OLYMPIC TIME AT LAST

Well, I don't know about you, but I am excited. The Olympics turn me on, no doubt. Eugene was a great meet and many people there were commenting that Munich would be antithetical. No way! There are too many greats in the rest of the world to challenge the Eugene heroes. By the time I get this old rag put to bed the Opening Ceremonies will be history and by the time it gets to you, the track and field events will be either already under way or just ready to start. (Depending on how long I dilly-dally around.) Go with the 20 Km Walk on the first day (Thursday, Aug. 31) part of what I say below might already have been proven wrong by the time you read it. In any case, let's take a quick look at how what may well be the two greatest walks in history shape up.

First the 20. From here, it appears to be a six, possibly seven, man race with the six having been battling it out at various venues over the past 5 years. No one has really gotten the upper hand in this series of classic duels. The six are Vladimir Golubnichiy and Nikolai Snaga of the Soviet Union, Hans-Georg Reimann, Peter Frenkel, and Gerhard Spelling of East Germany, and Great Britain's Paul Nihill.

Golubnichiy has the most consistent record and the greatest experience of the group and this wily veteran will certainly be tough to beat. He already has three Olympic medals, golds in 1960 and 1968 and a bronze in 1964. In the recent duels he finished second to Snaga in the 1967 Lugano Cup race and second to Reimann in the 1970 Cup race besides his 1968 Olympic gold. Snaga was third in Mexico, third behind Nihill in the 1969 European Championship, fourth in the '70 Cup, and first in last year's European Championship, a race Golubnichiy did not contest due to injury.

The three East Germans have traded places in numerous fast races at home with Spelling most often second. But he has been probably their most consistent man in International meets. He was fifth in Mexico, fourth in the '69 European, and second in last year's European. He fell to sixth in the '70 Lugano Cup. Reimann, who scored a brilliant victory in the '70 Lugano Cup, managed only fifth in the two Europeans and seventh at Mexico City. Frenkel's best races, despite twice breaking the world record, were third in the '70 Cup race and fourth in last year's European. Nihill won the '69 European but was only third last year.

That is how they have done in the past. This year, the three East Germans proved they are physically ready, all going under the world's record in a historic track race, with Reimann and Frenkel tying for first. Golubnichiy recently won the USSR Championship in 1:28:51.2 on the track but Snaga finished only third. But of his record, one has to figure he will be ready for better things in Munich. Nihill, meanwhile, has been fantastic. On an early July training holiday in Sweden he walked three 20 Kms (1:32 plus, 1:33 plus, and 1:37 plus, the latter being long) and three 5 Kms in under 21:00 in a 14-day period. The final 5 km was a
Then on July 30 he had his final tune-up for Munich—a 2:14:50 for 20 km. This was first reported as a new world's record but it was not on a track. However, the 906 yard loop it was contested on was confirmed by a surveyor's wheel.

The seventh man, who could crack this old guard, is West Germany's Bernhard Kanenber, who has turned in great times from 10 to 50 km this year. He is apparently the only man other than Larry Young to contest both races. His recent 10 km victory in 1:36.2 over Smaga and Gelbichsky confirm his credentials and, according to our British confidant, Celin Young, he is the only one of the current crop of speedy West Germans whose form is always fair at all times. As to Larry Young, although he sincerely feels he has a shot at a medal and he is quite likely to slash a couple of minutes off his best, he does not appear to have the speed to match these others. He could easily be the best of the rest.

At this point, Hill looks to me to be the man to beat. He is obviously in shape to win and with the speed he is showing it is hard to see him being left in the final 5 km as he was 2 years ago. Gelubichsky looks like the man for second, tough, grizzled old veteran that he is. After that, it is hard to say, but Hill will go with Spreling, Smaga, Reimann, Kanenber, and Frenkel.

