GLUSKER-MERCURE COP TITLES

In the first two National Outdoor Championships, Wayne Glusker of the Wet Valley Track Club and George Mercure of the omnipresent Southern California Striders captured Junior titles at One Hour and 50 km respectively. The races came a week apart in Stockton and Hollywood, California.

In a race marked by a strong youth movement, even for a Junior title, the 22-year-old Glusker covered 7 miles 468 yards in the hour to finish nearly 1/3 lap up on fast-finishing Mike Ryan of the Striders. Ryan is 21. Of the next six finishers, only Gary Flinchum (23), in fifth, was out of his teens. And the team title went to the Stockton Race Walkers with James Bentley Jr. (15), Brad Bentley (13), and Kevin Brentnall (15). (I'm really not sure how they won the title since the Striders had three men ahead of Stockton's first man, but this is what my results say.)

The day of racing at Stockton (March 13, by the way) also featured an open 15 Kilometer in which Athens AC veteran, Bill Ranney, turned in another fine performance to beat the fast-improving Jim Bean; a women's 5 km in which Kati McIntyre, in her third race, upended Brenda Whitman; and an age-group 1 mile, featuring two more of the Bentley clan. Father Jim Bentley was Director of the meet. The results:


Age Group 1 Mile--1. Greg Bentley (8) 11:00.6 2. Steve Bentley (6) 12:41.9

A week later in Hollywood, Mercure, also age 22, showed his strength to pull away from Steve Merrilees over the last 20 Kilometers in taking the Junior 50 in 5:23:33.2. Bob Woods, from Chicago, captured third from Bob Long. Woods had a slight lead at 20 km, but could not match a sharp acceleration by both Mercure and Merrilees over the next 10. Gary Westerfield, now stationed at Fort MacArthur with the Army track team, worked out over the same course in 4:57:56. In a women's race, Brenda Whitman was the only finisher with a good 5:58:16. Results of the Junior:

S~lO RE A.C. OVER PHILLY

Brown Mills, N.J., March 7—In the first dual walking meet I know of, the Shore AC and Philadelphia AC both put together 11-man teams for a 10 miler. Scoring 10 men per side, the Shore AC scored a narrow 103-107 victory, despite a One-two finish by Philly's rampaging father-son duo, Bob and Randy Mimm. Bob, in what may have been his finest performance at this distance since his Olympic year of 1960, was by himself in 1:22:56. Son Randy passed a determined Rich Airey in the last 880 to capture second in 1:28:03. However, the Shore boys were too strong on down the line and took the hard earned victory. The clubs are already looking forward to a rematch next year.


OTHER RESULTS


Starting with a 7:20 mile, he was 74:35 at 10 miles, and 1:32:53 at 20 km. His record bettering performances were 1:52:44 at 15 miles (record 1:53:44.2 by Romansky), 1:56:53 at 25 km (1:58:52 by Klopfer) and 15 miles 1578 yards at 2 Hours (15 miles 1613 yards by Romansky)
10 Mile, Dayton, March 21—We held this race on a new course in Eastwood Park, which gave us a lap of just under 1.8 miles but will not be usable once it is open this spring because of very heavy traffic. It will make an excellent winter course, however. There was also a 20 miler scheduled with this one, but no one was interested.

Jack Blackburn didn’t make the scene. Editor Mortland, his troubles hopefully behind him managed to go through the whole 10, with even a slight pickup the second half. Dale Arnold walked his best race of the year and Bob Smith continued to improve, holding off the hyper-consistent Doc Blackburn through 8 miles before giving in to the relentless attack.


Foreign Results


DAVE EARNS RIBAN TROPHY

Dave Romansky was a runaway winner in the voting for the Annual Captain Ronald L. Zinn Memorial Trophy amassing 32 first place votes and 434 points to 3 first place votes and 208 points for runnerup, Goetz Klopfer. Ron Laird, a four-time winner (1962, 1965, 1967, and 1969) finished third in the balloting. The award is presented annually by the Green & Gold AC, of Chicago, to the outstanding U.S. Race Walker as determined by a vote of his fellow walkers. It is given in memory of Ron Zinn, sixth in the Tokyo Olympic 20 Km, who gave his life in Vietnam in the summer of 1965. Ron herself had won the trophy three times (1961, 1963, and 1964) when it was known as the Michael Riban, Jr. Trophy. Dave richly deserved this honor after his outstanding year in 1970 and it is awards such as this, coming from your fellow athletes, that mean the most. After the first three, Tom Dooley, Larry O’Neil, John Knifton, Bruce MacDonald, Larry Walker, Jim Hanley, and Ron Kulik rounded out the top ten finishers in the voting. 52 others received votes

