AWARD TO GOETZ

After considerable soul searching, head scratching, pondering, contemplating, and other fruitless mental gymnastics, we are presenting the 1970 Dr. John H. Blackburn Award to Goetz Klopfer, finally deciding that we personally would be more exhilarated with a 2:33:59.8 for 20 miles than with a 4:15:23 for 50 Km or 43:03.8 for 10 km, the latter two performances belonging to Dave Romansky. The Blackburn award is presented each year for the most outstanding single performance in U.S. race walking. Were the award for totality of performance, there would have been no doubt and until Klopfer's record-buster on November 15, it was only a question of which of Romansky's performances to recognize. In addition to the above two, he had numerous American records from 1500 meters to 20 miles. Then Goetz threw his monkey wrench in the works.

If we looked at it purely mathematically, there would be little doubt about the decision. Klopfer is less than 2½ minutes off the world's record, while Romansky's 50 km (which we chose as his best performance) is more than 7 minutes off the record for just over 1½ times the distance. But how do the two records compare? The 20 miler was set 12 years ago and apparently there have been few if any serious assaults on it. Thus it may not really be representative of the potential of today's walkers. On the other hand, the 50 km record is held by one Christoph Hohne and at this point in time he apparently is not comparable to mere mortals. So the mathematical difference between the two may not be as great as it seems. Nonetheless, the 20 mile time seems to us a somewhat superior mark and thus the award to Klopfer. Goetz follows in the footsteps of Larry O'Neill (1967), Rudy Haluza (1968), and Bob Kitchen (1969) as the fourth recipient of the award.

Otherwise, it was most definitely a Dave Romansky year. Big Dave copped seven of the eleven Senior National titles, with Tom Dooley, Larry Walker, Ron Laird, and John Knifton capturing one apiece. He had 11 times accepted as American records at distances from 1500 meters to 50 kms, which seems to pretty well cover the book. And the records at the two extremes, 1500 and 50, came only two weeks apart, demonstrating how well he combines speed and strength. As I recall, Elliott Derman's 1959 national titles at 3000 meters and 50 km came only a week apart, but in times not quite comparable to Dave's. Romansky wound up the year with nine new records since Klopfer had better times accepted at two distances (30 km and 20 Miles) Tom Dooley also got into the act at 25 km, but Klopfer bettered that one two—a heckuva a thing to do to a teammate.

On the International front, we set a record of sorts by getting 11 different men into official International meets. These included races in the dual track meets with the USSR and West Germany (plus an unofficial race in the French meet), a first ever walking match with Canada, and the Lugano Cup World Championship. The Lugano team also participated in a road relay in Switzerland, which they won. The future looks bright with more people competing on all levels, age-group walking coming to the fore in many parts of the country, and the recognition of the sport by the Women's Track and Field Committee.
CONVENTION REPORT:

The race Walking Committee met in San Francisco on December 3 during the Annual AAU Convention. The following report is taken from correspondence pertaining to that meeting received from Jim Hanley and Charlie Silcock. Of greatest interest to many is the results of the election for a new National Chairman, since I can assure you very few people were satisfied with the outgoing administration. Charlie Silcock was elected as the new Chairman, and, of equal importance, for a 2-year term. Charlie had originally indicated that he was not interested because of other commitments on his time but when drafted, he answered the call. Charlie will definitely offer the leadership the sport needs, but let me emphasize the word leadership. He does not plan to carry the whole load and there is no reason he should. The job is a thankless one at best and without cooperation from all interested parties, impossible. Charlie is a very good organizer and will be able to accomplish a great deal in the next two years, but only if we all contribute our share. He will be looking for, and asking people to help in all areas of the race-walking program and there will be ample opportunity for those who have griped in the past (and no offense meant as there have certainly been things to grip about) to now assist in some programs that should really get things moving. But enough rah, rah editorializing, since that really isn't my bag.

