ALONE AT THE TOP

The months of May and June have seen the star of Dave Romansky rise higher and higher. We have heard the opinion in many quarters that the big redhead is now ready to challenge anyone in the world and this writer won't argue the point. We will certainly get a good idea in July when Dave takes on the West Germans in Stuttgart and the Russians in Leningrad a week later. If Wilf Hesch is going for the West Germans, Dave will certainly have a tussle. Even without the England-based Hesch, Germany will present a very strong side with the likes of Hermerich, Muller, Weidner, Schuth, and Schuster to choose from. It is hard to say who the Russians will choose to represent them in that match, but they will be very hard to beat on their home course. Their general practice when at home is to select men noted more for speed than for style.

Dave, of course, will not be alone on the trip and we will be equally eager to see how Tom Dooley performs in this hot competition. Tom has not been competing nearly as frequently as Romansky this spring but he is in excellent form and will fill out the strongest duo we have ever sent abroad. There is some chance that Ron Kulik may also make the trip as an alternate, although I have heard nothing definite on this yet. With a race in Paris preceding the other two, a spare man would not hurt. As reported below, these three finished 1-2-3 in the McKeesport 20 Kilometer to nail down the trip. In October, fourth placer Steve Hayden will join them in Frankfurt for the Lugano Cup, together with four yet to be chosen in the 50 km.

In addition to his 30 km victory, Mr. Romansky scored easy victories in fast times and on successive days in the NAU and Ron Zinn Memorial 10 kms in Chicago, and later set American records at 3 km and 2 miles. In the latter race, he just missed breaking 13 minutes.

GOOD RACE DESPITE FOULUPS

McKeesport, Pa., May 23--Dave Romansky easily pulled clear of Tom Dooley on the final three laps of a 13-lap race to score his fourth victory of the year in Sr. NAU title races in the 20 km today. His time on a warm day over the hot blacktop of the Eastland Shopping Plaza was 1:35:35. The fastest previous time on this course was Rudy Halusa's 1:36:16 in 1966. Dooley, although tiring, never let Romansky get too far away and also broke the old course mark with 1:36:04. Dooley walked 15 or 20 yards back of Romansky throughout the first half of the race, caught up when Dave stopped to tie a shoe and hung on until those last three laps when the great strength of Romansky was simply too much. Both were walking perhaps a bit conservatively not wanting to risk the loss of a trip by cracking up after too hot of a pace.

A somewhat surprising third, but not really so much off his fine performances all spring, was Ron Kulik. Ron is in the midst of easily his best season after many years of being near the top. He walked a beautiful race lying well back in the early going to conserve his energy in the heat and then moving strongly through the field. As a matter of fact he was even behind your editor at one point in the first two miles, lying about 16th at that point. Ron finished in 1:39:40.7, excellent time on this course. Steve Hayden caught Goetz Klopfen in the final stages of the race to take fourth, with Englishman John Knifton not too far back of Goetz in sixth.
Ron Daniel captured the seventh spot, followed by two members of the Mexican team, which didn’t really do well at all off past performances. Their top man, Pablo Colin, faded badly and struggled home in 18th and their fourth man was 23rd. This did give them third place in the team standings and launched a pitched battle over whether they should be given the medals. According to AAU rules they shouldn’t, but people like Phil Jachelski and John Deni aren’t really too familiar with rules or much else, it seems, and with precedent on their side, the last I knew, were giving the medals to the Mexicans. This was one unfortunate aspect of the race. Others are spelled out below.

First, rounding out the top ten was ever-young, 40-year old John Kelly, who certainly looks a good bet in the Master’s Meet. The big disappointment of the race was Ron Laird, having his poorest race in years and just staying ahead of your editor for 12th. Ron was to have formed part of a potential winning team at Lugano but has unfortunately fallen into a mental slump at just the wrong time. He still has a chance, of course, to make the team at 50, but even if he does he won’t be the threat there that he would be at 20. If he doesn’t recover to make it at 50, 1970 will be the first year since 1962 that the United States has not been represented in International competition by Ronald Owen Laird.