Space to fill. Why not a contest, which everyone else has some of and we have never tried. A year’s subscription to the person who correctly names the four U.S. walkers for this summers Pan-Am team. (Two in 20 and two in 50) In the event of ties, which are quite likely, the person most nearly guessing the winning time in the 20 Km trial in San Francisco will win. Entries must be postmarked no later than May 22.
UPCOMING RACES:

April 3  20 Km, Hancock Relays, Santa Maria, Calif., 3 p.m. (Training Camp Tryout)
         7 Mile Handicap, Northglenn, Colo., 10 a.m.
April 4  No. Val. AAU 1 Hour, Hickman Track, Columbia, Mo., 2 p.m.
         5 ½ Mile and 40 Km, Van Wert, Ohio
April 11 20 Km (Track), Lawrenceville, N.J.
         SENIOR NA1U ONE HOUR, BOULDER, COLO., 9 a.m., further info from Floyd Godwi.
         935 Ash St., Broomfield, Colo.
         Michigan AAU 5 Mile, Belle Isle, Detroit, 11 a.m.
April 17 10 Km, Adamantle, Mass. 2 p.m.
         50 Km, Pierce College, California, 3 a.m. (Training Camp Tryout)
         1 Mile, Kansas Relays, Lawrence, Kan.
April 18 10 Mile, Seaside Heights, N.J., 10:30 a.m.
         2 Mile 6 Mile Run-Walk Relay, Columbia, Mo., 2 p.m.
         6 Mile Handicap, Boston
         10 Mile Open and 5 Mile H.S., San Francisco State College, 10 a.m.
         50 Mile and 50 Km (Track), Monmouth, N.J., 7 a.m.
April 24 10 Mile Open and H.S., Mt. SAC Relays, Walnut, Calif., 10 a.m.
         Invitational 5 Km, Mt. Sac 4:15 p.m.
         1 Mile, Colorado Relays, Boulder
April 25 Missouri Cup 20 Km—5 Man Team Competition—Columbia—come one, come all
         2 Mile, Harbor College, Cal., 2 p.m.
         Women's Open 2 Mile, Belle Isle, Detroit
         50 Km, Belle Isle, 8 a.m. (Training Camp Tryout)
         Ohio AAU 10 Km, Worthington, 12 noon
May 1   NA1U 20 Km, Broomfield, Colo., 9 a.m.
May 2   SENIOR NA1U 35 KM, POMONA, CAL.
         10 Mile Hdcp., Lowell, Mass., 2 p.m.
         5 Mile (Under 16), Lowell, 10 a.m.
         Metropolitan AAU 20 Km, C.W. Post College Track
         6 Mile and 15 Mile, Dayton, Ohio
May 8   5 Mile, Fullerton, Cal., 10 a.m.
         5 Mile, Los Angeles City College, 2 p.m.
         5 Mile, Attleboro, Mass., 2 p.m.
         NEAAU Jr. 2 Mile, Attleboro, 2 p.m.
         10 Km Hdcp. and 2 Mile Jr. Hdcp., Denver, Colo., 9 a.m.
May 9   JUNIOR NA1U 20 KM, PORTLAND, OREGON
         10 Km, Sunnyvale, Cal., 10 a.m.
May 23  SENIOR NATIONAL AAU 20 Km (Pan-Am Trial), SAN FRANCISCO, 2:30 p.m.
June 12  SENIOR NA1U 50 KM, NUTLEY, N.J., 7 a.m. (Ron Kulik, 10 Cleveland Ave.,
         Nutley, N.J. OTL10 announces that free room and board will be available
         on a first-come, first-served basis. Also possible transportation from
         Newark Airport if he knows when you are arriving. Incidentally, the
         early starting time for this race may be a little tough for West Coast
         walkers (4 a.m. their time) but is probably much preferable to the likely
         heat later on.)