The next most important item from the meeting is probably the schedule of Championship races for 1971. There are some changes already from the schedule first announced and the following is hopefully a firm schedule. If there are differences from what you have seen previously, throw the old out and accept the following as gospel. (I guess we are sort of the Bible of the sport, after all.) (Well, RATS! After saying that, I now see that the two schedules I have show two different dates for the 10 km and nothing I have been given on changes clarifies that. So this isn't too gospely after all.)

**SENIOR RACES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Mile</td>
<td>Feb. 26</td>
<td>New York City (6:50 qualifying standard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Mile</td>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Eugene, Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Km</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>Chicago, Illinois (shown as May 10 on another schedule, but the later date seems more likely in light of the past.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Km</td>
<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Des Moines, Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Km</td>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>San Francisco, Cal. (Pan-Am Games Trial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Km</td>
<td>Sept. 19</td>
<td>Westbury, Long Island, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Km</td>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Black Diamond, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Km</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Kansas City, No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Km</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Nutley, N.J. (Pan-Am Trial)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hour</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Boulder, Colo. (originally scheduled for April 18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Km</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Pomona, Cal. (excuse me Pomona for getting you out of order)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**JUNIOR RACES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Mile</td>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Km</td>
<td>July 4</td>
<td>Denver, Colo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Km</td>
<td>Aug. 22</td>
<td>Santa Monica, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Km</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Portland, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Km</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Kansas City, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Km</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Km</td>
<td>Sept. 11</td>
<td>Kalispell, Mont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Km</td>
<td>Aug. 15</td>
<td>Long Branch, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 Km</td>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Hollywood, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hour</td>
<td>Mar. 13</td>
<td>Stockton, Calif.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generally a good schedule, although the races do bunch up into two periods—late spring and early fall. But then, who needs July and August races in most parts of the country. Good regional representation and the plan now is to rotate the 20 and 50 between East and West so that in 1972 the 20 will be West and the 50 West. This is as it should be, these being the premier races.
A brief resume of other action of the committee, condensed from correspondence from Silcock follows.

Proposed rules changes to amateur code were discussed and acted on but no changes in any specific race walking rules except for "administrative actions" by the committee (see below) were passed.

The Race Walking All-American Team will be composed of the top three finishers in each Senior National Race during 1970. (I won't repeat the team here; all you have to do is go over the results.) Ron Laird was selected as our nominee to the Sullivan Award Committee by a 14 to 1 vote. Do not know if he made final list for balloting nationwide or not.

A proposal to permit 4th and 5th place finishers from a team to displace members of other teams and to receive patches was rejected by a 14 to 1 vote. Detailed proposal for rule change regarding athletes representative election tabled for more study, clarification, and condensation, by rules sub-committee during 1971. Current athletes representatives (Hanley, Mortland, Kitchen) directed to conduct immediate mail vote of athletes to determine at least four men but not more than ten athlete's representatives for current (1971) R.W. committee.

Larry Walker's proposal regarding election of National Chairman referred to 1971 rules sub-committee for further study and action. (Improperly submitted.)

Women's T&F committee approved authorization of women's race walking from 1 km through 5 miles. Vote was tied on first ballot 14 all. Roll call vote approved by 20 to 14. Men are asked to help girls get started. No men and women's combined races are permitted. No walks in women's championships until they prove themselves. May enter USA team in international postal 5 km. event next fall. Please help women's committee on this.

Hanley says 1969 and 1970 R.W. statistics to be combined and ready by January 15. Joe Tigerman gave a detailed report on the IAAF meetings in Sweden and Germany. (See September ORW) Bruce Mac Donald's US Olympic Committee report of meetings Nov. 29 in San Francisco and a foreign competition recap were read. District Associations are asked to conduct 20 and 50 km USOC training camp qualifying races during first 6 months of 1971.

In the Junior Olympic program, the 220 yard bantam division walk was dropped. An 880 walk was added to the midget division and a 2 mile to the intermediate division. One mile walk added to the National Championship Junior Olympic competition, alternating with the 880 run every other year.

