Columbus, Feb. 28--In the middle of a weekend race-walking debauch, Ron Laird and Floyd Godwin stopped off in Columbus this afternoon to shatter the American Indoor Record in the 3-mile walk. The pair had competed in the NAU 1 mile in New York's Madison Square Garden at 8:50 p.m. Friday night, flew into Columbus this morning for the 3:30 p.m. race at the Ohio State Invitational, and at 6:30 were on their way to Denver for a 15 Kilometer on Sunday. (See following story for results of the 1 mile.)

Their brief stop in Columbus was well worthwhile. Your editor had promised Ohio State track coach and meet director, Bob Eyskamp, that there would be an excellent chance for a record if the meet included a 3-mile walk. I knew the pot-hungry Laird would stop on his way home, especially with a chance at a record. When Godwin showed up so well at L.A. in January, I immediately contacted him with the thought he might be coming to New York, as well. He was and a great race was on.

The two agreed beforehand to alternate the lead every half mile in an attempt to keep the pace at record levels and then let the final half decide the winner. This plan worked to perfection and both shattered Willie Plant's 1926 citizen's record of 21:04 and also edged under G.H. Goulding's A 11-comers record of 20:49.3 set in 1912. Laird finished in 20:48, a second under his outdoor record, with Godwin just behind on the official watches, but given 20:49.0 according to the international rule of rounding to the nearest fifth in races over 1 mile.

The race was held on a 220-yard track with an asphalt-type all-weather surface in Ohio State's French Fieldhouse. Godwin shot into the lead at the gun with Jack Hartland on his heels and Laird close behind. At the end of the first straightaway, Laird passed Hartland and it was a two-man race from there. Godwin covered the first mile in a blistering 1:37 with Laird a stride behind and Hartland and Paul Rebek following in 1:43. Further back were Barry Richardson and Larry James.

As noted above, Laird and Godwin traded the lead through half-mile splits of 3:21, 6:51, 11:22, 15:54, and 17:26. The race was decided on the next to last lap when Laird spurted coming off the first turn and quickly opened about 10 yards. Godwin hung on gamely and made a spurt of his own in the final half lap to close to within 3½ yards. For Laird it was somewhat an old story but for Godwin it was another long step in a meteoric career.

Meanwhile, back in the buck, your aging editor (Ecad--35 last month) bombed through the mile in 7:10 and then hung on through a gradual slowdown for 14:31 and 22:05. Rebek stayed close for a mile (7:11) and then hung on 8 minute miles the rest of the way. Paul was rightfully a bit envious of the opportunity to train in this Fieldhouse full time, which Hartland and Richardson take advantage of, having had to suffer the rigors of a particularly cruel winter. Cold and ice certainly don't contribute to the speed training needed for this type of race. Richardson walked easily his best race to date, breaking the 25-minute barrier after a 7:55 first mile. Excellent time for a part-time walker. Larry James, unfortunately, had to suffer the embarrassment of the National Anthem starting while he was still walking, the only thing to mar an otherwise well-received and appreciated event. Larry looked a bit short on training, a malady he will hopefully remedy this spring.
For Ronald Owen Laird, this was a very satisfying event and probably a good confidence builder. He had laid off for two or three months after the Swiss road relay in October and was just starting to round back into condition. He almost called off the trip after a discouraging workout on Thursday but is happy he didn’t after a second-best mile on Friday night and now his best-ever three.

Godwin had to be even more satisfied and more confident for the future. Floyd turned to walking only last summer when an injury prevented his running. His immediate success at the walking game has convinced him to stick with it and he is very much wrapped up in it now. He is going to be very tough for anyone to handle at any distance. He has shown great speed, as evidenced by this race, has an excellent fluid style (he has now satisfied judges in L.I., N.Y., and Ohio), and having run as fast as 2:20:52 for a marathon, certainly is not lacking in strength and endurance. He should add a great deal to what promises to be a very interesting 1970 season. The results:


DAVE DEFENDS

New York, February 27--Dave Romansky success fully defended the AAU 1 mile walk title he won in Philadelphia last year and set a new record of 6:14.0 in the process. Leading virtually from gun to tape, Dave had over 25 yards in hand at the finish in vanishing the fastest 1 mile field ever assembled (seven men under 6:30.) A somewhat surprising second was Ron Laird with a quick return to form and 16 second improvement over his season’s best. A very close third was Ron Kulik, who has been very fast and very consistent all winter. And close behind him came Steve Hayden and Larry Walker. Walker’s fifth place 6:23.7 would have won all but a very few previous championships. Newcomer Floyd Godwin continued to improve and nabbed a tiring Ron Daniel at the line for sixth place.