Two years of hard work on the part of Messrs. Jim Hanley, Barry Schreiber, and Paul
Chelson have produced this 40-page statistical summary of every commonly walked
distance between 1 Mile and 50 Kilometers. Orders your now for just $1.25 from
AAU Race Walking, 17214 Welby Way, Van Nuys, Calif. 91406. Order three and you get
one free, which gives you the opportunity to make a buck and a quarter for yourself,
since this will obviously be a hot-selling item throughout your community. Well,
maybe the general public won't gobble it up, but its a great job and well worth the
$1.25 to the race-walking buff, especially those of you who are statistical nuts.
Heard recently from former OTC teammate, Barry Richardson, now back in England of jolly olde fame. Barry has been continuing his walking with more than a little success having gotten down to 58:30 for 7 miles while walking with Lancashire Walking Club. His mates there include Ron Vallwork and Tony Taylor, names familiar to the walking aficionados. Unfortunately he has now run into some muscular problems and has been told by his physician to "pack it in" for about 6 months, which advise Doc Blackburn has recommended he could probably best ignore. (Might subject the Doc to a malpractise suit, but that’s his problem I guess.) But, the fact is, you can work through most injuries, or so I have found. The most time I have missed from training in the past 17½ years (running and walking) is 10 days, that with torn ligaments in the ankle. There have been times when the training has been quite limited, as just recently, but you keep doing something if at all possible. So go to it Barry, old chap. Tear that leg up good!

From Chris Clegg, a British Centurion but now a U.S. citizen in Beverly Hills on the always controversial subject of judging:

"On the subject of judging in race walks it must be understood that judging is a tough job. (Amen) I feel that proper tuition in judging is essential if quantity and quality of race walkers is to come. Key and efficient judges cannot be expected to turn out for every walking race held. This results in many small races not getting the proper attention which is needed to help the novice, junior, and oncoming race walkers. To make the letter short, I have the following questions which will make a confidential quiz for your newsletter: (Answer Yes, No, or Not so sure)

1. Is it true that there are many honest and fair walkers who are so built that when they lock their knees in racing and at the same time brace them back as far as they will go, that they actually have slightly bent knees which can be noticed by judges and onlookers?
2. Are race-walking judges able to determine from an automobile whether the contestant is:
   a. maintaining contact with the ground at all times?
   b. moving with straight legs?
3. Have race-walking competitors in Olympic Games been getting disqualified for running with straight legs, irrespective of how good the hip motion may have been?"

Chris’s answers, incidentally, are Yes, No, Yes, and Yes.


Have two lengthy letters from National Chairman Charlie Silcock commenting on the last several issues of the ORW. One of these is 7 pages and the other, so obviously I have to exercise some editorial license and pick the parts I choose.

Item: Charlie brings to our attention an error in reporting the distances for approved for women’s race walking. We said that distances from 1 through 5 miles were approved and it should be 1 km through 5 miles with the actual distances being 1000, 1500, 2000, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000, 7000, and 8000 meters, and 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 miles.

Item: Also on the subject of women's walking and regarding the 2 Mile race reported in Chicago, "...But Jeanne should not have been in that race either! I am going to raise hell about that this year. Here we are trying to get the Women's Ref Committee to approve walking and the girls are breaking rules. Jack, you are not helping when you stated in your comments on the race, "...women aren't allowed to compete with men. Not that I object, ...So if you want to protect yourselves from the powers that be, at least report the results separately, even if you walk simultaneously in
violation of the sacred rules," Damn it, Jack, why encourage this? It is unnecessary
Give us a chance to make this new women's race-walking program work. Please do not
encourage dual participation. I hope you will see your way clear to correct the
impression you left. Why should I work hard if I am not going to get cooperation
from the very people I am trying to help."---On this one I am afraid I cannot see
my way clear to try and change the impression I left since it was the impression I
intended to leave. I personally see no reason why women should not be allowed to
compete where and when they please and at whatever distance. And if this means going
in men's races, so long as the men competing don't object, so what? Sure, there is
a program for women now, but at this point, who is there for a Jeannie Bocci to compete
against, at least within reasonable traveling distance. And many of these girls
that are competing are very much interested in longer distances, which have been
closed to them because of some Victorian ideas. Women interested in long-distance
running are encountering the same problem and one of them has written a very effective
answer in the most recent issue of Runner's World. We aren't announcing our races as
coeducational affairs but they are all held on public courses and I'll be darned if
I am going to physically remove a women if she wants to use a public road at the same
time that we are. Heck, we'll probably be so kind as to give her a time. If this
means I turn in my AAU card tomorrow, so be it. The sport is for the athletes and
athletes come in both sexes. Power to the people, Peace, and all those timely sayings.

Item: Charlie notes that all distances over 1 mile should be recorded as fifths not
tenths, which is, of course, correct. I try to watch this but often forget when
I get to chugging away at results. If all those recording results would make them-
selves aware of this rule, we poor overworked editors wouldn't have to worry about it.