In a clarification of a decision at last year's convention, it was reiterated that no other race is to be held at the same time as a Junior or Senior National Championship. (That should be time and place) Such events may be held before or after the Championship race provided that walkers are not walking concurrently.

The following new American records were approved by the Records Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Athlete</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1500 meters</td>
<td>5:39.8</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td>Quantico, Va.</td>
<td>May 2, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mile</td>
<td>6:10.4</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td>Hampstead, N.Y.</td>
<td>June 9, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3000 meters</td>
<td>12:12.0</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td>Lawrenceville, N.J.</td>
<td>April 11, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Km</td>
<td>43:03.8</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td>Stuttgart, W.G.</td>
<td>July 16, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Miles</td>
<td>1:12:38.6</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Km</td>
<td>1:31:10.2</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Miles</td>
<td>1:53:44.2</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Hours</td>
<td>14 M 143yds</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td>Seattle, Wash.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Km</td>
<td>1:59:19.0</td>
<td>Tom Dooley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Km</td>
<td>1:58:52.0</td>
<td>Goetz Klopfen</td>
<td>Seattle, Wash.</td>
<td>Nov. 15, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Km</td>
<td>2:26:37.2</td>
<td>Goetz Klopfen</td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 22, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Km</td>
<td>2:25:33.7</td>
<td>Dave Romansky</td>
<td>Toronto, Can.</td>
<td>Aug. 23, 1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Now, regarding the ballot for athlete's representatives. Most of you probably received a ballot from Jim Hanley about the middle of December. Because Charles Silcock had to have his race walking committee finalized, including athletes representatives, early in January, a deadline of December 20 was place on return of the ballots to me. This was probably unrealistic, particularly in light of the slow mails around the Holidays, but was unavoidable. But it probably deterred some people from returning the ballot thinking there was no chance to meet the deadline. Whatever the reason, only 32 ballots were returned through Dec. 29 when the results were reported to Silcock. The top ten vote getters, in alphabetical order were: Jack Blackburn, Bob Bowman, Rudy Hallera, Steve Hayden, Don Johnson, Bob Kitchen, Ron Laird, Dave Romansky, Paul Schell, and Larry Walker. Since there was not time to check with each man and confirm his interest, these ten men have been added to the race walking committee as athlete's representatives, with the hope that each will be willing to serve.

I have been asked by some to define the role of the athlete's representative. Having been one for three or four years, I should know, but must admit the role has never really been explained to me. These men, however, are athletes who serve on the race walking committee to represent the athletes viewpoint. It is quite possible that they are less important in race walking than in Track and Field, since a large number of people on the committee are athletes anyway, which is not true in T&F. In any case, these are men you should contact with suggestions, gripes, or whatever you have in order to be assured of a fair hearing. They serve as the communications link between you and officialdom.

Now some results:


The track as we get all cracks at it. If we can get the money to get to Nowhere, South Dakota, probably at most 2 events per year (say 100 and 200 m or 5000 and 10,000 m) whereas we get 11 cracks at it. If we can get the money to get to Nowhere, South Dakota, for example, we can gain All-American selection over a mediocre field. The Track

READEHS

FORUM:
From Ray Somers:

"A comment on the All-American selections: I feel strongly that the award has been cheapened by the inclusion of the top three in each National Championship. I most certainly am not deserving of selection by either of my third places this past year. In the Track & Field selections a man gets a chance for selection in probably at most 2 events per year (say 100 and 200 m or 5000 and 10,000 m) whereas we get 11 cracks at it. If we can get the money to get to Nowhere, South Dakota, for example, we can gain All-American selection over a mediocre field. The Track

-5-


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and field boys selection is made at a meeting of the very best in the country. Now I can see a justification for possibly selecting two, especially if one man is dominating walks at all distances and has the money to attend most of the national championships, but never three per event. With the new system we have 14 men named, 8 more than would probably be on the Olympic team; with selection of first two, we would have 10 men named, with selection of first only, we would have five named. The last in my opinion is the best method.

