

OHIO RACE WALKER

WORTHINGTON V, NUMBER 2

COLUMBUS, OHIO

APRIL, 1969

FIVE IN A ROW

Worthington, Ohio, April 20--Walking a devastating last 5000 meters, Ron Laird overcame a determined bid by Dave Romansky to win the Sr. NAAU 15 Kilometer Walk for the fifth straight year. After what everyone else thought was a punishing early pace, Laird accelerated to cover the last 5 in 21:49.2, just 15 seconds over the American record he set a week earlier, and finish 12 seconds ahead of Romansky in 1:06:44.2. This was Laird's 42nd Senior title, or thereabouts, and perhaps surpasses Henry Laskau's record for the most AAU titles by any athlete. I'm not going to go back and count up either figure, and Ron isn't sure at this point. In any case, in his present form, it doesn't appear that he is done winning Nationals, so if he hasn't yet surpassed Henry's record, he probably will.

After rain all day Friday and snow most of Saturday, the weather came up nearly perfect. It was a sunny day with only a light breeze and the temperature at 52 F for the race. A field of 22 quality walkers faced starter Larry Trask (the ex-walking great from Otego) at 12:10 p.m. (Only 10 minutes late. A tribute to my organizational skills.) The race was conducted on a challenging road course measuring 40 yards over 2500 meters per lap.

As things settled down after the usual flying start, a field of six stalwarts immediately began to move out from the pack. These six, Laird, Romansky, Tom Dooley, Goetz Klopfer, Ron Daniel, and Gary Westerfield, were still in a tight bunch at 2500 meters in 11:25. This was not an exceptionally fast pace and as things heated up a bit on the second lap, Daniel and Westerfield found the tempo a bit more than they could handle. The other four were still together at 5 kilo in 22:42. At that point Laird and Romansky stepped up the pace yet another notch and quickly lost the frisky Frisco lads.

Laird and Romansky stayed right together through 10 Km in 44:55 and at that point had 41 seconds on Dooley and 67 on Klopfer. It was here that Laird started to pour the coal and he managed to get a four second lead entering the final lap and then gradually pulled away. Romansky never gave up and finished very strongly himself. He was hampered by one caution picked up on the downhill stretch on the next to last lap.

Dooley also finished strongly, but wasn't quite equal to the speed of the other two on this day. His time, however, equalled his best ever on the track. Klopfer slowed some at the end, but is showing amazing speed for a guy who was a very average 50 Km man only three years ago. Goetz's beautiful, fluid style won the ORW Style Prize for him. Further back, Daniel opened up 40 seconds on Westerfield half-way through but then faltered and saw the lead dwindle to one second as they entered the last lap. Ron was equal to the task however, and managed to open a lead going up the hill and hold it to the finish. Ron is walking as well as ever if not better, but finds himself fighting a losing battle against the ever-improving competition. Westerfield, still in his first year of walking, continues to improve as this was easily his best race to date. He showed guts in staying with the early pace and then still had enough left to pick his pace back up over the last 5 km and make a race of it with Daniel.

Behind these elite, young Stever Tyrer grabbed a quick lead on the rest of the field and was 38 seconds ahead at half-way. He faltered a bit on the next two laps and your tired old editor managed to take advantage of this to get on even terms and then gradually pull away over the last lap. At 18, Steve has a lot of years ahead of him and they should be good ones. Moving up on both Tyrer and Mortland at the end was another 50 man showing good speed off little training, Jim Clinton. Clinton walked a very steady race and then pulled away from Toronto's Frank Johnson on the last lap to capture ninth.