On the 50, on Sunday Sept. 3. Here, there appear to me to be fewer men really in it. I think it shapes up as a race between the defender, Christoff Hohen of East Germany, his teammate, Peter Selzer, the Russian, Andry Soldatenko, who was so brilliant last year, and the two French, Joseph Lejeune, and Young. Hohen, who was virtually unbeatable for four years, fell off somewhat last year and has been somewhat less than brilliant this year. As a matter of fact, he has dropped out of two of race, including the East German championship. However, the East Germans have confidence enough in him that he will do no doubt be ready for a good try at defending, in what may be his last big international race. Selzer, who is still only 28 and has been getting tougher every year, was out this year with an injury but has appeared in recent races to be approaching his brilliant form of last year. Soldatenko won the USSR championship last week in 4:13:26, .1 km on the track, which is not frightening. But we knew from last year that he can do much better and no doubt will in Munich. He managed a 26:27:10 km in the race in which the Kanneber won the 61:36, which is better than Larry Young has done, but then Larry hasn't had that kind of competition to pull him out. We still don't know much about the course on Kanneber's 3:52 but don't look for him to do anything like that in Munich. The question with both he and Larry Young will be how much the 20 takes out of them both physically and emotionally. Larry is convinced it will give no effect on him and in fact believes it will help him physically. He claims to have physiological evidence of this and if he didn't race, he would have an extremely hard work-out at the same interval before the race. The question is more one of how he can handle it mentally.

There is probably a bit of chauvinism and a lot of hope in this, but I really think Larry has a shot at the gold and, by golly, I am going to pick him. We really don't know what he can do because he hasn't really had any competition over the distances. He is obviously much improved over 1968 both in speed and strength. He is walking world class times at all distances and any one who can walk the sub 8-minute mile at the end of 100 miles is certainly strong. Walking sub-8's over the last 25 km in

Eugene's heat was certainly impressive. Heat may well be a factor in Munich from all I read, and Larry is probably better equipped for it than anyone. And, above all, he is just one tough competitor. After Larry, Soldatenko should come second, Hohen may edge Selzer for third, and Kannenberg should manage fifth. Others who could be factors are Karl-Reim Stadt­muller of East Germany and Otto Bartsch and Sergey Grigoryev of the USSR. Stadtmuller won the East German title in a quick 4:05 but he is only 19 and 5 km of this magnitude at this distance may be too much for him. Bartsch and Grigoryev were less than a minute back of Soldatenko in their national race but Bartsch has never quite made it in an international race yet and Grigoryev does not have the international experience.

So there you are. Hopefully TV coverage will be good enough that you can see how good or bad he did for at least the first six if not try and get to the New York Times or some of the other of the papers that will carry complete results. Don't rely on the Columbus Dispatch or Citizen-Journal.
In the Junior race, the Shore AC's John Skislak was with Burl and at 15 km and less than 2 minutes at 30 but could not meet the challenge and finally came in 15 minutes back. In the team races Shore AC captured both the Senior and Junior titles. In his account of the race, Elliott Derman paints up an interesting fact that Goetz Klopfer is the only two-time Olympian in walking annuls who has never won a Senior National AAU title.

The results (with Junior placings shown in parentheses):

Among the finishers were Eric Daniel and Gary Whitefield with Ken Killig

AND THEN A FINAL TUNUP

Oke, Norway, Aug. 3—Larry Young walked his best ever 10 km to win an international race here tonight. Leading after the first 660 yards, Larry recorded a personal best of 44:02 in this track race. Goetz Klopfer also walked a personal best, an excellent 44:34. He was pushed hard by Norway's Jan Rulstad, who, according to Bruce Macdonald, was assisted by a lack of judging. The entire U.S. team took part with Steve Hayden and Bill Weigle also recording what may have been personal bests. Tom Burl, finishing a bit under the weather, walked well but lost fourth place in the final 3 laps.


JUNIOR 1 HOUR TO NEWMAN

Honeynight College, N.J., Aug. 6—The Long Island AC's fourth redhead, Larry Newman edged Randy Mains, son of an Olympian, to capture the Jr. National 1-Hour Walk today. Battling temperatures in the 90's, Newman powered his way around the 34 yards and still had time for another 62 yards, leaving younger cafors, journeyed out from Detroit to take third. With Newman ineligible for the race, Mains's finish led him in this Penn AC team to the team talk in the heat of Shore AC, having used up most of their Juniors in earlier team races, slumped to third.