"While I'm raising the roof, let me propose the elimination of the National 35 and possibly the National 25 and 15 for the same reason—it cheapens the significance of a National Championship. In general, with so many Nationals, it's the fellow who belongs to a "money" club who picks up the awards.

"In addition, let me bring up something I proposed before, namely replacing the silly indoor mile with a 2 mile and outdoor 2 mile with a 3 mile, even if we have to take an undesirable time slot in the meet schedule to do it. (Do we get much of a time slot anyway? I don't know.) Then our National Schedule might be: 2 mile, 3 mile, 10 km, 20 km, 30 km, 40 km, and 50 km. I don't think with a decent local schedule that's too few races, but then I don't race a lot."

Editors comments: I am generally in agreement with Ray on the above points and these are the sort of things that should be given careful consideration at the Annual meeting of the R.W. Committee. The thing on All-American selections was, of course, given considerable discussion at this year's meeting and those present decided to change the procedure to name three in each event. I was somewhat surprised to see this and like Ray feel that it decidedly cheapens the honor. At this point, Ray's opinion carries more weight than mine, since he is on the team and feels he doesn't deserve it. In any case, this is the type of thing that you should discuss with one of the athlete's representative if you feel strongly one way or the other and by the time of next year's committee meeting there will be a much better feeling of what is actually the will of the walkers and, if necessary, the decision can be reconsidered.

As to the number of national races, we have more than any other country and again, it does seem to cheapen the significance of winning a national title. At the same time, there is some justification when one considers the size of the country and the difficulty of making more than four or five of the races without some kind of financial backing or independent wealth of your own. And it usually works out that at least three or four top men show up at Nowhere, South Dakota, probably figuring they have a cheap championship and dissappointed to see the others on the scene. As to silly indoor miles, I have stated my views on this in the past, essentially that they are silly. Generally, the walks do get a pretty decent time slot in the Nationals, I think, and whether this would suffer, I don't know. The problem would be to get the T&F Committee to accept the longer races at any time slot, but in my opinion, an effort should be made. There has been talk in the past of holding the 20 km in conjunction with the outdoor T&F meet, and I think this is a capital idea, but again, it will be very hard to sell.

From Gary Flinchum:

"... I wish to comment on your style award. When you asked for comments on the subject, I was overseas and in no position to make a very good appraisal of the situation. Since I have returned to the U.S., I have been present at two Nationals, both of which I thought the style award was handed out in, or rather the recipient selected in, an off-hand manner. Although the award is appreciated by walkers, I know of no one who is changing their style so as to be more likely to receive it. Most styles are changed to keep one from being thrown out of a race.

Another reason I say conscientious distribution of the award is doubtful is perfectly illustrated by the person of Jim Hanley. I have heard from several sources that Hanley has exceptionally good form; yet he has, to my knowledge, never received a style award, even though he places well in most meets."
Although I think the style award a nice idea, I believe it to be impractical and at present, ill-used.

One alternate suggestion is the picking of officials, judges, or outstanding promoters of the sport to receive some type of award or recognition for the work they put forth. Exactly how such men would be picked is open to many ways, but I believe worth pursuing.

Another thing that I believe should be initiated is a formal standardized way of becoming a walking judge. As far as I can find out, there is none at present."

Editors' comment: I am interested in the comments on the style award as it is about time to go out and purchase eleven more if we are to have them again in 1971. As usual, I am on the fence as I have always harbored some doubt as to their real worth. I know most of the guys that get them are very appreciative and pleased to have this recognition of good style. But, as Gary suggests, are they really doing anything to promote better style or do they just bring another honor to the ones that emphasize style anyway. I'm not sure, but I don't want to be spending my money just to fill a few trophy cases if it is not at the same time doing something to encourage style consciousness in others.