In eleventh, Cincinnati's Paul Reback improved 3 minutes in a week and looks like a man to be reckoned with. He has outstanding style and showed some real strength in this race. Paul will be walking with the OTC in the future and we should have had him in this race as it would have given us second team. The team title went, naturally, to the New York AC, although Ron Kulik had a definite off day, with Gladstone second. For the OTC, Barry Richardson continued to improve, knocking four minutes off last week. The bloke from Northern England found today's temperature much more to his liking than he had the heat of last week's race. Besides his improving walking skills, Barry is a fine asset to the club since his wife provided some very good cookies for the post-race feed. Dale Arnold also showed some improvement in a week's time, and if we had a weekly race we might get him back in shape. Missing from the race was the bearded giant from the north, Jack Blackburn, who we now discover, tore his knee to pieces in his superhuman effort in the 10 mile relay three weeks earlier. Anyway, he didn't do it any good and wasn't ready to go yet for this one.

Okay, I counted up Laskau's titles and Henry did indeed win 42 of them, all from 1947 to 1957 and nothing longer than 25 km. He won the latter just once. So if he Laird does indeed have 42 titles now he needs just one more to become the greatest amateur winner of all time, which is certainly an admirable distinction. Incidentally, his 5 km splits in this race are of interest, showing how he and Romansky shattered the field and how he finally lost the determined Romansky. They read 22:44, 22:11, and 21:49.4. Fast as it was, this is not Laird's fastest 15 km. He recorded 1:06 on his way to 20 at the 1967 Lugano Cup. And here are the official results, with 2500 meter splits.

1. R. Laird	NYAC	11:25	22:44	33:48	44:55	55:52	1:06:44.4
2. D. Romansky	Phil. AC	11:25	22:42	33:47	44:55	55:56	1:06:56
3. Tom Dooley	un.	11:27	22:43	34:09	45:36	57:15	1:08:50
4. G. Klopfer	un.	11:27	22:43	34:10	46:02	58:16	1:10:31
5. R. Daniel	NYAC	11:25	23:14	35:24	48:00	60:10	1:12:02
6. G. Westerfield	LIAC	11:27	23:32	36:04	48:14	60:11	1:12:09
7. J. Mortland	OTC	12:16	24:52	37:21	49:51	62:20	1:14:37
8. S. Tyrer	Mt. Hood C.C.	11:45	24:13	36:43	49:15	62:20	1:14:55
9. J. Clinton	UCTC	12:12	24:54	37:45	50:37	63:18	1:15:29
10. F. Johnson	Gladstone AC	12:36	25:20	38:00	50:23	63:17	1:15:53
11. P. Reback	un.	12:18	24:59	37:53	50:48	63:37	1:16:16
12. G. Diebold	Shore AC	12:12	24:53	37:48	50:49	63:52	1:17:02
13. M. Gould	Gladstone AC	12:36	25:20	38:12	51:16	64:33	1:17:44
14. G. Willwerth	Phil. AC	12:48	26:02	39:11	52:09	65:14	1:18:23
15. R. Kulik	NYAC	12:20	25:24	38:34	52:21	66:50	1:22:20
16. H. Hoffman	Gladstone AC	14:15	28:57	43:30	58:15	73:11	1:27:37
17. B. Richardson	OTC	14:18	28:54	43:31	58:24	73:39	1:29:10
18. W. Yarcho	Dayton AC	14:37	29:32	44:29	59:17	74:25	1:29:35
19. C. Duckham	Dayton AC	14:35	29:32	44:30	59:43	74:05	1:31:05
20. D. Arnold	OTC	15:28	31:46	47:48	63:50	79:52	1:36:41
21. J. Tomayko	Carn. Mel. U.	15:44	31:58	48:27	64:47	81:36	1:37:33
22. J. Johnson	Pitt. Walk.	14:03	28:54	44:48	62:38	80:28	1:38:26

Incidentally, Laird's time was 1:06:44.4, not 1:06:44.2 as shown on the results sheet I sent out earlier and in the above writeup. It was good to see those two Ohio veterans Wayne Yarcho and Clair Duckham back at the walking game. Both have been devoting most of their energies to road running. Clair turned in a 3:30 marathon last month, which isn't bad at 62. 1:31 isn't bad at 62 either.

