Mexico City will give us the greatest boost the sport has ever gotten. The times around the world have been getting better and better, making it tougher to try to catch them. But what the boys did in Mexico City was out of this world." .... (discussion of 20K)

"Then there is the 50 kilo walk. What can I say about Larry Young? Working with him for eight weeks I got to know him very well and study him from stem to stern. He is the champion champion. He has what it takes to reach the top. He has the temperament, ability, attitude, and desire. Larry is a great fellow to work with. We will hear a lot more from Larry before his athletic days are over. He has done a lot to give race walking a name and not just because of his walking, but also for his personality.

"Then there is Goetz Klopfer, the quiet one (at times) who came in 10th. With the times the world's best are turning in now, this was also an outstanding performance and has to be praised. The performances these boys turned in didn't happen over night. It came after many years of work. It actually started before most of these fellows started walking. In 1956, the main thing we wanted in the Games was to have all six finish, which we did. Before that (1948 and 1952) not all six finished, either being DQ'd or dropping out. Since then it has been uphill with Ron Zinn finishing sixth at Tokyo and Chris McCarty going 4:35 for the 50 Kilo. With times in the U.S. getting better and better and with more meets the new boys coming in had to work harder and walk faster to reach the top.

"Then there are a few fellows like Charlie Silcock who have spent so much of their time promoting the walk and the job that he did on the West Coast, where many of our best walkers have gone to train or have come from."

"One thing many people don't know is what Larry Young did to become great. When he was DQ'd in the U.S.-British Empire Meet two years ago, he said to himself that he must be doing something wrong. He then took six months to work on just form and he now has almost perfect form. Then he worked on speed and endurance. Too many of us want to be too fast too soon. I think the new walkers should take a page form Larry's book and work on form first, then speed."

"Another person who has done a lot for the sport is Chris McCarty and the paper that he used to put out. Also, the training methods that he used and has given to some of the other walkers. Ron Laird has to be mentioned too because of
what he has accomplished and his performances in international competition last year. These are a few of the thoughts that have been going through my head and now they are out."

"P.S. Another reason why the fellows performed so well at Mexico City is because they had to train hard enough and perform well enough to surpass those who were breathing down their necks during the weeks of high-altitude training. And those who made the high-altitude training had to out walk other good walkers who didn't make it. Competition is getting tough from the bottom up and that is good for the sport." (You bet your sweet bippy, Bruce! And thanks for the comments. By the way, in your reference to us, I suppose you are thinking back to our now infamous editorial of early 1966 — may have to resurrect that gem some day along with the Cromwell theory. How many of our readers recall the Cromwell theory? Anyway, we didn’t doubt the respect of walking within the T&F fraternity, but were pointing out that it was not going to become the great American pastime and would never really catch the public fancy. As a matter of fact we pointed out that the best thing we could do would be to become more closely allied with track and field and feed on what little fame they have. I mean after all, how many people can tell you who Al Oerter is even though the cat has four gold medals at home. And outside of an Olympic year, how many people really take note even of a Jim Ryun. So we just continue to improve and go out and beat the world, which we can. But heroes outside of our own fraternity of kooks we will not be.)

MARSHALL McLuhan — WHAT’AE YA DOIN?!

*****************************************************************************

TOUGH CAT OF THE MONTH

A few years back there was this young German kid from out of Detroit used to make races around these parts. Extremely nice boy and a very gutsy walker, but he never quite seemed to be living up to his potential. Pretty consistent around 5:10 to 5:15 for the 50. Then he followed Horace Greeley and Ron Laird west to seek a doctoral degree at Stanford and fame in his chosen sport. Four years later, Goetz Kloper is one of the very toughest of the tough cats.

Goetz, how 26-years old, 5’6 and 130 pounds, took up race walking at age 20 through frustration in running. Not that his running times were unrespectable—4:40 and 10:16 on the track, 55 minute 10 mile on the road. Probably, he found that running didn’t offer the masochistic possibilities of a good 50 K.

It is in the past tow years that Goetz has really come on, making last year’s Lugano Cup team (17th in 4:45:41.6), this year’s Olympic team, and setting an American 50 km record between. (4:30:28.6, since broken twice by Larry Young.) He turned in a fine 4:18:28 for second behind Young in the National 50 and showed his new found speed with a 1:36:09 for 20th in the 20, only 3 minutes back of the winner. This speed has given him times of 6:44 for the mile and 22:25 for 5 km on the track and a 46:30 10 km on the road. He has also had a 4:30 for 30 km on the track.