Two women walked in the race, unofficially of course, but without complaints. This rather surprised me with Deni and Jachelski present but they had nothing to say. Jeanne Bocci turned in a fine 2:03:23 in the heat and 14-year-old Stella Palamarchuk was around 2:28, I believe.

A sour note at the start of the race (besides the usual unnecessary hoopla with the band) occurred when the eagle-eyed Mr. Deni spotted Goetz Klopfer with part of his number torn off. They had issued 3-digit numbers, all starting with 3, and Goetz had torn his 3 off and gotten the littlest 10 he could make. Unnecessary, perhaps, but harmless as there would be no other 10’s around. Mr. Deni, however, looked upon this as a flagrant violation of the rules and it seemed almost a personal affront and wasn’t sure but what Goetz should be relegated to the sidelines, or maybe banned forever. In any case, when John got friend Phil over to consider this breach of conduct, a cry quickly went up from all athletes "Let’s take off our number 3’s!!", and the two gruff men were quieted. This incident received the greatest publicity in the Pittsburgh press the next day, the race itself being of little consequence. Just a national championship, you know.

And another unfortunate aspect of the race was a foul up on the times somewhere after sixth place. For example, John Kelly heard 1:45 something as he crossed the line, but was given 1:47:53. My time in 13th was recorded for as 1:49:53, but knowing what I had with one lap to go and how fast I was going, John’s time looks suspiciously like mine. Bob Bowman, not far behind me, was given 1:53:06, but the 1:48:27 given to Bill Ranney in 11th looks much more like the right margin. So, apparently, the recorders missed three people somewhere in the first 10. Therefore, in the results below, I have not shown times for Daniel, Sanchez, and Hernandez, arbitrarily figuring these were the ones that were missed and have then shifted all the recorded times back three places. This is, at least, closer to the truth than what was released. Unfortunately, I still have times only through 22nd.

The final unfortunate aspect of the race (aside from the Shopping Center Course, which no one but the sponsors likes—they can’t even provide showers) is Charles Herman’s penchant to give out millions of national medals. Mr. Herman is a nice enough gent, and very sincere, but he can’t accept criticism, and has this mistaken notion that anyone who competes in a national race should get a National AAU Championship Medal. This, of course, only cheapens the medal, which is something that should be worked for. I know, for example, that Greg Diebold was really disappointed at getting this medal. He has been working hard to achieve this goal, and then walks his worst race of the year in 16th place and gets the medal. As I say, it only cheapens it and robs the recipient of any particular thrill. Well, on to the results:
1. Dave Romansky, Del. T&F 1:35:35
2. Tom Dooley, Athens AC 1:36:04
3. Ron Kulik, NYAC 1:36:15
4. Steve Hayden, LIAC 1:36:21
5. Goetz Klopfer, Athens AC 1:36:20
6. John Knifton, NYAC 1:36:25
7. Ron Daniel, NYAC 1:36:40
8. Sanchez, Mexico
9. Hernandez, Mexico
12. Ron Laird, NYAC 1:42:52
13. Ron Daniel, NYAC 1:44:23
17. Jack Mortland, OTC 1:47:35
20. Ron Laird, NYAC 1:49:18
22. Steve Hayden, LIAC 1:50:53
23. Jack Mortland, OTC 1:52:02
24. Bob Mimm, Phil. AC 1:52:17
26. Goetz Klopfer, Athens AC 1:54:53
27. Ron Laird, NYAC 1:56:12
29. Pablo Colin, Mexico 1:57:12
30. Bob Mimm, Phil. AC 1:57:25
31. Jack Mortland, OTC 1:58:27
32. Greg Diebold, Shore AC 1:59:30
33. Jack Mortland, OTC 1:59:45
34. Greg Diebold, Shore AC 2:00:45
35. Bob Mimm, Phil. AC 2:01:57
36. Greg Diebold, Shore AC 2:03:01
37. Ron Laird, NYAC 2:04:05
38. Jack Mortland, OTC 2:05:07
39. Greg Diebold, Shore AC 2:06:10
40. Ron Laird, NYAC 2:07:12
41. Bob Mimm, Phil. AC 2:08:15
42. Greg Diebold, Shore AC 2:09:18
43. Ron Laird, NYAC 2:10:21
44. Bob Mimm, Phil. AC 2:11:24
45. Greg Diebold, Shore AC 2:12:27
46. Ron Laird, NYAC 2:13:30
47. Bob Mimm, Phil. AC 2:14:33
49. Ron Laird, NYAC 2:16:39
50. Bill Walker, Motor City Striders 2:17:42
51. Goetz Klopfer, Athens AC 2:18:45
52. Ron Laird, NYAC 2:19:48
53. Jack Mortland, OTC 2:20:51
54. Greg Diebold, Shore AC 2:21:54
56. Bill Walker, Motor City Striders 2:23:60
57. Goetz Klopfer, Athens AC 2:24:63
58. Ron Laird, NYAC 2:25:66
59. Bill Walker, Motor City Striders 2:26:69
60. Goetz Klopfer, Athens AC 2:27:72