Romansky set a hyperfast pace going through the quarter in about 1:31 and the half in 3:06. Laird was hanging right on him, hoping to at least get clear of the rest of the field. Also right in the thick of the race at this point was the excellent French-Canadian, Marcel Jobin and Ron Daniel. The rest of the field was in a close pack, not far behind, trading elbows. Romansky and Laird opened a clear lead in the third quarter, with Ron still holding on in about 4:41. At this point, Romansky put on the power, showing fine speed over the last quarter for a walkaway victory. Laird had accomplished what he hoped to and had enough margin to hold off the thundering herd behind him. Jobin came back strongly and was on Laird’s shoulder at the finish but his style evidently left something to be desired in this sort and he was Do’d. Kulik, never far back, was stronger than the rest at the finish and was a clear third.

Greg Diebold, who has been improving all winter, walked an excellent 6:35, but this once excellent time could bring him only eighth in this stra tight field. Gary Westerfield, suffering from a leg injury, was a distant ninth. John Knifton and Clarence Buschert, along with Jobin, were disqualified. Romansky’s time has been bettered only by Don Deloon and Dave’s own 6:12.8 earlier in the winter. Obviously, Dave is back after a rather dismal summer and fall showing and can be expected to be a strong contender at all distances this year. The CW style prize went to Laird in a close decision over Floyd Godwin. The results:
A busy weekend in early February saw Tom Dooley score three wins over Ron Laird in as many days, and all with excellent times. In all fairness to Laird, he was just returning to form after his long layoff, but at his best he is probably going to have his hands full with Tom (and Dave, and Goetz, and Floyd, and a few other fast young studs.)

on Friday night, Feb. 6, it was 1 mile at the Athens Invitational in Oakland. The results were:

1. Tom Dooley, Athens AC 6:34.0 2. Ron Laird, NYAC 6:35.7 3. Larry Walker, SC Striders 6:40.8 4. Jim Hanley, SC Striders 6:54.6 5. Bill Ramney, Athens 7:03.3 6. Jerry Lansing, un. 7:21.0. In a 2 miler the next day, Dooley stormed through a 6:44 mile and finished strongly for 13:37.4. Laird was second in 14:18 after a 6:58. Finally they went 15 on Sunday, with the following result:


Other results:

1. Y K of C 1 mile (Handicap), Feb. 6--1. Ron Kuklik, NYAC 6:26.3 2. Ron Daniel, NYAC 6:31.2 3. Joe Stefanowicz, Phil. AC (130 yds) 6:32.0

1500 meter walk, New York, Feb. 20--1. Dave Romansky 5:50.2 (New American meet record. Equivalent to 6:15.7 if he held the same average pace) 2. Steve Hayden 5:54.5 (6:20.3 equivalent) 3. Ron Kuklik 5:57.8 (6:23.9) 4. Greg Diebold 6:06.9 (6:33.7) 5. Clarence Bushert 6:11.1 (6:38.2)--Romansky has turned in a tremendous series of races this winter, with four times under 6:20, counting this one.

2 mile, Denver, Feb. 22--1. Godwin 14:12.2 2. Karl Lesschens 15:32--Karl Lesschens, the Canadian Clydesman, is in Denver again, carried, and starting to round back into shape. He and Godwin will be a big help to one another.

Ronald Owen Laird, of the New York Athletic Club and Pomona, California, captured the Captain Howard L. Zinn Memorial trophy for fifth time in its nine-year existence.

The award is given annually by the Green & Gold A.C. of Chicago to the outstanding race walker in the U.S. as judged by vote of his fellow athletes. The award was originally called the Nike Libby Jr. Trophy and was won in three of its first four years by Don Zinn (1961, 1963, and 1964). Laird won it in 1962. After Capt. Zinn's death in Vietnam the name of the trophy was changed to honor his memory. Laird has since won it in 1965, 1967, 1969, and now this year. The 1966 and 1968 recipients were Rudy Haluza and Larry Young.

