BLACKBURN AWARD TO LARRY YOUNG

The 6th Annual Dr. John Blackburn Award, given by the Ohio Race Walker each year for the outstanding single performance in U.S. race walking, goes to Larry Young for 1972. Larry's 4:00:46 for 50 Km in Munich was far and away the best performance of the year and probably the greatest walk ever by an American. Even if Larry hadn't performed so well in Munich, he would still have walked off with the award with his 1:30:10 on the track or his 4:13:06 Trials victory in Augen's heat. In winning the award, Larry joins past winners Larry O'Neal, 1967; Rudy Ha Luza, 1968; Bob Kitcehn, 1969 and 1971; and Goetz Klopfen, 1970, and can look forward to receiving the handsome plaque sometime in the next 8 or 10 months. (The ORW is not noted for its promptness in these matters, as previous winners will testify.)

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MISCELLANY FROM THE RACE WALKING WORLD

Being short on race results at this time of year and devoting this issue largely to statistical-type trash (witness next several pages), we will start the monthly hodge-podge of news items and trivia on page numero uno. First, all you chairmen and scheduling coordinators get your schedules for 1973, or as much of it as you have as soon as possible. There is no schedule of upcoming races in this issue, because I have little information on 1973 races at this point. (Not even from Ohio; Chairman Jack Mortland having done nothing about a schedule at this point.) I did have a complete schedule for 1973 from Colorado, one of our most efficient associations, but in no usual efficient manner seem to have misplaced even that. The probable fate of all schedules sent my way, I suppose, but give it a try anyway....The first National of the year, and not listed in last month's schedule of national races, is the Indoor 2 Mile in New York on February 23. This one will qualify you for the US-USSR Indoor meet (3 Miles) in Richmond, Va. The first Junior National under the new age 14-19 classification will be the 1 Hour in Reno on March 3. Jim Bentley is out to make this a big one, asking for over 50 entries, and points out that the new classification will be a success only we all get out and recruit new Junior walkers. He plans awards for all finishers, local transportation, housing for those confirming early with him (entries will be cut in late January and both local and regional TV coverage....Women's Senior Nationals this year will be at 1 and 2 Miles with the National track meets, and a 5 Km to be held in Denver or Arkansas during the summer....Also in regard to the women, it was ruled at the AAU convention that women and men can run together—starting from a common line and with a common gunshot— (Continued on page 8)
Benjamin Soldatenko, USSR, and Bernd Kannenberg, West Germany, match strides in the Munich Olympic 50 km, which Kannenberg eventually won in a startling 3:56:11.6. The German's earlier 3:52:44.6 at Bremen has now been confirmed as official, the course measuring a full 50.

For the third consecutive year, the third annual O&O World Rankings presents its rankings of the world's race walkers at 20 and 50 kilometers. These are purely subjective and based on one observer's opinion—mine. However, the Olympics make the task relatively simple this year. Following is the way I rank the top 10 in each event, with each athlete's competitive record given, and a few comments as to why they are ranked as they are. Following the ranking in each event, I have listed the top 20 performers in each event for the year. Numbers in parenthesis following times indicate the athlete's finishing position in the race. Races on the track are so indicated. Races on known short courses are not included.

### 20 KM

1. Peter Frenkel, East Germany  
   1:27:39.2 (1) Naumburg 5/1  
   1:28:51.0 (3) Paris 6/4  
   1:25:19.4 (1) Erfurt 6/24 (T)  
   1:26:42.4 (1) Munich Oly. 8/31

2. Vladimir Golubnichiy, USSR  
   1:28:54.2 (1) USSR Champ. 7/19 (T)  
   1:26:55.2 (2) Munich Oly. 8/31

3. Hans-Georg Reimann, E. Germany  
   1:26:13.4 (1) Dresden 3/25  
   1:29:36.8 (3) Naumburg 5/1  
   1:28:42.4 (1) Paris 6/4  
   1:29:19.4 (1) Erfurt 6/24 (T)  
   1:27:15.0 (3) Munich Oly. 8/31

4. Gerhard Sperling, E. Germany  
   1:27:39.2 (2) Naumburg 5/1  
   1:27:49.6 (2) Paris 6/4  
   1:29:37.8 (3) Erfurt 6/24 (T)  
   1:27:55.0 (4) Munich Oly. 8/31

5. Paul Mihill, Great Britain  
   1:26:55.0 (1) Isle-of-Man 2/27  
   1:28:45.0 (1) Redditch 5/13  
   1:33:52.0 (1) Otterton, Swed. 7/2  
   1:32:38.0 (1) Danvik, Swed. 7/9  
   1:37:33.0 (1) Arenal, Swed. 7/15  
   1:24:50.0 (1) Isle-of-Man 7/30 KB  
   1:28:44.4 (6) Munich Oly. 8/31  
   1:35:33.0 (1) Rouen, Fr. 9/24  
   1:35:55.2 (2) Paris 9/30

Frenkel, who has often failed in the major races in the past, was superb with his world record race on the track and a strong finish in Munich....The old warhorse, Golubnichiy, was his usual, masterful self following up his Soviet championship with his fourth Olympic medal...Reimann shared the world record with Frenkel, had two other fast races, and finished a strong third in Munich...Sperling had a great set of times, was close in the world record race, and fourth in Munich as he is here....Mihill marks the first deviation from the Munich placings of his hyper-fast time on an accurately measured course. This is not
The first four are obvious from their tremendous performances in Munich. The Bremen course on which Koppel won 3:52:44.6 has been confirmed as accurate, so he is obviously unchallenged at this time. Selzer solidified his Munich race with a world record on the track a month later. He had a fast early race, slumped badly, including a subpar race in Munich, but had two fast races in October to capture the fifth spot ahead of countryman Selsel. Mifaden had another quick time to support his fine Muincn performance. Selzer looked very tough in his national and walked well in Munich. He had two quick early season races but was DQ'd in the West German championships and did not compete in Munich. Grigoryev fell apart in Munich and was DQ'd after Young passed him. He then walked off his Soviet race.