Chicago, May 30—On the Tartan track of the University of Chicago's Stagg Field, Dave Romansky walked off with the NAIA 10 Km title, lapping the field in the process. The temperature was in the low 70's but the humidity was quite high and a strong wind hampered the walkers. Dave still managed a fine 44:22.8 without opposition. The field was one of the least classy for this race for several years, coming a week after the all-important 20.

Only Goetz Klopfer tried to stay with Romansky as big Dave bombed a 6:52 on the first mile. However, by two miles, Dave was well clear with a 13:54 to Klopfer's 14:16. Although slowing down each mile the rest of the way, Romansky continued to pull away, and lapped Klopfer just after 5 miles. This time is excellent, but Dave may be capable of something like 2 minutes faster having done a 47:51 7-mile time trial in early May. Klopfer, with second sewed up took it easy over the last couple of miles and recorded a 46:56, which could have been considerably faster. Ron Laird was third all the way, but never in the race and also slowed down to an 8:13 over the last mile.

The best race of the day was for fourth as Jack Mortland and Greg Diebold battled it out up until the last mile. Diebold led for the first two miles and then stayed right on Mortland's heels through 20 laps. At that point, the Ohio veteran put in a blazing 1:58 lap and then a scorching 7:57 last mile to take fourth. Jerry Bocci, still recovering from his bout with the flu, stayed with these two for a mile-and-a-half but was fighting at the finish to hold off a charging Bob Henderson. Henderson is a real comer, having just started walking this year under the tutelage of Art Mark at the University of Illinois. Nailing down seventh was Jack Mortland, starting to return to form and surprising himself with a 53:17 effort.

The style prize went to the always impeccable Goetz Klopfer. The University of Chicago Track Club copped team honors over the Green & Gold AC in the absence of all the big clubs. With one-two in the team race, the Ohio Track Club could have easily returned to our glory days of the early sixties when we won this title regularly if only a third man had been there. As it was, they gave us third place medals as the best two-man team.

Jeanne Bocci and Lynn Olson, from Detroit, walked as unofficial competitors and Jeanne turned in easily an all-time best for American women with 56:49. Her pace was 8:20, 17:16, 26:54, 36:17, 45:38, 54:52. Lynn had a 66:35 after a 9:45 first mile. The results:

4. Jack Mortland, OTC 49:12
Twenty-four hours later many of the same protagonists gathered at the cinder track of Hanson Stadium for the 5th Annual Ron Zinn Memorial 10 Km. It was almost like an instant replay. This time, Romansky chose to start slower and let Klopfer lead for about a mile. But when Dave took over he pulled steadily away and wound up only 12 seconds slower than the day before. Goetz kept it going all the way this time and was nearly a half-minute faster. The weather was almost the same and judging from the results one would have to conclude that tartan makes little difference. There was a larger field for this one and more slower walkers so that the leaders were constantly lapping others. Romansky felt he walked about half the race in the second and third lanes.