Item: Charlie notes that the Karl Johansen noted in the Coney Island race is
he of earlier Pacific Northwest fame. Karl is now working with the State of New
York in the Albany area and is returning to good fitness, as attested by the fact
that he had fourth best time in that race

Item: Ray Somers theories are not as half-baked as some walkers seem to think
they are. Changing the indoor miles to 2 miles and the outdoor 2 mile to 3 might
make the form better and the judging easier, but you run into a time problem which
most directors in track would not put up with. I can see arguments for keeping and
eliminating the Senior 15, 25, and 35, but if pressed would rather see them retained.
I am more concerned about the Juniors right now because we seem to be running out of
prospective Junior National Championship team members at the rate of 3x3=27 when
associations are not producing enough new juniors each year. A Junior can be a mem-
ber of a winning team only once. He must then compete as an individual for the
first place award award in future years (By golly, that's right and that is why the
Striders didn't win that Junior 1 Hour. Mortland, turn in your editor's badge
along with your AAU card. Hey, maybe I'll get a lifetime membership. Would they
dare take your $100 and then toss you out?)

Item: "Regarding All-America Awards. I spoke against and voted against the
proposition to name three walkers in each of the 11 Senior Championships as All-Americans
I think one selection is sufficient allowing for a few exceptions where a second man
was very close in ability and results (such as Haluza's performance in the Olympics
after Laird dominated the 20 all year.) In fact, I dislike seeing one man's name
appear so often on the All-America list in one year just because he won those champ-
ionships. I have fooled around with the idea of having three of four categories
such as "Sprint", "Middle", "Long", and "Ultra Long" distance groupings and then
list two, three, or four men within those groups. We would have a more realistic
All-American list ranging from 4 to 16 walkers instead of 33 athletes. How does that
grab you?" (Not bad at all. Merely repeating the places in National races and calling
it an All-American team, be it one place or three, seems a rather meaningless
exercise. The categories bit may be an improvement over the idea I expressed last
month of merely listing "x" number of people as All-Americans. You still have "x"
number but with some meaningful organization. I suppose this matter really isn't
worth all the space we have devoted to it, but I still feel the new method of sel-
Item: Regarding the protest of Ron Laird's victory in the Senior 1 Mile, at this point it still has not been finalized.

Item: Regarding reporting of handicap races, Charlie finds it irritating when only actual times are listed, since from this it is impossible to reconstruct the race and know how close the finishes were, etc. A valid criticism and I must accept the blame, since I am usually given the finish times as well as actual times. My problem is that I don't like to type numbers, plus of course it takes more space. And my own feeling is that I am interested in how fast a guy actually covered the distance. However, I am willing to change this policy and list both finish and actual times if this is what the readers want.

Obviously, Charlie has a lot more to say in those 10 pages, but our space is limited. I hope our complete disagreement with him on one major issue won't turn him off in the future as close communication between the National Chairman and the athletes is vital and the ORW can serve as one link in that communication. This is certainly we did not have with the last Chairman. Obviously, our own editorial views will not bend to Charlie's every wish but the pages are always open for Charlie to air his ideas with the great race-walking public. By the same token, Charlie is very much interested in your ideas and from the things discussed in his letters is obviously giving thought to those areas of concern expressed in your letters to the ORW. Keep the old lines open.

Comments from Floyd Godwin:

"I would like to make a recommendation to the readers of the ORW that if they have had repeated injuries to the lower leg they should have the extremity carefully examined by an orthopedic surgeon, and a podiatrist, as well as an MD. Repeated or frequent injuries to this area may be more than "training too hard". Functional defects in the skeletal or muscular systems may be the cause as is my case. Other causes could be stress fractures along the shaft of the tibia, constant irritation to the intersosseous membrane of the tibia and fibula bones, faulty footwear and many other possibilities. If one allows conditions such as the ones I have mentioned to continue, the inevitable results will be permanent damage to the leg and elimination from competition. I would appreciate reading what other race walkers have done to combat the problem of Anterior Tibial Syndrome." (Floyd has had considerable difficulty and now has corrective inlays for both feet. He figures this to be only a slow rebuilding year.) In another letter, Floyd adds his ideas to the All-American discussion: "I would like to add my two bits to the discussion of All-Americans in race walking. Why not the first six in the 20 Km and 50 Km AAU Sr Championships as these are the two races more or less recognized as the standard international distances? You can have your national champions in the other national races, but let's face it; walking a good 25 or 35 km time doesn't qualify you for any national team. By giving three competitors All-American honors in every national race, we water down the value of the recognition whereas most of the best walkers will compete in either the 20 or the 50 every year."