KITCHEN KAPEERS

Point Pleasant, N.J., April 20--Meanwhile, back east, Elliott Derman was conducting his annual spring madness for the real tough cats. Referring of course to the 50 mile track walk. As usual, a record was set, only this time it won't count. However, it will serve notice on guys like Young and Klofger to either shape up or get ready to move over. Bob Kitchen has really arrived now, breaking Larry Young's 50 kilometer record by over a minute and a half. That was as far as Bob went, and since you have to complete the scheduled distance to get a record at an intermediate distance, the mark won't go into the books. However, everyone now knows that Bob can go 4:19:41 on the track right now and that Bob is still only 21-years old. It appears obvious off this kind of solo performance that he won't be caught lolly-gaggin around in the early going as he did at Alamosa last September. There is no doubt that U.S. walkers have found the secret to the distance events and with guys of the determined nature of the three mentioned above going at each other, its hard to say where it will end. Obviously, the 50 km. walk is no longer the cinch Olympic berth it once was for the guy willing to put in a few extra miles.

Meanwhile, in the 50 miler, which is what was really going on, Bill Hohenstreet led five finishers with a more than respectable 9:10:29.5. Hohenstreet is a junior at the Merchant Marine Academy, has been at the sport less than a year, and says his longest training spin of the year was 7 miles. This must say something for the conditioning of cadets at that Academy. In second and gaining at the finish, was George Braceland, 54, with 9:14:14.9. John Markon passed a sore-footed Don Johnson in the later stages of the race to caputre third in 9:52:40. Johnson, although recording his slowest time, became the first U.S. walker to complete this grind three times. Shaul Ladany won the first three races and holds the record of 8:05:18, but he, of course, is a citizen of Israel. The only other finisher in the 15-man field was North Medford's George Lattarulo in 10:49:20. George planned to make it back to Boston to run in the BAA Marathon the next day. No report on his performance there.

GOOD WARM-UP

Dayton, Ohio, April 13--Gary Westerfield, of the Long Island A.C, a University of Cincinnati graduate student, easily bested one of Ohio's larger walking fields in recent years in a 15 kilometer race today. The race was billed as a warm-up for next weeks National Sr. 15 and was presented courtesy of Dale Arnold. After a leisurely first mile, Westerfield decided to leave Jack Mortland and drew gradually away the rest of the race to record 1:13:55. The race was contested on a lap measuring just under 2 miles in Dewese Park. The course is rolling but with no tough hills. Temperature was in the low 70's with a bright sun, which was uncomfortable for this time of year. Marathoner Bill Botting had his first go at walking and didn't do badly but had a little trouble keeping away from a creep. However, chief judge Derek Mortland didn't call anyone out but himself--he being sound asleep by the finish. Wayne Yarcho, devoting his time to running, had his first walk since last fall and was laboring at the end. The old legs weren't quite used to that sort of activity. Larry James drove all night from his vacation in Florida to try his first race in about 7 months and found half the distance to be an ample workout. The results:

1. Gary Westerfield, LIAC 1:13:55
 2. Jack Mortland, OTC 1:15:14
 3. Paul Reback, un. 1:19:20
 4. Bill Botting 1:28:33
 5. Barry Richardson, OTC 1:33:15
 6. Wayne Yarcho, Dayton, AC 1:34:30
 7. Dale Arnold, OTC 1:38:36..
- Larry James, OTC, did not finish.

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Other results that have arrived on our desk from hither and yon:

Ron Zimm Memorial 10 Mile, Asbury Park, N.J., April 13--1. Dave Homansky, Phil. AC 1:13:31.8 (better own course record of 1:14:12) 2. Bob Kitchen, Springfield AA 1:15:58 3. Ron Daniel, NYAC 1:16:41 4. John Knifton, NYAC 1:16:42 5. Steve Hayden, LIAC 1:23:21 6. Bill Purves, Mt. Royal Framis, Montreal 1:24:37 7. Ron Kulik, NYAC 1:25:26 8. Gerry Willwerth, Phil. AC 1:25:26 9. Bob Mimm, Phil. AC 1:25:41 10. Don Davison, Shore AC 1:27:17 11. Don Johnson, Shore AC 1:30:25 12. Fred Timcoe, NYAC 1:31:01. Team(5 man)--Phil. AC--21, Shore AC--38. 22 finishers.
5 Km, Track, April 12--Ron Laird 21:34.2 (20:51.8 at 3 miles), both American records.
5 Km, Mt. SAC Relays, April 26--1. Ron Laird 22:44 2. Larry Walker 23:00.2 3. Rudy Haluza 23:38.4 4. Jim Hanley 23:53.2 (must have been a slow track)
Michigan Women's Indoor Championships, April 12, 880 walk--1. Jeanne Bocci 3:36 2. Laurie Tuckolski 4:05 3. Mary Kefalos 4:17 4. Janet Lupino 4:19.9 5. Cheryl Gal 4:19.9

Ontarion 10 Mile Walk, April 6--1. Felix Capella 76:04 2. Marcel Jobin 77:22 3. Jerry Bocci 80:05 4. Bill Purves 80:26 5. Max Gould 81:00 6. Pat Farrelly 81:20 7. Gordon Follet 87:32 8. Frank Johnson 91:29.

Womens 5 Mile (at same time, actually about 4 3/4) --1. Jeanne Bocci 40:45 2. Mary Kefalos 51:18 3. Janet Lupino 51:36 4. Cheryl Gal 53:34 (Jeanne got style prize covering both races.)

On April 6, Gennadiy Agapov walked a 86:45.8 20 km. somewhere in the USSR, but it is unclear whether it was road or track. It was reported as an unofficial world record by Tass.

7 Mile, Frisco area, April 26 or 27--1. Tom Dooley 50:32.4 2. Goetz Klopfer 51:03 3. Bill Ranney.

Missouri Valley AAU 1 Hour, April 20--1. Bob Young 6 mi. 1393 yds. 2. John Rose 6 mi. 1223 yds. 3. Fred Young 6 mi. 1196 yds. 4. Joe Duncan 6 mi. 469 yds. 5. Keith Couch 6 mi. 187 yds 6. Bob Chapin 6 mi. 181 yds. 7. Darrell Palmer 6 mi. 177 yds. 8. Aubrey Anderson 6 mi. 156 yds 9. Joel Dickinson 6 mi. 63 yds. 15 finishers. Women--1. Brenda Whitman 5 mi. 909 yds. Bob Young started off with an 8:11 and 8:42 and then settled into a steady 9 minute pace the rest of the way.

FINAL RESULTS OF OUR POSTAL 2 MAN 10-MILE RELAY:

1. Tom Dooley-Goetz Klopfer 64:49.8 (1:36.7 and 1:37.75) 2. Goetz Klopfer and Bill Ranney 67:07.2 (1:40.6 and 1:40.9) 3. Gary Westerfield-Gerry Bocci 69:07 (1:42.1 and 1:45.1) 4. Jack Blackburn and Jack Mortland 69:33 (1:42.4 and 1:46.25) 5. Joe Stefanowicz-George Braceland 78:27.4 (1:50.9 and 2:04.5) 6. Phil Mooers-Manny Adriano 78:35.1 (2:09 and 1:46.5) 7. Bob Mimm-Gerry Willwerth 1:20:43.7 (2:02 and 2:00.2) 8. Mooers-Price 82:06.9 9. Bill Hackulich-Gerry Willwerth 82:33.0 (2:13.5 and 1:54.2) 10. Jeanne-Bocci-Laury Tuckolski 83:30 (approximately 2:00 and 2:10) 11. Mary Kefalos-Connie ? 95:15. So the response to this race certainly wasn't any better than the 20 Km but those than ~~had~~ participated had fun and some of the leaders can look for their chintzy certificates sometime in the next year. Didn't hardly make the price of the style awards, but every little bit helps. Will try again in the fall.