Biggest improvement from one day to the next was Jerry Bocci's 43 seconds. The style prize went to Bob Henderson, who also improved his Saturday performance. Larry Larson continued his record of being the only man to walk in all of the Zinn races and broke his all-time record to boot. Past races have gone to Jack Mortland in 1966 and 1969, Ron Laird in 1967, and Jerry Bocci in 1968. Jeanne Bocci and Lynn Olson were back again going 5 kms this time, and Jeanne achieved another U.S. Women's best with 26:52. Lynn had a 31:52 and Kathy Simon 42:39. The results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td>44:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Goetz Klopfer</td>
<td>46:27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ron Laird</td>
<td>48:52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jack Mortland</td>
<td>49:22</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jerry Bocci</td>
<td>50:57</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Bob Henderson</td>
<td>51:41</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Larry Larson</td>
<td>56:00</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Bob Woods</td>
<td>56:11</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jerry Brown</td>
<td>57:07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Jim Bentley</td>
<td>58:22</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Wayne Yarcho</td>
<td>59:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Dan Patt</td>
<td>61:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ulrich Klopfer</td>
<td>(Goetz's brother)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bentley</td>
<td>63:55</td>
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</tbody>
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And here is the monthly compilation of results from all over the place, in no particular order, other than the order that this stock of junk beside me happens to be in. Organization is not a virtue of the Ohio Race Walker. Read on:


Northwest Regional 10 Km, June 7, Portland (1 hr. before National) -- 1. Goetz Klopfer
Bob Bradley, un. 65:05 Spooner Memorial 10 Km, Mass., June 21 - 1. Paul Schell, NMC
Alberta, June
Showery conditions 1. Phil McGaw, NMC 55:21 (started 2½ minutes late) (Hersey started
3 minutes late) 2. Tony Medeiros, NMC 53:24. 3. Tom Popowsik, Mt. Park AA 53:52
NMC 54:15 (22 finishers) 10 Km, Boston, June 21 - 1. Phil McGaw 49:26 2. George
8. Brenda Whitman 1:52:01.8 (104 degrees, 15 starters, 9 finishers) Age group
880 (9-12) - 1. Frank Ramos and Rudy Haluza 5:10 3. Betty Haluza 5:18 1 Mile
(13 and up) - 1. Cesar Ramos 10:43 2. Greg Dow 10:43 Walking Division, Palos
Chelson 4:13 4. Brenda Whitman 4:59 SPAAU 5 Km, May 29 - 1. Larry Walker 2:02.8
Wehrly 20 Km (Track), Occidental College, May 31 - 1. Steve Merrilees, Striders
(Hanley, Bowman, Whitman, Chelson, Greene, Adair dnf) Sr. Met. AAU 2 Mile, June 13
14:10.4 4. Steve Hayden, LACU 14:48.4 5. George Shilling NYPC 15:44 2 Mile,
Portland, Ore. Rose Festival Meet, June 13 - 1. Steve Tyrer, Mt. Hood CC 14:54.1
(not 14:15.2 as reported elsewhere) 2. Jim Bean 15:02.8 3. Mark Achen 16:27.3
Ore. AAU and Federation 2 Mile, June 6 - 1. Tyrer 15:38.8 20 Km, Detroit, June 14
12:40.8 3. Ron Daniel 12:42.0 4. Steve Hayden 12:49.8 Middle Atlantic 2 Mile,
June 6 - 1. Dave Romansky 13:00.6 (New American record) 21 Joe Stefanowicz 15:35
18:05 Phil. AC 30 Km, May 17 - 1. Ron Daniel and Ron Kulik 2:51:03 3. Paul Schell,
was 2:54:20) 6. Don Johnson 3:08:45 (13 finishers) Canadian 20 Km, Alberta, June
4. Alex Oakley 1:41:42.2 5. Bob Steedman 1:48:32.4 6. Tom Makie 1:53:44.6 (9
finishers) 1 Mile, California, May 23 - 1. Bruce Adair, US Army 6:38.2 2. Larry
3 Km, Compton-Coliseum Invitational, June 6 - 1. Larry Walker 13:05.8 2. Jim Hanley
Kuchar 14:12 all DNF) 50 Km (Track), Los Angeles, June 13 - 1. Bob Bowman 4:46:27
Rocky Mountain AAU 1 Hour, Boulder, May 16 - 1. Karl Henschel 7 mi. 534 yds 2.
Jim O'Hara 6 mi. 1556 yds 3. George Lundmark 5 mi. 757 yds. (In the Met. AAU 2
Mile above I forgot 6th pace was Dan O'Connor in 15:50. He is a high school senior
with only 3½ weeks of walking after track season) 20 Km, Attleboro, Mass., May 2
Medeiros 2:02:30 14 finishers) Mo. Valley 25 Km, May 2, Kansas City--1. Bob Harrdsen
8. Bob Chapin 2:31:50 (11 finishers) 10 Km Hardicap, Seattle, May 24 - 1. Dave
(S 8 finishers) 10 Km, Seattle, May 9 - 1. Goetz Klopfer 45:45 2. Steve Geiver 54:25
FOREIGN:
1:35:46 (14 finishers, 20 under 1:40, 75 under 1:50, 114 under 2:00. Bill Granby
saw this race and expresses the opinion that many of the top walkers would have considerably trouble with judges in this country due to bent knees) South African