In this year's voting, Laird compiled 514 points (10-6-4-2-1 for first through sixth place votes) with 222 first place votes to 222 points for runnerup Tom Dooley. Rounding out the top ten vote getters were Goetz Kloyster, Bob Kitchen, Dave Romanak, Bryon Overton, Jack Mortland, Bill Rannen, Larry Young, Rudy Haluza, and Elliott Derman. Forty-seven others were mentioned on ballots. The award is based not only on competitive performance but on such factors as sportsmanship and overall contributions to the sport.

The same Ron Laird was also named by former AAU Secretary, Dan Ferris, to his all-time track and field team. Actually, Mr. Ferris named two teams, one prior to 1933 and the other for the years since then. Why 1933, I don't know. Named as a race walker to the earlier was Willie Plant, whose Indoor 3 mile record Ron just broke.

Hey! Hey!! We have ourselves a controversy going, which is always good to liven up these dull pages. You may recall last month that I published a letter in which the writer expressed his displeasure with handicap races and the way some competitors treat them. Well, this month we have a letter presenting the other side of the coin. Since I left the first writer remain anonymous, I will do likewise for the second, although neither requested this privilege. The pertinent comments from the rebuttal letter are as follows:

"The next thing vexing me derives from a few comments in your latest issue of the Ohio Race Walker. This is the rather 'obnoxious problem' of the way scratch men view handicap races. You will note that I said "Handicap" races. These races are for the sole purpose of equalizing the competition so that the up-and-coming walker, the slightly-over-the-hill walker, the working-man-who-loves-his-family-and-therefore-doesn't-spend-all-day-Saturday-and-Sunday-plus-five-nights-a-week-getting-in-his-100-miles-a-week-plus-walker, and the rest of us garbage who clutter up the walking races have as much chance of winning as those Olympian gods known as scratch men. I am the person mentioned by your anonymous contestant (whose identity I am well aware of) who leaves along from my 60 yard handicap until I get caught by a scratch man at which point I speed up. First of all, let me assure that any race I am in, especially handicap races, I enter to win. Don't laugh too hard for I have won handicap races on several occasions and a few scratch ones too. Secondly,
considering the speed I possess, I don’t think that a 1:40 first quarter for one whose best mile time is 7:05 is loafing. The was I see it, if I am capable of doing in the low or middle 6:40’s I am as much in the race as our self-egoinflating scratch men. Remember, records set in handicap races are not valid and there are never regional or local championships at stake. These are "DEVELOPMENTAL" races. Who needs developing? Our champions (how to them for they are our scratch men) don’t need developing so therefore, in truth, they should be banned from these races so that they wouldn’t get in the way of us developing walkers."

Never having been in a 1-mile handicap race, your editor really can’t comment intelligently on this controversy. I have walked from scratch in handicap races, but since these were on the road, the problem in question has had no chance to occur. And now being decided somewhere in that over-the-hill, working-man-who loves—etc. category and never having ventured into the 100-mile-a-week category, I can sympathize somewhat with the above. At the same time, I see no reason to knock those who aspire to walking glory, which can be achieved while still loving family, god, and country. Actually, I have never been too fond of handicap races and have never been able to see where I would get any satisfaction out of beating Jim Ryun by starting a quarter mile ahead of him. But since these events are so popular, and evidently so full of mirth and good will, I will be glad to consider any further comments relating to them.

Ah, your faithful, but careless editor, has goofed again. (I also goofed with that last comma, which should come before, not after, editor.) To clarify once and for all the reported new rules on race walking, please read carefully the following memo from Charlie Silcock:

It is important to call to your attention that the 4 publications listed above (OAW included) have all mentioned that new international rules have been approved and are in effect for 1970. In effect, the publications tell our walkers that:

1. The heel of the advancing foot must land first;
2. The leg must be straightened immediately when the heel touches the ground and remain straight throughout the stride;
3. Walkers must have a raised heel of from .4 to .6 inches in height;
4. Only white shoes (completely white) will be permitted to be worn by walkers in USA National Championships and in international competition after May 1.

It is important to note that no source is given for these reports! The Ohio Race Walker is usually reliable in these matters (oh, I wouldn’t say that) and Jack Hortland may have heard about these items from an overseas source.

However, I must call to your attention THAT neither Mr. Daniel Ferris our IAAF representative, nor Mr. Ollan Cassell, AAU National Track & Field Administrator, know anything about the adoption of the above rules. I asked them specifically and personally at a track writers luncheon in New York on Feb. 9.

Consequently, I believe it important to verify the reports before taking the reports as matters of fact. This I believe to be the responsibility of our new National Chairman, Mr. John Deni, Mr. Joseph Tigerman, our representative on the IAAF Walking Commission, and Mr. Cassell and Mr. Ferris at AAU House in New York.