10 Mile, Coventry, England, Feb. 15--1. Geoff Toone 74:58 2. Bob Hughes 76:04 3. Roy Lodge 77:16

10 Mile, Basingstoke, Eng., Feb. 15--1. Dave Watson 74:19 2. Dave Smyth 75:54 3. Wilf Wesch 76:03 4. John Moullin 76:15 5. Ray Middleton 77:27

10 Mile, Chigwell Row, Eng., Feb. 22--1. John Webb 75:53 2. Colin Young 76:07 3. Roger Mills 76:42

10 Mile, Southampton, Eng., Feb. 22--1. Dave Watson 75:35 2. John Moullin 77:38

10 Mile, Market Harborough, Eng., Feb. 22--1. Geoff Toone 74:35 (38:46 and 35:49 5 mile splits on a course that went up and then down) 2. Mal Tolley 76:43

Well, after hesitating for sometime, because I had heard various rumors, I finally mentioned the Lugano Cup for 1969 last month. Now it is definite; there will be no Lugano Cup this year. The European Championships are being held this year in September and they include both a 20 and a 50. Most of the same walkers will be competing that would be at Lugano (with the exception of the U.S.) and they evidently feel that this will suffice for the year. But it leaves us out, although it saves

the problem of worrying how to send a team. Their will still be international competition, however, with a 20 km at the USA-British Commonwealth-USSR meet at Los Angeles in July and apparently walks in the August dual meets in West Germany and England. The latter two will probably be 10 Km. At this point I don't know when the Lugano Cup will be held again. Perhaps in 1970. I believe the European Championships, which were always a quadrennial affair held in the even year between Olympics are scheduled again for 1971. Then, I think they revert back to once every four years, having given up on the biannual bit before it evens starts. All this is something that I seem to remember having read somewhere, sometime. If true, they better have Lugano again next year or they won't have it until 1973. I guess time will tell. In the meantime, it has been suggested by some that we may fill in by endeavoring to send a team to the Airolo-Chiasso road relay, which is an annual affair held in Switzerland. This is scheduled for Oct. 19. The race consists of 5 legs of 27 km, 30 km, 14 km, 18 km, and 25 km. Last years race drew 19 teams including teams from Germany, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Italy, and England. None of these were official national teams however. A team from London, including Peter Fullager and Colin Young won it, as they did in 1967. I guess most of the race is downhill, with only one leg on the flat. If a U.S. team went, they would have to raise their own travel money. The Swiss put the teams up for four days. This may be worth consideration. One of the rich clubs, such as the Ohio Track Club, could send a team, for that matter.

More results stuff just out of today's mail box:

Some details on Bob Kitchen's great walk: He started out comparatively slowly but got into a nice groove after two miles and then had just one bad spell from 23 to 26 miles. Why not just list the mile times and let you study them for yourselves: 8:34, 8:23, 8:17, 8:13, 8:13, 8:16, 8:20, 8:17, 8:18, 8:13 (1:23:06), 8:13, 8:15, 8:18, 8:17, 8:19, 8:20, 8:22, 8:21, 8:25, 8:23 (2:46:21) 8:24, 8:20, 8:25, 8:34, 8:32, 8:32, 8:25, 8:24, 8:26, 8:24 (4:10:47) 8:19. Quite impressive. In the 50 miler, Hohenstreet had 10 mile splits of 1:44:48, 3:26:32, 5:24:21, 7:15:40. He was nearly 11 minutes ahead of Braceland at 25 miles but stopped at that point and then had only 2:19 at 30 miles. He stretched this out to 8:16 at 40 miles and then held on.