More on Senior Olympics in L.A.--other finishers in 10 Km--Jim Selby 62:45, Bruce


10 Km (Track), Zabrze, Pol., May 18--1. Lipkowski 44:45.2 (born in 1952, only 17 or 18) 10 Km (Track), Ajka, Hung., Schuster 1:31:05 2. Pfister, Switz.


15 Km (Track), East Germany, May 1--1. Peter Frenkel 1:05:51.6 (National record--


Karl Marx Stadt, April 26--1. Peter Selzer 44:43 10 Km (Track), Weissenfels, EG.

1. Lutz Lipowski 45:00 2. Reimann 45:20.2 10 Km (Track), Zabrze, Pol., May 18--1. Lipkowski 44:45.2 (born in 1952, only 17 or 18) 10 Km (Track), Ajka, Hung.,

1. Antal Kiss 44:03 10 Km (Road), Budapest, May 10--1. Janos Dalmati 44:12.8

3. Zschiegner, EG 1:29:29 Lebanon 10 Km. Championship (Track), March 22--1. Elia

Dakessian 59:45.8 (Them's easy pickins for those that carry to journey to Lebanon)

Women's 5 Km, Denmark, May 21--1. Kari Moeller 26:56 Women's 10 Km, Denmark, May


More on Senior Olympics in L.A.--other finishers in 10 Km--Jim Selby 62:45, Bruce

Macdonald 62:53, Joe Wehrly 63:11, Bob Long 63:47.6, Don Jacobs, Ed Soza, and Al


31:06 (probably the old javelin great but no judges and form reportedly very question-


Ion 41:15

BACK TO FOREIGN: 15.5 Km, Barcelona, Spain, April 12--1. Gerd Schuth, W.G. 1:16:00.6


18--1. Walf Wesch 2:37:38 Women's 5 Km (Road), Enfield, Eng., April 25--1. Judy


Women's 2 Km (Track), London, May 20—1. Judy Farr 10:01 2. Barbara Fisk 10:11.4

3. J. Peck 10:39.2—Paul Nihill is definite out of top competition for 1970 after his attack of jaundice, but will probably start racing again late in the year—Abdon Pamich, the long-time Italian international and Tokyo gold medalist at 50 Km, has decided to retire at age 37. He will serve as a National Coach.

THE OHIO SCENE:

The second annual tour of Ohio series is underway and ORW editor Jack Mortland has annexed the first two races. On June 7, a large field (by our standards) of seven assembled at the Worthington H.S. track for a 1 Hour. This race marked Barry Richardson's last effort on our soil before his return to England on June 18.