The U.S.-Canada walking match, held in Toronto last year, is being considered again for this year. The Lugano-style match may be held at Lake Placid, N.Y. on Sat. and Sun. Oct. 2 & 3. This site has been selected because of its location and because the AAU Convention is scheduled for there later in that week. The possibility exists that the Mexicans will be invited to make it a three-way match. At this point, however, it is not even certain if Lake Placid can provide a decent course or would even be interested in hosting the race.
And here is the letter from Dave Ronansky, received just as I wrapped up last month's issue and which he asked me to publish since "more feel the way I do and I feel it is time to get this out in the open." The letter is dated Feb. 28.

"I guess the title of this little story could be called "I have had it." Last night at the national one mile championship was the last straw.

"My guess is that most walkers won't admit it, for fear of getting in bad view of the judges, but if something isn't done about this stupid East vs West territorial thing the sport is in trouble. Right now I don't know or care if I ever compete again.

"I love competition and all the friends that I have made over the last 3 years but I can see friendships getting on shaky grounds. Somewhere, somehow the overall attitude had better change to forget these so called boundaries and worry more about the whole country and its program growth and forget this buddy, buddy system or whatever you call it.

"Let's start back at Bakersfield in 1970. I had been looking forward very much to competing and seeing all the boys. We (the East Coast boys) no sooner got off the plane when all we heard was, you will never finish, the judges are out to prove you can't walk as fast as you have been, they were going to prove that the West had the best judging, and other things pertaining to illegal walking. Ever since that weekend, I feel prejudged when I compete in front of these judges. If nothing else, the seen had been planted in our heads. Well, everyone knows what happened. Ask Haluza, Laird, Klopfen, and Kulik their opinion. I felt that a mockery was made of the race by ousting all the top walkers just to prove that they could control the race. At least with all the statements flying around before the race, it appeared that way.

"Now the Convention in S.F. Why Laird in the Sullivan Award? I usually feel something that I have no control over I should not get upset about, but in this case it was just plain unfair. I worked very hard to receive this honor and what more can one man do. Besides walking, I also coach and work with kids promoting track and give many speeches (approx. 100) in the last 2 years, also promoting track in South Jersey. Taking nothing away from Ron, for he has been great up until his off year, but a 14 to 1 vote was a disgrace to the meaning of the Sullivan Award. I received 5 votes and third place in the whole track and field voting but the people that should really know and understand race walking turned their back on the real issue and cast their votes for an emotion of years gone by. I was really hurt and ready to quit and the urge is getting greater. Maybe if more people like Jim Hanley, the only man having enough guts to admit he was wrong and who wrote a letter to the Ohio Race Walker stating this, the whole situation would change. (Ed. The letter from Hanley was never published since some people questioned the facts that Jim presented and he subsequently asked me not to use it.)

"Last night I was tossed out and everyone said I should not get upset because of an indoor mile but it is more than just one race. That feeling was there again for me. I was tossed by Bill Chisholm. I respect Bill very much but the rest of the judges said I was OK. Of course everyone is close to being off in the sprints but they all did say I was OK.

"Who am I to believe. One group is right and one is wrong. Maybe they should get together and straighten out what warrants a call. I do not know who is right but no athlete should have to go to a meet feeling that he is subject to being prejudged. When you go to a meet and don't even worry about your competition because of this type of thing, well who the hell needs it.

"Ron and I have been good friends for quite a while but lately I have been very bitter. I suppose it is emotion and Ron is not to blame for crap that other people do.

"Right now I don't even know if I will even make the trip to S.F for the Pan-Am trials. Unless these people start understanding and thinking of the feelings of
athletes regardless of where they are from and play the game with interest of the whole country, I will hang it up and call it a bad dream. I know that some would really like that but is that for the good of the sport.

"Ron Daniel pleaded with me to cool it and don’t put myself on the line with everyone. He was truly concerned for me. He reminded me of the Pan Am Games, European trips, and of course the Olympics. Well, sure I would like to make those teams and trips, who wouldn’t, but not at the expense of feeling rotten about competition, losing friends because of other people’s mistakes, and in short losing competitive edge from territorial boundaries.

"Bruce MacDonald presented the award from the relay in Switzerland to Ollan Cassel and they announced this and how the USA is improving in world competition. The sport is really on the upswing here in the USA toward world-class competition. So let’s start thinking USA."

I will let Dave’s thoughts stand for themselves without comment at this time. I wouldn’t be surprised if they stir some comment from the readership, however.

THE OHIO RACE WALKER
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