Olympian Weigle walks away with senior 50

San Francisco, Nov. 5--Bill Weigle pulled easily away from Bob Kitchen during the second half of the race to capture his first AAU Sr. Race Walking title over 50 kilometers today. Bill once again confirmed the great form he first displayed in Eugene as he walked a very steady race to record an excellent 4:22:00. This goes with his 4:20:09 in the Final Trials and 4:22:53 in Munich, which is pretty consistent walking.

In this race, he trailed Kitchen in the early going passing 10 km in 53:30 and 20 in 1:11:15. Kitchen was 53:23 and 1:12:11. Right with Weigle at this point was Geroz Klepfer, the two-time Olympian still seeking his first National title, and not far back were Bill Ranney (1:47:35) and Bob Bowman (1:47:92).

Weigle then put in a hard effort over the next 10 km just as Kitchen started to slow. With a 25:05 on the fifth, he was 1 minute up at 25 and another 5 in 25:08 put him nearly 3 minutes out and his way to victory. Klepfer hung with Weigle through 25 but called it a day at that point and joined the spectators. Bill slowed slightly over the last 20 but pulled steadily clear of Kitchen who eventually finished nearly 15 minutes back.

Ranney, meanwhile, put a minute between himself and Bowman by 25 km, but then hit the wall and at 35 Bowman was nearly 5 minutes ahead and apparently on his way to third. Shortly thereafter, however, he was asked to remove himself from the course in what was apparently a somewhat suspect disqualification as only one judge was making the call. Be that as it may, he was cut and Ranney was able to stroll into third, although taking over 2:43 for the second half. Only two others of the original 10 starters were able to finish in one of the most sparsely attended Nationals in recent memory. This should not detract from Bill Weigle's outstanding performance as he has certainly established himself at the forefront of American walkers.


U.S. Second in Swiss road relay

Although fielding a rather strong team, the U.S. was soundly trounced by the Italian National team in the annual Airolo-Chiasso 120-kilometer Relay. The two long Italian teams recorded fastest times on four of the five legs to leave the team of Bob Kitchen, Todd Scully, Bob Bowman, Bill Ranney, and Larry Young nearly 15 minutes in arrears. The U.S. was in turn 12 minutes up an English team in third.

On the opening 27 km leg, Edoardo Quirino got the Italians off to a fast 2:10:22 leg as Kitchen did 2:17:48 in fourth. Abdol Fumich carried on for the Italians with a 2:21:53 for 30 km as Todd Scully turned in a great 2:23:59 to move the U.S. into second. The third leg was Lieka, mostly uphill, and Armando Zanobelli recorded a 1:06:15.6. Bob Bowman had fourth best time of 1:10:22 to hang onto sec-
The only recommended change in the rules of race walking was an addition to Rule XIX. I don't have the exact wording of this change, but it was to the effect that wherever possible all judges assigned to a competition shall make use of available video tapes or facilities to assist in judging whether in doing so they disqualify walkers for up to 1 hour after the completion of the race. This is still subject to ratification of the Rules Committee.

International competition for next year will include a 3 mile in the US-USSR Indoor meet in Richmond (this is in the U.S. for a second straight year), and the outdoor meet in scheduled for the USSR next year; it will alternate in the future). European tours for both Seniors and Juniors, the Fourth Annual U.S.-Canada meet, and the Lugano Cup. The European trips will be separate but both will include races on three consecutive weekends, the Seniors at 20 and the Juniors at 10 km. The highlight of both tours will be dual meets with the Soviets. The competitions will include two per event and it has been recommended to the T&F Committee that three walkers be included on each team. The U.S.-Canada meet has been tentatively scheduled for late June at place still to be determined when the outdoor T&F Championship is to be held. The Canadians may well talk at this, however, because of the travel expense.

The Lugano Cup, the World Race Walking Championship, is set for Switzerland on Oct. 12-13. The Swiss have scheduled the Airolo-Chiassee Rally for Oct. 14, hoping to catch many teams doubling back. The Race Walking Committee has requested 36,000 for the Lugano trip and $1,000 for travel for the U.S.-Canada meet.

In other Committee action, Bruce MacDonald was named to continue as representative to the O.U.S. Committee, with Jim Bentley, Henry Laskau, and Dean Ingress as his alternates. Larry Young was selected as a candidate both for the Sullivan Award and the D'Amato Award, the latter given for the outstanding performance in track and field. It was decided that the All-American team should include the first two in each National Senior race, plus the first three in the 20 and 50, plus all Olympic competitors. Suggested qualifying times for the World Championship are: for the Indoor race either 6:45 mile, 13:40 3km, or 23:40 2 mile; for the Outdoor race 15:20 for 2 miles, 23:50 for 3, or 24:50 for 5 km.
problem at all. One thing favoring continuation of the walks, at least for 1976, is that the Canadian organizing committee apparently favors them and has a course planned in and around the Stadion. Bob Gisenga, the Chairman of the US Track & Field Committee, was at the 1975 Committee meeting and is in support of the continuation of the walks. And if political pressure means anything, it's obvious we will see the USSR and the two Germanys on our side in supporting continuation of the walks. These four countries are among the first to receive 60 percent of the track and field medals in Munich. Will report any developments on the plight of the walks as they come to my attention. Don't panic yet.

RESULTS OF FAST AND WAIRER RACE WALKING COMPETITIONS


VARIUS BITS FROM THE WACKY WORLD OF WALKING:

Tom Knatt covered the distance from New York to Boston, which is something over 200 miles, in 3 days, 10 hours and 45 minutes starting on Oct. 20. Tom was accompanied on this walk by several friends, including Paul Brederson, who made it with him every day. Tom was guided by George Lattimore who went as far as New York, where he was apparently taken for a peeping tom, which is at least half true. A couple weeks later, Nov. 12 to be exact, Tom attempted a 50 mile run (tostensibly running non-stop) but suffered leg cramps at 20 miles and had to quit in 7:41:15.

Apologies to Paul Brederson. As eagle-eyed Don Jacobs has pointed out to me, I listed his US Race Walking Statistical Booklet as going for 31.00.
3 for $24.00. That's not too much of a quantity discount. It should be 4 for $33.00. Bruce McDonald is now the Women's Race Walking Chairman and is asking for any suggestions to improve that branch of the sport. We would also like the names, ages, addresses and phone numbers of all participants.

The 1972 Race Walking Association 20 km Postal Walk went to Canadian Alex Oakley with a brilliant 1:34:40.1 in Toronto. This established a new Canadian record which still stands to my knowledge.

Robie Graham took the 10000 m walk in a time of 42:55.9 but had the consolation of breaking your editor's American record, set in the same race a year earlier, by over two minutes. John Allen was a minute back of Laird and Bill Grady just 3 seconds behind him. From there it tailed off fast with Chris McSharry showing 1:42:50.7 and no one else under 1:47...

John Allen beat Ron Kulik for third with Ron Daniel fifth...