Barry will be sorely missed around here both for his sparkling personality and his competitive fervor. He plans to continue the heel-and-toe sport on his return to England. Actually, we may get him back anytime. He had left England just over 4 years ago, the day after voting Harold Wilson into office and was returning fully confident that Mr. Wilson would be starting another five years on the day he arrived. Whether Barry can survive under the new regime remains to be seen. In any case, he suffered a bit in the heat in this 1 Hour, as did everyone except Louisville's Regis (Jerry) Brown. Jerry, after races of 56 plus and 57 plus for 10 km in Chicago the weekend before, passed the 10 Km mark in approximately 52:35 and went on to cover 7 miles 171 yards in the hour. Jack Mortland, who had lapped him three times in both Chicago races, had to go about 6½ miles before catching him once in this one.


The second race of the tour was a 10 km held at Paul Reback's place in Cincinnati. The course covered a road loop through the apartment complex which measures about 6 yards over 1000 meters per lap. Reback, just back from 2 weeks in Arkansas, blistered the first kilometer in 4:40, nearly killing Jack Mortland and Jerry Brown who were hanging desperately on. Reback continued to put it on for another lap, hitting 9:28 for 2 km and had 3 seconds on Mortland and 5 on Brown. The pace started to slow then, but it wasn't until early in the fifth lap that Mortland surged into the lead, which he held to the finish. The results: 1. Mortland 49:15 (24:15) 2. Reback 50:04 (25:24) 3. Brown 54:19 (25:00) 4. Doc Blackburn 61:00 (30:10) 5. Dale Arnold 66:07 (32:04)—The walkers were slowed somewhat by a fierce wind on the backstretch. Jerry Brown was not quite up to his performance of two weeks earlier but had been suffering from a cold all week and had turned in a fine 3 mile in Pittsburgh two nights earlier. In that track race, he did 22:42:3 to beat Barry Harwick (25:38) and Leon Kolanklevicz (27:01). Between the two Tour races, Mortland also won the Ohio AAU 2 Mile in Dayton on June 13 with 14:57.6. Wayne Yarcho was second in just under 18, Clair Duckham third in about 19, and Dale Arnold fourth in around 20 minutes.

Whoops, one more International result; in the International Military Championships, in Viareggio, Italy on June 13, Visini, of Italy, won the 20 Km in 1:34:02.

NEXT TOUR OF OHIO RACES!!

Sunday, July 12—15 Km, Dewees Parkway, Dayton, Ohio, 11 a.m. (I think)—write Dale Arnold, 2120 Ward Hill Ave, Dayton, Ohio 45420 for further details.

Sunday, July 26—Van Wert, Ohio, distance still uncertain, maybe 10 miles. Write Jack Blackburn, Rt. 2, Van Wert, Ohio for further details.

Sunday, Aug. 2—7.5 Km, Columbus, Ohio—write Larry James, 1804 Woodette, Columbus, Ohio 43227 for further details.

OTHER UPCOMING RACES:

Sat. July 4—AAU JR. ONE HOUR, miles City, Mont., 9 a.m., only its Sun. July 5
Sun. July 12—AAU J., 15 Km, Spokane, Washington
Sun. July 12—Iowa A U 20 Km, Des Moines 9 a.m.
Sat. July 18—No. Val. A U & Open 15 Km, Independence 9 a.m.
Sun. July 19—10 Km, Arleta, Calif., 4 p.m.
Sat. July 25—2 Mile, South Portland, Me., 3 p.m.
Sat. July 25—Munau Jr. 2 Mile, Long Island (tentative)
Sun. July 26—Michigan 7 Mile, Belle Isle, Detroit
Sun. July 26—5 Mile Handicap, Alexandra Park, Lawndale, Cal., 10 a.m.
Fri. July 31—2 Mile, North M.S., Des Moines, Ia., 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Aug. 1—2 Mile, Froomfield, Colo.
Sun. Aug. 2—Munau Jr. and Sr. 40 kilometer, Long Branch, N.J.—see note later—not see it now, why wait until later since there isn't much left here in this issue anyway.
The date of the Senior 40 kilometer has been changed from Aug. 16 because a U.S. vs. Canada (and possibly Mexico) match has been tentatively scheduled for Toronto on August 15-16. The match would include a 20 kilometer the first day and a 50 kilometer the second. This change means the Junior and Senior 40 will be run concurrently, which is in opposition to the ruling made at last year's convention. However, in light of the reason for the change and the fact that this ruling has already been violated once (Jr. 20, which included an open race) this action seemed justified. The International match sounds good and one would hope it might become a regular thing, on at least a biannual basis. No word yet as to how the U.S. team will be picked.