Mr. Cassell and Mr. Ferris did indicate that legislation had been proposed at the last convention to make the use of all-white shoes mandatory at USA National Championships after May 1, but they tell me the proposal was defeated. Therefore, as I see it, our only immediate and real concern is that white shoes will be necessary for our boys.
I do not believe any change in judging or style need be contemplated by race walkers at this time because of the foregoing. Neither do shoes need to be re-shod to raise the heels. Not until such time as more information is forthcoming. The published reports must be verified.

Meanwhile, I had the opportunity to review Bulletin 22, dated Sept.-Dec. 1969, of the IAAF. The following are direct quotes where it pertains to race walkers and is of interest.

"Walking Committee. The committee met in Athens and progress was made with the major task of re-examining the current definition of walking, which is felt by some to give insufficient guidance to walkers and judges.

"Lugano Trophy. The committee accepted the offer of D.L.V. (Deutschland Leichtathletik Verband) to stage the Final of the 1970 Competition at Eschborn near Frankfurt, West Germany on the following dates: 20 Km Sat. Oct. 10; 50 Km Sun. Oct. 11.

"Walking Booklet. It was agreed to compile a comprehensive booklet concerning all aspects of race-walking, which, it was hoped, would assist walkers and judges alike, especially in areas where the sport was in its early stages.

"Track 20 Km. Walk. Members unanimously agreed to recommend (emphasis Charlie's) that the Olympic Games and Area Games 20 Km walking events should be held on the track, with a gap of at least 4 days between heats and the final.

"Egon Rasmussen and Palle Lassen (Denmark) are once again compiling their "Race Walking Statistics". National ranking lists and championship and other results will, therefore, be appreciated, and should be sent to Palle Lassen, Bulowsvej 46, 1879 Copenhagen V, Denmark."

Notice in the above that re-examination of rules is going on. Nothing is mentioned of new rules adopted internationally. Notice the recommendations re: the 20 Km Olympic and Area Walks.

Thus endeth Charlie's memo, which clears up all the confusion I have created by publishing unofficial reports. Dr. Derr back in Jour. III would have my hide. My source for the reported rule changes was, incidentally, Colin Young in the reliable English publication, Athletics Weekly, a usually unimpeachable source. As to the white shoes, it is definitely an IAAF rule now, and the report I got from the meeting of the Race Walking Committee at the AAIU Convention in Miami indicated that it had been adopted by the convention for national championships. My apologies also to Fred Young, who took my report as gospel and published the same information in Heel and Toe, the newsletter of the Kansas City Pacers and has since had to print a retraction.

Exciting News of the Month (Ohio Edition)--That rumbling you hear from up north is giant Jack Blackburn, the sometimes Big Red Duck, stirring from hibernation and preparing for a return to the race walking wars. After 4 or 5 months of complete inactivity, the guru of race walking is back at it and hungry for races.

The Ohio Race Walker is published monthly in Columbus, Ohio and covers a lot more than Ohio. Subscriptions cost you $3.00 per year. Address all correspondence to Editor Jack Kortland at 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202. Those little numbers under your address indicate the month and year that your subscription expires. The two different type faces you see this month result from doing part of this on my lunch hour at work.
Upcoming races:
Sat. March 14---- NAAU Jr. 50 Km, Los Angeles.
Sun. March 15---- Ohio 10 Mile Championship (Track), Worthington OH, 1 p.m.
Sat. March 21-10 KMM, Athens City Y.O. Score Park 2 p.m.
Sun. March 22---- 4 Mile, LaVendale, Calif.
Sun. March 22---- 15 Km Handicaps, Seward Park, Seattle, noon.
Sun. March 22---- 30 Km, Pacific Grove, Calif.
Sat. March 28---- 10 K (Track), Claremont, Calif. Relays, 10 a.m.
Sat. March 29---- 8 Mile Handicaps, Sharon Woods, Columbus, Ohio, 1 p.m.
Sat. April 4---- 4 Mile Handicaps, Ohio School for Deaf Track, Columbus, 1 p.m.
Sun. April 5---- Ron Zinn Memorial 10 Miles, Asbury Park, N.J.
Sun. April 5---- 50 Km (track), Seattle, Wash., 9 a.m.
Sun. April 5---- 7 Mile, San Rafael, Calif., 10 a.m.
Sun. April 12---- 10 Km. Val. AAU & Open 1 Hour, Columbia, Y.O., 2 p.m.
Sun. April 12---- 40 Km, San Francisco area.