- K.C. Pacers 7 Mile, Kansas City, April 5--1. Bob Young 61:56 2. Fred Young 63:25.5
 3. Bob Chapin 68:37 4. Aubrey Anderson 68:46.
 Valley College 7 Mile Hdcp, Van Nuys, Calif., March 8 (actual times shown)--1. Paul Chelson, Striders 67:25.8 2. Bob Long, Striders 64:59 3. Larry Walker, Striders 54:29 4. Chris Clegg, LAAC 65:26.2 5. Bob Bowman, Striders 55:44.3 6. Hal McWilliams Striders 69:54.5 7. Jim Selby, un. 64:41 8. Bryon Overton, Striders 58:17 9. Paul Roosevelt, Striders 61:20.7 10. Mike Ryan, Striders 62:47 11. Brad Fishman, un. 79:06 12. Dick Ortiz, Striders 61:06 13. Joe Wehrly, Striders 75:56
 Alondra Park 5 Mile Handicap, Lawndale, Calif., March 23--1. Bryon Overton 39:47.4
 2. Paul Roosevelt 42:02 3. George Mercure 46:42 4. Martin Rudow 38:00.0 5. Paul Chelson 47:28.3 6. Bob Long 45:57.2 7. Chris Clegg 46:26 8. Ron Laird 37:05 (Leo Sjogren had 49:56. First time we have noticed Leo walking in a long while)
 Claremont Relays 10 Km (Track), March 29--1. Larry Walker 46:48 2. Ron Laird 47:33.8
 3. Jim Hanley 50:00 4. Bryon Overton 50:31.8 5. John Kelly 52:54 6. Paul Roosevelt 55:55.4
 20 Km, Pomona, Calif., April 6--1. Martin Rudow 1:35:41.7 2. Jim Hanley 1:46:06.3
 3. John Kelly 1:46:09.9
 3 Mile, Bakersfield, Calif., April 12--1. Laird 21:19 2. Walker 21:25 3. Rudow 21:46 4. Hanley 22:17.9 5. Kelly 22:17.9
 5 Km, Hancock Relays, Santa Maria, Calif, April 12 (6 1/2 hours after above race) 11
 1. Laird 21:34 (American Record) 2. Rudow 21:39 (betters old record) 3. Kelly 22:22 4. Bob Bowman 22:43 at 3 miles 5. Overton 22:56 at 3.
 15 Km, Lakewood, Calif., April 19--1. Martin Rudow 1:12:08.2 2. Larry Walker 1:12:40.2
 3. Bob Bowman 1:19:28.4 4. John Kelly 1:20:37.8
 NAAU Jr. 20 Km., Lakewood, Calif, April 20--1. Bryon Overton 1:48:14.4 2. Jim Hanley 1:48:14.6 3. Bob Kuchar, Palos Verdes TC 1:49:37 4. Walt Jaquith, SCCYV 1:54:10.6
 5. Steve Lund, SCCYV 1:54:33.6 6. Manny Adriano, SCCYV 1:56:35 7. Paul Roosevelt, Striders 1:56:38.8 8. John Darlington, Striders 1:59:31 9. Bob Long, Striders

2:01:31.2 10. Doug Klann, Culver City AC 2:02:50.8 11. George Mercure, Striders
2:06:19.4 12. McWilliams, Striders 2:09:11.4 13. Jack Crutchfield, un. 2:11:29
14. Phil Mooers, SCCYV 2:11:40.2 15. John Hanna, Santa Monica AA 2:17:08 16. Brad
Frischman, no time. Very hot day. Hanley, somewhat out of shape from illness, hung
back to rely on his kick and found out Overton's was stronger on this day.

5 Km at Mt. SAC (results above) was on April 26 and on the road, not track.
10 Km (Track) Mt. SAC Relays, Walnut, Calif., April 27--1. Ron Laird 47:56.8 2.
Jim Hanley 50:10.0 3. Bob Bowman 50:18.9 4. Bryon Overton 52:31.5 5. Bob Kuchar
52:54 6. John Kelly 54:34. Very hot for both races but the smog level was down.
Martin Rudow was disqualified in both.

Now, speaking of being disqualified, a couple of letters have come my way, which
are published below. The first comes from Dick Ortiz:

Dear Sir:

April 9, 1969

Just a little over a year ago I wrote a somewhat nasty letter blasting our
walkers and judges. NOW I REPEAT

After seeing Hanley's photos I can't help but say I told you so. (Ed. next
letter concerns photos, as I put the cart before the horse.)