For walkers seeking a college education, there may be a good opportunity at Colorado State in Fort Collins. Fred Wilt is assuming the coaching reins there, and reportedly the program will include women's track, marathon running, and race walking in addition to the standard cross country and track. For those who don't know, Wilt is a former Olympic distance runner, editor of Track Technique, and coach and advisor to many outstanding distance runners including Buddy Edelen. Wilt is retiring from the FBI and taking the CSU job.

An open letter to the Editor from Jim Lopes (who, incidentally, once completed a term paper on this very typewriter during the Athens AC tour of the east in 1967):

"First, I would like to congratulate you on your fine publication. I feel it is the only real open forum in which the U.S. walkers can bitch and be heard besides being an excellent general information publication.

"My motivation for writing this letter comes from years of listening to race walkers bellyaching and counter bellyaching about how poor the officiating (especially the judging) is in our sport. I am sure there are going to be those who question this motive, but the fact of the matter is that I am a Northern California walker or that I am a member of the Athens AC or that I am a close personal friend of Bill Ranney's. To those that may do so, I would like to clarify that I write this letter on my own accord not having discussed it with anyone else.

"It seems to me that each of us enters the sport of race walking for our own personal reasons. The reason may be that we like the friendships created or the pot (ed. a dangerous word to use these days, Jim), or, maybe, it's the culmination of a very long ego trip. But whatever the reason, each of us is trying to take something from the sport to satisfy a personal need.

"I feel that such a use of the sport is quite valid. However, I feel it is equally important that each of us give something to race walking—namely, our respect. Race walking is not a limitless resource from which we gain meaningful satisfactions forever, but it is a river into which we must pour more loyalty and respect so it won't run dry.

"Today, and countless days before, I have listened to and watched members of our precious sport violently criticize a judge because he didn't make a call "properly" or an official because he didn't correctly measure a course. We constantly have criticized others basing our arguments on rumors four times removed. Besides being
poor sportsmanship, such criticism weakens the sport—we create judges who are afraid to make calls and spectators who laugh even more at yet another farcical race. We also lose the respect of the officials who sponsor the various indoor and outdoor track and field meets. Should we expect more as long as we don't have as much faith and respect in our own judges and officials as a long jumper or a discus thrower does in his and then, on top of it all, show our dissatisfaction publicly?

"We constantly ask to be placed on equal terms with all the rest of track and field but are not willing to admit that we may have a style problem or that a judge, who incidentally gets even less rewards than do the walkers, has made the correct decision as she saw it at the time. Let us all do a little soul searching and try to discover for ourselves what we have contributed to the sport, whether we be a mighty internationalist or a lowly novice. Let us each of us see if we are not one of those responsible for draining the river dry and not refilling it with our respect. And, finally, let us each of us see if we are one of those responsible for creating judges who are gun-shy at making a call because we have constantly criticized them. I know that I have been one of those responsible for weakening a fine sport—how about you?" I won't mess up what Jim has said by any additional editorial comment, but I am sure we can all profit from what Jim has said if we give it our careful consideration.

NOTE: On the Tour of Ohio Schedule, change the August 2 race to August 9, since we might have some people interested in making the National 40. Also on the Ohio scene, our numbers are dwindling, with Barry having left and Paul Reback planning to return to sunny Florida when he finishes school at the end of July. A more cheery note, Jack Blackburn is making his usual early summer talk about going to Columbia for the 100 miler in September. This time he has talked your editor into accompanying him as a handler, trainer, pepper-upper, or what have you. Still, we will believe it when we get there.

OHIO RACE WALKER
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