Regarding judges and their certification, there has been considerable talk in various circles about different training and certification schemes but nothing has gotten off the ground yet. I would imagine though, that this will be one area in which Charlie Silcock will be most interested and we might see something started soon. (You are now on the spot, Charles, my boy.)

From James W. Bentley:

"And now by "Beef", or rather a suggestion. I suggest that ALL Jr. Olympic Race Walk records, times, results, etc. be sent to Dr. Tom Hallstrom (National Jr. Olympic Records and Statistics) each year (through the Race Walk Association Chairman) by registered mail! REASON: While at the Convention, the Jr. Olympic (track and field/walking) records and results for 1970 were released. I noticed that my oldest son (James, Jr.) was not listed in the Intermediate Division Race Walk results. I immediately checked with Dr. Hallstrom and he said "evidently we did not receive any Jr. Olympic walking results from you Association". I then checked (in person) with the SAAU Track & Field (Jr. Olympics) Chairman from our Association (our results from 1970 were from our meet in Jackson, Miss.) He was CONFIDENT that these results were sent into the office of Dr. Hallstrom, in plenty of time....

In Jackson, James, Jr. won the 1 Mile in 8:01.5 and he won the 3 Mile in 27:19 for the Intermediate Division. Both times broke the old National Junior Olympic records. They would have placed him third in the 1 Mile and second in the 3 Mile for 1970. But he is not listed in the final tabulations for 1970.

How many other youths had the same thing happen to their efforts?

Editors' comments: Jim's advice to send such results by registered mail is apparently well taken. It is unfortunate, however, that we have a program of such work as the Junior Olympics so poorly organized that their is any question of all results reaching the National Chairman. It is meaningful to compile National results if you are not certain that they are truly national.

Late result, incomplete though it is, just off a phone conversation with Bob Bowman: 4 Mile (indoors), Los Angeles, Jan. 4—1. Ron Laird 28:42 2. Larry Walker 29:30 or so 3. Larry Young 30 minutes plus
Speaking of Bob Romany, he is now the walking editor for Track & Field News as they launch an era of expanded coverage. If you subscribe, you have already seen some good coverage on the Lugano Cup competition, a profile on Dave Romany, and a bit on the definition of walking. Their coverage won't be vast enough to drive the CMW out of business but it will keep a lot more people informed of the highlights of what is going on in the walking world and introduce them to some of these personalities. The upcoming issue features the annual World Rankings in Track and Field and for the first time these will include the 20 and 50 kilometers walks. The walking rankings were coordinated by Bob and are a consensus of his, Colin Young's, and my opinions. Since I spent some time putting together my rankings, I may as well let you readers in on them at the risk of offending my friends at T&F News, since I will be scooping them. Not really though, as the consensus rankings they publish will differ somewhat from mine. Anyway, the following is the way I rank the world's walkers at 20 and 50 for 1970, giving known performances for each.

**20 Kilometers**

1. Peter Frenkel, East Germany
   - 1:27:27.6 (1) E. Berlin 5/1 (track)
   - 1:28:34.0 (1) E. Berlin 5/10
   - 1:28:26.0 (1) Budapest 5/23
   - 1:25:50.0 (1) Erfurt 7/4 (track)
   - 1:28:06 (2) Naumberg 7/12
   - 1:25:17.2 (1) Konigsuaterhausen 9/27
   - 1:27:32.8 (3) Eschborn 10/10

2. Hans-Georg Reimann, East Germany
   - 1:29:13.0 (2) E. Berlin 5/10
   - 1:28:26.0 (1) Budapest 5/23
   - 1:28:05.6 (1) Naumberg 6/14
   - 1:26:07.8 (2) Erfurt 7/4 (track)
   - 1:30:10.6 (3) Naumberg 7/12
   - 1:26:54.6 (1) Eschborn 10/10