Our walkers have improved 110 % in good cheating (don't we have honest walkers
like the Youngs and Hanleys?) If I was found off after winning a race, I would turn
in my awards. I would not like to be known as a cheater especially when sports are
supposed to be for honesty and good sportsmanship (a la JFK).

Our judges (all) have been left in the dust. They have turned in a -200% effort
in the improvement of our judging. (Judging is better than 50% of the walking
program.) At this rate a walker will be able to enter a running race and walk and
win it.

Anyway, I sure hope you have the guts to print this letter along with last
year's letter (Ed. Unfortunately, I no longer have it.) Looks like I'll be D.C.'d
in a lot of races now even though I am last or not even in the race (so what) get
the point.

Thanks,
Dick Ortiz

The second letter, from Jim Hanley, is actually a letter within a letter:

An open letter to interested RACE WALKING personnel:

April 25, 1969

As a veteran race walker, I consider myself a calm, rational person who doesn't
get too excited over poor timers, officials, judges, meet promoters, prizes, etc.
one thing enormously disturbed me last month as the following unmailed letter shows.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

March 9, 1969

At the National AAU Indoor Championships in Philadelphia on March 1, a walker's
meeting was held at 8:30 p.m. (The very poor time made me angry at the time as it
ruined my normal one hour pre-race warm-up routine for the 9:10 event). At this
meeting it was stated that the race would be judged very strictly. "This is a National
Championship, and no one will get away with anything" was the warning issued
to the athletes. This firm warning sounded great. Poor clubs like the Striders made
great sacrifices to get athletes like myself to the most important indoor race of
the year. No one would want the team points to go to "runners" and possible cost
a deserving team the National Track Championship.

Immediately following the race National Chairman Bruce MacDonald and former
Chairman Charlie Silsock asked, "Do you think that we did a good job conducting the
race?" I replied, "No, I thought several men ran and weren't called for it." It
seemed like I was being a very bad sport! My friends' faces dropped; it looked like
I had lost some good friends! They gave me the old story that you can't judge from
behind. I still feel that the form was so bad that ANYONE COULD HAVE SEEN IT FROM
BEHIND! In fact, Ron Laird says the reason he didn't go after Romansky was that he
was certain that the leader had been D.'d. It would be foolish to go like crazy and

risk disqualification yourself was Laird's reasoning. I decided that I would wait until I saw pictures of the race BEFORE getting too nasty and said no more.

At this time, I would like to mention that these two dedicated men have done more for race walking in recent years in the U.S. than anyone else. Charlie got me started in the sport; Bruce's courageous performance in the 1964 Olympic Trials was a big reason for my continued interest. And no track coach EVER worked harder than Bruce at the High Altitude Camps at South Lake Tahoe and Alamosa where he took 6 hour jeep rides to help us during our long walks! (On one of these he nearly got a ticket for littering because he wasn't fast enough in picking up our water cups.)

Other judges at the NAU were Elliot Derman, Henry Laskau, and George Casper, all of whom are considered good judges and respected by all walkers for their many contributions to the sport.

With such a fine field of judges, one would think that "no one would get away with anything." Such was not the case. My sheet of contact prints arrived today and made me most unhappy. It is extremely difficult to catch a walker with both feet off the ground in a still photograph. In seven years of taking movies and slides of walkers, I have rolls and rolls of athletes without contact in my movies. In the same races, I only have a handful of slides showing loss of contact. A friend of mine took 10 shots of the race. In at least FOUR of them walkers are illegal. I now have more pictures of floaters in this one mile race than from all my races in the last seven years!

If such a farce can be made out of National Championship with some of our BEST judges, or in the Olympic Games where officials were afraid to DO the galloping silver medalist, I question my participation in the "sport". With current poor judging, the man who cheats the most and doesn't get caught wins. Until judging is greatly improved, I am retired from race walking.