The results (with Junior placings shown in parentheses):

WOMEN'S WORLD

Jeanne Beci is doing quite well this summer for an old broad with two children. After winning the AAA 1500 meter in Canton with a 6:59.1, she went to Frederick, Md., the next week for an exhibition 1500 at the Women's Olympic Trials and came down to 6:50.4, which would have undoubtedly gotten her under the World 1 Mile record of 7:27.2 and she did so. Her approximate .500 splits in this race were 7:27.2 and 7:20.5. These two拆 twice, two girls also broke 7 minutes, with California Sue Brodatek showing tremendous improvement from the previous Jeanne's teammate, Lynn Olsen, for second. Results of these races:


RUSSIAN SWEET WINESS MEET

Sacramento, Cal., July 29—In the first ever US-USRR Junior Track & Field Meet, the Soviet walkers emerged as easy winners in the 10 km. In this race, Anatoly Solomi et and Nikolai Strelchenko, with bests of 43:35 and 46:07, were content to stay with Pavel Palamarchuk through a 25:15 km. The second US competitor, Jim Bentley, was disqualified at this point, although he had slowed considerably after an early caution. From the 5 km point, the Soviets accelerated, and Palamarchuk, suffering in the heat (Over 90), could not respond. The Soviets tried to tie crossing the line holding hands, but the officials gave Solomi et the 5:21:06. Palamarchuk finished in 5:21:06. He did have the distinction of being the only Russian-American in the meet, while Bentley was the youngest competitor at 16.

POSTMORTEM ARE A FEW FACES OF BOILING, STEEPING RACE-WALKING RESULTS


Juniors to compete in the USA-JUSSR Junior meet. Although the AAU Cade says only that Olympic or Fan-An team members are ineligible for Jr. Olympic competition, Illan Gassnell, the AAU TRP Administrator, apparently issued a bulletin stating that those competing and those unions with the U.S. United States or U.S.S.R. meet will not be eligible and then could not be reached for an appeal.


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UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE WEIRD AND WACKY WORLD OF RACE-WALKING

Sat. Sept. 2—10 Mile, Oceanside, Calif., 4 p.m. (A)
Sun. Sept. 3—6th Annual 6 Mile 536 Xi Handicap, Worthington, Ohio, Noon (B)
Mon. Sept. 4—4 Mile, Black Diamond, Wash. (C)
Wed. Sept. 6—11 1/2 Mile, Lowell, Mass. (D)
Sat. Sept. 9—5 Mile, Indianapolis, Ind., 8 a.m. (E)
Sun. Sept. 10—2 Mile Handicap, Columbia, Mo. 9 a.m. (F)
Sun. Sept. 10—10 Mile, Belle Isle, Detroit 10 a.m. (H)
Tues. Sept. 12—6 Mile, Franklin Park, Boston, Mass. 9 p.m. (B)
Sat. Sept. 16—6th Annual National 10 Mile, Columbus, Ohio 1 p.m. (P)
Tues. Sept. 19—2 Mile, Hickson Track, Columbia, Mo. 9 a.m. (H)
Sun. Sept. 20—10 Mile, Belle Isle, Detroit, 10 a.m. (H)
Sun. Sept. 21—AAU 10 Mile, Columbus, Ohio 10 a.m. (G)
Sun. Sept. 22—Second Day 6 Mile Race Walking Orgy, Columbus, 10 Mile and 10 Mile, Women's 2 Mile. (H)
Sun. Sept. 20—20 Mile, Belle Isle, Detroit, 10 a.m. (H)

Key to sponsor code:
A—Bob Bowman, 1961 Windsor, Penna., Cal. 91767
B—Jack Mortland, 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202
D—Fred Brown Sr., 157 Walsh St., Bedford, Mass. 2155
E—Mike Sullivan, 2510 40th Place, Des Moines, Iowa 50310
F—Joe Dugan, 4004 Defoe, Columbus, Ohio 65201
G—Paul Godkin, 935 Ash St., Brookfield, Colo.
H—Jerry Broido, 1444 Beaconfield, Detroit, Mich. 48224
J—Mike Rabin, 1332 Hours, Chicago, Ill. 60622

10 YEARS AGO (From August 1962 Race Walker)—Good shot of Vladimir Golubichy and Arnoni Vedyakov on the cover. These two easily swept the US walkers at 20 km in the US-USRH dual meet at Padua. Alte Golubichy 1:37:51.3, Vedyakov 1:38:28.3, Ron Zinn 1:43:34.1 and John Allen 1:44:04.4
Ron Laird won the Silver 35 km by over 20 minutes in a rather slow 3:20:21 in Seattle...And John Hamrick won the AAU Jr. 30 km in 3:05:30 leaving one Regis Brown, new better known as Jerry, some 8 minutes in his wake...John Allen blasted a 1:38:5.5 mile in Elmira, second best of the year in the US...Good article on walking shoes written by Johnnie Walker, the pseudonym of a famous US race Walker who wished to protect his amateur standing.