3. Vladimir Golubnichiy, USSR
   - 1:28:34.2 (1) Leningrad 7/24
   - 1:30:21.6 (2) Frasino 9/12
   - 1:27:21.4 (2) Eschborn 10/10

4. Wiliolai Smaga, USSR
   - 1:28:34.6 (1) Leningrad 7/24
   - 1:30:21.6 (1) Frasino 9/12
   - 1:28:08.6 (4) Eschborn 10/10

5. Gennadiy Agapov, USSR
   - 1:29:09 (1) Simferopol 4/8
   - 1:34:13.2 (2) E. Berlin 5/1 (track)
   - 1:27:30.2 (1) Naumberg 7/12
   - 1:31:51.8 (5) Frasino 9/12
   - 1:28:24.8 (5) Eschborn 10/10

6. Gerhard Sperling, East Germany
   - 1:32:25.2 (4) E. Berlin 5/10
   - 1:28:55.4 (2) Naumberg 6/14
   - 1:27:04.4 (3) Erfurt 7/4 (track)
   - 1:30:36.2 (4) Naumberg 7/12
   - 1:26:47.6 (6) Eschborn 10/10

7. Noel Freeman, Australia
   - 1:30:02 (1) Melbourne (track) (on way to 15 mile)
   - 1:31:24 (1) Melbourne 6/27
   - 1:30:53 (1) Adelaide 8/29
   - 2:33:27 (1) 20 Mile, Empire Games
   - 1:11:46 (1) Melbourne 6/6 (10 mile, track)

8. Wilf Wesch, West Germany
   - 1:29:02 (1) London 4/4
   - 1:31:47 (1) British RMIA 5/9
   - 1:31:27 (1) London 7/25
   - 1:36:55.8 (6) W. German Champ. 8/8
   - 1:31:21.6 (1) Odense 8/15
   - 1:35:16 (4) Enfield 8/29
   - 1:29:19 (2) Enfield 9/19
   - 1:30:16 (7) Eschborn 10/10

9. Boris Yakovlev, USSR
   - 1:29:37 (3) Leningrad 7/24

10. Dave Romany, USA
    - 1:30:11.8 (1) Greenvale 3/15 (track)
    - 1:31:10.2 (1) Trenton 4/11 (track)
    - 1:35:05 (1) McKeesport 5/23
    - 1:31:56.8 (1) Paris 7/8 (track)
    - 1:29:30.6 (4) Leningrad 7/24
    - 1:30:46.6 (8) Eschborn 10/10

Frenkel won five of seven races against strong opposition all in fast time and bettered the world record. He slipped to third in the Lugano Cup race but his overall record merits first—Reimann's outstanding at the Lugano w 1k cemented second place. He also bettered the world in finishing a close second at Erfurt—The old master Golubnichiy lost the USSR title in a close race to Smaga but came on strong at Eschborn beating Frenkel for second—Smaga's fourth at Eschborn earns him the same spot in the rankings—Agapov had two bad races but beat Frenkel and Reimann on one occasion and showed well at Eschborn—Sperling was a clear choice for sixth—Noel Freeman did not compete in any international 20 kms and had no outstanding
times at the distance but he won the Commonwealth 20 mile in excellent time and had fast 10 and 15 mile times on the track—Wesch, competing mostly in England where he resides, had an up and down season but showed well at Eschborn to earn the eighth spot—Yakovlev had only one recorded race, but he beat Romansky in that one—Romansky was consistent, recorded his best time against the Russians, and walked a steady race at Eschborn.