(Then he continues with his letter of April 25)

No that I have cooled off a little while waiting for my pictures to be enlarged I realize that quitting the sport will do nothing to improve the situation. The answer is to do all I can to improve judging. I owe this to all the many people like Charlie and Bruce who have encouraged me over the years, strict west coast judges who wouldn't let me pick up any bad habits, and myself for the many sacrifices I have made the past seven years as I wholeheartedly threw myself into the sport.

The first step in improving form and judging is to make all aware that poor form DOES still exist. I was quite over articles in recent Ohio RACE Walkers and the AAU Race Walking Newsletter stating that forms were improving and judging was strict in the NAAU Mile BECAUSE three men were D'd. If an entire field is D'd, it doesn't necessarily follow that judging was strict. (Everyone may have been running a four minute mile!) It is for this reason alone that I have enlarged and published the attached photographs. I hope that the athletes involved do not feel that I am sore at them. I have always maintained that JUDGES not athletes have the responsibility --and a big one it is--of demanding legal walking. Athletes can't always tell when they are off, and they should not take it personally when someone comes up with a picture of them floating.

The second step is to propose revolutionary new legislation. I suggest that in the future a walker can be disqualified from any Championship event up to one week after the event when pictures unquestionably show him off the ground. (The one week time limit would give sufficient time to develop films. Also, it would safeguard the athlete from disqualification in long ago races.)

I have always said that judging must be OBJECTIVE (black or white, off or on). If a man is ever off, he should be out. Otherwise, the emotions, feelings, and pre-judgements of officials do far more than their share in determining the outcome of important races. Such a rule would be a step towards such objectivity.

Sincerely,

Jim Hanley, Athletes Representative

Editor: I have copies of three of the pictures Jim mentions and he is sending the fourth. He is also providing enough offset copies for me to run the pictures next month, so there is a real treat for you to look forward and a first for the ORW!. In the pictures he has sent, I personally only see two that show someone unquestionably off, but I suppose that is two too many since neither individual was D'd. I don't

have much space left to comment on the above and perhaps I should defer most of my comment and let the readers react. Obviously, there is some cause for concern, but whether it is more than it has ever been, I don't know. I have long stated my semi-opposition to mile walks and I feel this is part of the fault. One thing I must say at this point in regard to Dick Ortiz's letter; Knowing most of the race walkers in the country to some extent, I can only think of two individuals that I could even remotely suspect of deliberately cheating, and I don't know either of them really well enough to fairly make such a judgement. Also neither were involved in the subject race. (Everyone can speculate now on who Mortland thinks is a dirty cheat.) What I am saying is that Dick is a bit overreactive and must agree with Jim that whatever fault there is lies with the judges. There were some guys in the sport when I first started that would deliberately go into a dead run if they thought they could get away with it. I cannot believe that whatever advantage is taken today is done deliberately. Anyway, I said I wasn't going to comment at this point. I would like very much to hear your reactions though, and I am sure Jim and Dick would. They are both obviously sincerely interested in the health of the sport and their grievances certainly deserve at least our thoughtful consideration.

Say readers, get on the ball. When I scheduled the Postal 20 I said the team title would be decided on the basis of total elapsed time of three men. Then I went ahead and scored it on places, forgetting what I had said, and not one reader brought it to my attention. Well, I'm not going to go back and change it now. Also, I hope you get as big a kick as I do out of looking for typos and plain stupid mistakes each month. Yes, I read it, too and am often surprised at what I find.
Some upcoming races:

Saturday, May 24--Sr. 10 Kilometer, Chicago; Saturday, May 31--Zinn Memorial 10 Kilometer, Chicago; Sun. June 1--Jr. 15 Kilometer, Portland, Ore.; Sunday, June 8--1 Hour Track Walk, Columbus, Ohio (contact me for details); Sat. June 14--Sr. 20 Kilometer, Pomona, Calif.; Sat. June 28--Sr. 2 Mile, Miami. Also, the 30 Km is in Columbia Mo. on Oct. 12, not in Kansas City and the date of the 25 on Long Island is still uncertain.

Ohio Race Walker
3184 Summit St.
Columbus, Ohio 43202

FIRST CLASS