After an exciting indoor season capped by the fastest mile in history, 1970 shapes up as an exciting year in U.S. race walking. The climax will be the Lugano Cup meet in West Germany in October. The first order of business there will be to get a team over. If we do this, there should be little doubt that they will better the performance of our first Cup team in 1967. For those unfamiliar, the Lugano Cup is the International Race Walking Championship, normally held every two years, although there has been a 3 year lag this time. It is a team competition, with three walkers from each competing nation scoring in each of two races--20 km and 50 km. The first and second place teams from the previous competition automatically qualify. Other Europeans teams qualify through zone competitions. On second thought, maybe the first three qualify automatically (East Germany, USA, and Great Britain in 1967). A maximum of three teams may be invited from outside of Europe. The USA in 1967 is the only one ever to compete thus far, but it would seem quite likely that the Mexicans will go this year. Reportedly, each team will consist of 8 walkers this year, but with still only three to score in each event.

In any case, the goal of our top walkers will obviously be to qualify for these spots, which will be selected from the results of the Senior 20 and 50 km Championships. The first two in the 20 will probably also qualify for an earlier trip to the USA, France, and Germany with the U.S. Track Team.

At this point, the 20 looks as a tight battle between Ron Lard, Dave Romansky, Tom Dooley, and Floyd Godwin. Floyd of course still has to prove he belongs in this class at the longer distance, but from what I saw and from his background, I don't think there is much doubt that he will. The only other one I can see challenging these four at this point is Doetz Jopfer, more noted at longer distances, but getting quicker all the time at the shorter ones. Both Larry Young and Rudy A. Hulda are capable of walking with the big four, but we don't know what the status of either is at this time. Larry reportedly plans to walk again but don't know if he has started yet. If not, he certainly won't be ready for this class of competition by May after a year off. Rudy can pop out of the woodwork at any time and be very tough, so don't count him out.

Not far behind these guys, and ready to pick up anyone who falters, are Larry Walker, Steve Hayden, and John Knifton (the latter not eligible for U.S. teams). Bob Kitchen should also be in this group, but I have no idea what he is up to, not having seen his name since
last summer's U.S.-British Commonwealth Meet. Gary Westerfield might also belong here if he overcomes his injury problem. A couple of others on the injury list, who could rank in this group, or higher, are Ray Sorers and Martin Judov. Not more than a shade behind this group are a couple of veterans, Ron Daniel and Ron Kulik. Kulik particularly showed vastly improved speed this winter, and reportedly an improved style, and while speed at a mile can't be equated with 20 km ability, this could bode no good for the guys at the top.

Behind all of these, we find a motley crew of capable walkers, some young'ers who could surprise at any time, others hanging on type veterans, and others just good consistent walkers. I choose to include myself in this group along with such guys as Bill Ranney, Greg Diebold, Bob Bowman, Steve Tyrer, Greg Diebold, Jerry Bocci, Jim Hanley, etc. (include yourself in the etc. if your feel I have slighted you). Art Mark could fit in here, too, if he gets back in shape. Car'ring some complete collapses, however, or some really sharp improvements, these guys are going to be fighting for places in the second ten.

In the 50, Goetz Klooper appears to be alone at the top right now. Certainly, Larry Young and Bob Kitchen can go right with him, but as noted above, their status is very uncertain. Tom Dooley, Dave Romensky, and probably Floyd Godwin also have the equip'ment to challenge Goetz, but have yet to really prove themselves at the distance. The same can probably be said of Ron Laird, who has walked great races up to 40 km but never yet turned in a really class 50.

Grouped behind these men, in no particular order are the likes of Ron Kulik, Ron Daniel, Bob Bowman, Jerry Bocci, with Bowman perhaps potentially the best of the group, but with years of inconsistency behind him. Jerry Bocci, now healthy again and training very hard, may really prove himself over the long grind this year. Jim Hanley and Bill Ranney are certainly capable of cracking this group, too, and we can't leave out the defending champ on, Bryon Cverton. Others of the 20 km men mentioned above could do well at the longer grind if they show the inclination, but none have shown in the past. Gary Westerfield probably has the strongest inclination to go at 50 and could be very tough. Not mentioned yet is Karl Lerschenz, now living in Denver and a real threat at either 20 or 50 when he gets back in shape, but of course not eligibe for our national teams. And it seems I have forgotten John Kelly, who can certainly be a threat to anyone but those at the very top.