50 Kilometers
1. Christoph Hohne, E. Germany
   4:15:15.2 (4) Naumberg 7/12
   4:06:10.8 (1) Prague 8/9
   4:06:00.2 (1) Legebruch 8/30
   4:04:35.2 (1) Eschborn 10/11

2. Benjamin Soldatenko, USSR
   4:06:50.6 (1) Naumberg 7/22
   4:09:59.6 (2) Prague 8/9
   4:09:26.4 (1) Frasino 9/12
   4:09:52 (2) Eschborn 10/11

3. Burkhard Leuschke, E. Germany
   4:20:15 (3) Naumberg 6/14
   4:11:33.8 (3) Naumberg 7/12
   4:20:46.4 (5) Prague 8/9
   4:07:48.4 (2) Legebruch 8/30
   4:11:10 (3) Eschborn 10/11

4. Peter Selzer, E. Germany
   4:12:48.6 (1) Naumberg 6/14
   4:07:39.4 (2) Naumberg 7/12
   4:10:51 (3) Prague 8/9
   4:10:00.6 (3) Legebruch 8/30
   4:11:47.4 (4) Eschborn 10/10

5. Otto Bartsch, USSR
   4:13:46 (4) Naumberg 7/12
   4:09:26.4 (2) Frasino 9/12
   4:16:46.8 (8) Eschborn 10/11

6. Winfried Skotnicki, E. Germany
   4:16:52.2 (2) Naumberg 6/14
   4:19:51.6 (6) Naumberg 7/12
   4:10:56.4 (4) Legebruch 8/30
   4:13:32.8 (5) Eschborn 10/11

7. Yevgeniy Lungin, USSR
   4:17:37.4 (49) Prague 8/9
   4:13:01 (3) Frasino 9/12
   4:13:32.8 (6) Eschborn 10/11

8. Peter Schuster, W. Germany
   4:06:28.6 (1) W. German Champ. 7/19

9. Dr. Hubert Meier, W. Germany
   4:20:41.8 (4) Salzgitter 5/12
   4:08:35 (2) W. German Champ 7/19
   4:18:54 (1) Odense 8/15
   4:15:52 (7) Eschborn 10/11

10. Leonidas Caraiosifoglu, Romania
    4:13:24.6 (1) Romanian Champ 8/30

Christoph Hohne, after faltering in his first 50 of the year with a fourth place in a dual meet with the USSR, came back in 4 weeks to easily beat all four of his conquerors in the classic Prague-Podbrady race. In another three weeks, he won the prestigious East German title and in October won his third straight Lugano Cup with a devastating mid-race sprint at Eschborn. There was no doubt about number one—Soldatenko was a clear second at both Prague and Eschborn after beating Hohne earlier. He also won the Russian title—Leuschke was a narrow pick over Selzer for third. Although the younger Selzer beat him three out of five, Leuschke came on to win four over Selzer in the two that counted and had the faster time of the two—Bartsch is rated fifth although he faded badly in the last 5 km of the Eschborn race. He was a close second to Soldatenko in the USSR race and beat Hohne and Skotnicki in a June dual meet—Skotnicki was a clear choice for sixth with four consistent races and a strong fifth in the Lugano meet—Lungin was rated seventh, finishing just back of Skotnicki at Eschborn and having good races at Prague and in the Russian title race—Peter Schuster, still a Junior, walked only one race at this distance. In that one he placed himself second on the world list for the year and easily defeated a strong W. German field—His victims included Dr. Meier who then finished seventh at Eschborn—Tenth goes to Caraiosifoglu, European silver medalist at 20 km, who did not get into International competition but walked an excellent time in the Romanian Championships and had good times at other distances.
Had other things planned for this issue, including a review of Joe Henderson's little gem of a book, "Thoughts On the Run." But the space is just about gone, and I thought I would have trouble filling it. Will have something to say about the Henderson book next month. Meanwhile, if you haven't read it, you might order a copy from Runner's World, Post Office Box 366, Mountain View, Cal. 94040. Incidentally, Runner's World also includes some walking coverage, with Martin Rudow doing an excellent job of providing them material. And regardless of the walking coverage, which isn't enough to subscribe to the mag for, this distance-oriented publication is highly recommended by me. More about this next month. No use starting if I can't finish.

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