Goetz trains about 6 days per week putting in 60 to 80 miles, which seems quite sensible to me. I say, take note, those of you who think a week of less than 100 miles is a loss. He goes on the road 3 to 4 times a week for time trials or just strolling and does interval work on either the road or track 2 or 3 times a week. The interval work is done mostly at 880 or 1000 meters. He may use 220’s when training for a mile. He says he tries to ignore the indoor season but finds it hard to do. In general, his training does not vary with the time of year or with the distance he is training for. He does no running but does weight work three times a week for the upper body. He also does the William’s exercises, whatever they are, for lower back pain and does some swimming. Goetz’s diet does not include any "meats, fish, or other formerly living (animated) stuff."
Goetz was a little put off with the schedule of 50 K8s this year to qualify and compete in Mexico City feeling there were too many too close. But he seems to have survived it quite well, thank you. For you eager beavers looking for glory at 50 Kms, he plans to compete until after 1972, so you have your work cut out. Goetz advises the young walker not to even try walking if he isn't crazy. Wasting your's and everyone else's time, he says. And he just might be right.

Take that Jack Blackburn, blow in his ear and he'll follow you anywhere.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 1968 AT ALAMOSA, COLORADO.


Those assembled stated that the following actions should be considered in the future and action taken:

A. Petition be circulated throughout the U.S to gather support and strength in the appointment of our next National Chairman. (This has been done).

B. Nominations for qualified National Chairman approved by 2/3 of those present were: Charles Silcock (declined), Bruce MacDonald, Don Jacobs, Elliott Deman (declined), Jack Mortland, John MacCallan, and Bill Clark (declined).

(Bruce looks like the best man from where we sit.)

C. Judging should be changed in order to obtain an improved standard procedure.

1. Judges be classified under point system (1, 2, 3, 4). Persons with greatest knowledge and experience would serve as a 4-point judge. Others would be classified accordingly. A caution will be given only when a certain number of points are present. (Four points for Nat'l Championships and three points for other races, judges serve together to equal three or four points.) No championship can be satisfactorily judged without a total of twelve points on hand. This procedure would protect the walker from bias or lack of adequate judging ability. (This sounds worthy of further consideration, but who classifies the judges.)

2. Through clinics set up on National level proper training be given to those interested in order to have more trained officials.

3. Coaching or judging manual be prepared for reference. (Doc has something along this line made up, I believe.)

4. Rules be set up for proper procedures in giving warnings and regulating judging procedures.

D. The A.A.U should approve the following walkers as athlete representatives


E. The National One Hour be made into a postal walk. (I still don't think too much of this.)

F. Recommend the A.A.U. present a team match when team titles are contested.

G. Recommend more support be given to the Ohio Racewalker through subscriptions.

(At your service)

Note: James Hanley will prepare a list of statistics and send it out every 2 or 3 months to all concerned. This will be done providing each district supplies information. Write to James Hanley, 17214 Welby Way, Van Nuys, Calif. 91406

Speaking of 100 mile weeks, I figured Hovis Jacobsen was some kind of nut, and now I know. Gary Westerfield reports being whipped through 6 hour walks on Saturdays and 4 more hours on Sundays this summer. And he is now infected too. Driving up from Cincinnati just to workout the day after driving up for a c.c. run.

The Ohio Race Walker is published at irregular monthly intervals by Jack Mortland and Jack Blackburn. Cost is $2.00 per year. You can now address all correspondence, both editorial and subscription to 3184 Summit Street, Columbus, Ohio 43202.

Tell a friend about us. In a nice way, of course. Write us and let us know how you're doing. We publish most anything.
Say, I wonder if Rudy had to tie the neckties for helpless Ron Laird and Tom Dooley this year. Laird had someone, perhaps Bruce, tie a Windsor in his Olympic tie in Tokyo and still had the same knot in there last year in East Germany. However, when one of the British officials saw him tie a club tie, he had to enlist my aid to get a knot in it. This was prompted by Dooley, who I thought was one of the swinging young mod crowd, asked me to put a Windsor in his tie for him. I guess these guys walk and not much else.

Let's run down the international results we have in since last month.


Hot news from Ohio: Blackburn started working again in preparation for the Distance Carnival 7 Mile on Nov. 16. Flashed through a 7:15 mile, then ran a 2:37 half, 72 sec. 440, and 31 sec. 220. Four minute rest between each. This was one of his rare workouts since the 15 K. Meanwhile, Mortland, just this very night, turned in his fastest 7 mile in over a year (since his last hard workout prior to last year's Lugano Cup) with a blazing 55:27. Acceleration all the way with 8:05, 8:01, 7:55, 7:55, 7:53, 7:52, and 7:46. Don't suppose it will shake up Halaza and his type though, or even Blackburn and his type.