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A BIT OF HISTORY

The top U.S. walker of all time, if we are to believe his records, is Bill Mihalo, who as a professional in the 1950's recorded such times as 1:05 for 10 miles and 1:24 for 20 kilometers. These records were set when Mihalo was 39 and older after a successful, but not sensational, career as an amateur. My research into this man's career is still incomplete and perhaps some of my readers can fill in some of the gaps and offer some comments as to the validity of his professional times.

During the 1940's and early '50's, Bill Mihalo, representing Thompson Products of Detroit, won 20 Sr. AAU walking titles at distances from 7 miles through 50 kilometers. A 111 but three of these were at 25 kilometers and up. He was on the 1948 Olympic team, but in 1952 finished fifth in the 50 km Olympic Trial with 4:55:02 and fourth in the 10 km Trial with 52:32. He won championships that year at 35 and 40 km. with 3:23:14 and 3:45:50. The 35 was an extremely tight race with John Deni a second behind and Jimmy Sidun another second in back of him.
It was sometime during this year that Kihalo turned professional. I am not certain what the circumstances surrounding this move were, whether he was barred as an amateur or just decided to see if there were any money to be made. In any case, his record as an amateur did not indicate the ability to walk world class times and he was 37-years old when he started walking as a pro. This was in Detroit, and he immediately started claiming pro records, although I don't yet have the history of these early marks. Sometime not long thereafter, he moved to California and the following capsules give testimony to his prowess as a professional walker.

...On Dec. 20, 1954, Kihalo won World's Professional Association 5 mile race at Griffith Park in Los Angeles with a 35:01. This broke the world's record of 35:24 set by Frank Donavan of New York in 1892 and marked the 3rd time Kihalo had broken a record.

...On Jan. 29, 1955, he broke the world's professional record at 2 miles with 12:41 on the Hollywood High School track. The old record was 13:14 by John W. Nabby of Lillie Bridge, Enland in 1883. John Peters of Detroit was second in both of these races, not times given, but in this one about 200 yards back, which would put him well under 11:00.

...A couple days later he claimed his 45th record with 100 yards in 17.0.

...On May 2, 1955 he claimed a 3 mile record with 20:01 in Los Angeles, breaking Nabby's 1883 mark of 21:11.

...His 60th record breaking mark on March 17, 1956 at the Hollywood H.S. track with a 1:09:01 for 10 miles. This was in a WPWA Championship for which he won 110 with Peters second and Al Larson of New York third. The old record was 1:10:02 by Dan Donavan of New York on Aug. 10, 1897. (I don't know if Dan was related to Frank, or if they just got the names confused.)

...On Sept. 27, 1956 in San Fernando, Cal., walking in 101 degree heat, he claimed another 10 mile record with 1:09. This time Fred Kazensko, secretary of the WPWA, reported that this broke the old pro record of 1:11.1 set Nov. 19, 1882 by James League of New York. I don't know what became of Kihalo's earlier record or Donavan's.

...On Feb. 15, 1957, Kihalo won the world professional walking championship by taking both the 2 and 5 mile races, giving him 20 points. He had a 1:04 for the 10 mile, reportedly breaking his 1952 record of 1:05:02???, and his 35:01 for 5 (much slower than the 10 mile pace) broke Donavan's record of 35:22 (listed as 35:2h before, see above). No mention of Kihalo's earlier 35:01. Peters of Detroit was second with 16 points and Larson third with 12. No mention of their times or other competitors or whether the races were road or track.

...At Griffith Park on May 20, 1958, Kihalo claimed a 1:26:01 for 20 km, listed as breaking the record of 1:27:38.6 set by Panichkin (amateur) earlier in the month.

...On Sept. 25, 1958 it was 25 miles in Griffith Park in 3:20:10, a modern world record. The temperature was 100 for this one. Good old Peters was his usual second and Tom Larson, of Los Angeles, third.

...Finally on Nov. 12, 1958 he raced over the Griffith Park course for a 1:24:01 20 Km (6:45.5 per mile). This was again listed as breaking Panichkin's record with no mention of Kihalo's earlier record.

This is all I have on the mighty Kihalo at this time. Any further details would be appreciated. Who was judging? How accurate were the courses? And how much money did he ever make? I might give it a whirl myself.

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