While in the rankings and top performers business, for the first time, we present the same things for the U.S., as follows:

U.S. 20K Rankings

1. Larry Young, Mid-America TC
2. Tom Dooley, Athens AC
3. Floyd Godwin, Colorado TC
4. Todd Sully, Shore AC
5. Bob Kitchen, Athens AC
6. Bill Ranney, Athens AC
7. Herb Beissbarth, Madison TC
8. John Knifton, New York AC

U.S. 50K Rankings

1. Goetz Klopfer, Athens AC
2. Dave Ruder, Colorado TC
3. John Knifton, NYAC
4. Goetz Klopfer, Athens AC
5. Floyd Godwin, Colorado TC
6. Herb Beissbarth, Madison TC
7. Bob Kitchen, Athens AC
8. John Knifton, NYAC
U.S. Top 20 Performers at 50 K:

1. Larry Young, Mid-America TC, Columbus, Ohio
2. Jerry Lansing, Athens AC, San Francisco
3. Gary Westerfield, SC Striders, Detroit

See World Rankings for Larry Young, Bob Kitchen, and others.

U.S. 50 K Rankings

1. Larry Young, Mid-America TC, Columbus, Ohio
2. Bill Weigle, Colorado TC
3. Bob Kitchen, Athens AC

A Few Results (And They Are Very Few):


**Note:** The rankings include a mix of performers from different categories and events, such as 20 mi, 10K, 5K, and 400m. This highlights the diversity and competitive nature of the athletic community during this period.
in races longer than 2 miles! One would assume that this will apply
equally to walking races. Another bit of good news from the cor-
respondent, is the redefinition of an amateur
with the new rule reading in part: "Professional athletes that are
certified as amateur in a sport other that the sport of their profes-
sion may compete in the amateur sport of their choice (but) only in
domestic competition." Not that this is going to affect any race walk-
ers that I know of but it’s a good idea nonetheless. If Will Chamberlain,
George Banda, Jack Nicklaus, Rod Laver, Joe Frazier, or some one of
that ilk, comes around to one of your races and wants in, you need have
no qualms now... Bill Welge reports that one can walk consistently
in the 4:20 to 4:23 range on 70 miles per week of training. Unfor-
unately for Bill, Larry Young has found that you can go considerably
faster on like mileage. Anyway, take a tip from the guys on top. Con-
centrate on quality, not quantity. Speaking of professionals, the
Guano has put the following: "Bowing to public demands, the
International Track Association, the new track endeavor, will seek to
sign top flight race walkers. Guano Press ignored this wholly unex-
pected development at its office here today. Seeking to combine talent
with a touch of the bazaar, ITA will offer lucrative contracts to Bob
Bosan, Rich Pleinrider, Bill Quayle, Jim Welge, and Paul Ide. This
development came as somewhat of a shock to walkers accustomed to being
forever-last runners at the meets... racing walking has always had
tremendous potential for entertainment, and ITA has instituted several
changes to insure fan interest. First, to eliminate complaints..."...in
the opinion of the judges, the walker was so far off that it was ridiculous.
Cynics may wonder if this is any different from the present rules, but now the
interpretation will be different. Secondly, to eliminate the specter of
bored fans heading for the beer stand during long races, ITIA will conduct
all race walks at a distance of 60 yards... So, the OHW is accepted
again. If Guano gets much better, we are going to call the races..."...Late results:
10 km, Columbus, Ohio Dec. 20. Dave Leudth 62:18
5. Ray Court 3:40:00 5. Carl Lawton 3:40:00
The Problem of Race Walk Judging by John McDougall (reprinted from the Dec. 1962 Race Walker, where it was reprinted from the the Walker of the New South Wales walking Club (Australia).

To determine whether a competitor is walking correctly or otherwise has always been the major problem in race walking. So much so that following the 1950 European Games and 1952 Olympics it seemed likely that walking could disappear from the international scene altogether. Since then, overseas judges have so improved their own judging and in turn the overall standard of walking that today the sport is firmly established. The answer has been for judges to apply the rule "that walking must look like walking" and this is leading to gradual elimination of suspect stylists from the sport.

In Australia, Victoria has applied this rule and they now have the highest standard for walking in their history. What is the difference between their judging and ours? Basically, in NSW the judge is trying to catch a competitor off the ground, while in Victoria, unless a competitor is clearly seen to be in contact, then he is warned and if no improvement is shown he is put in for disqualification.

In NSW, the system is to "watch both of the competitor's feet and look for broken contact," but this is almost impossible to detect unless the competitor is so bad that he is well off the ground. Keeping in mind that in the shorter events the walker is doing better than 8 mph and where light contact is made, the lift off the back foot takes place almost simultaneously. With other judges I have examined slow motion film of competitors and even then it has been difficult to determine a lift, unless the film is stopped and examined frame by frame. What chance then has the naked eye of detecting the lift at normal speed?

The system recommended is to keep first in mind the word "support" and to observe that the back supporting leg is left in contact with the ground until firm contact with an advancing heel is made. Where the supporting leg is being snapped away too quickly, you will see the advancing foot fall and land under the body, a sure indication that contact has broken. This may not occur at every stride but will certainly show up regularly during the course of an event. Slow motion film of suspect stylists shows evidence of this; in many cases a frame by frame examination will show the competitor with back toe on the ground and the leading heel about to make contact. But the next frame will show contact with the heel, but the rear toe off the ground.

Why then doesn't the shot of the double contact phase appear on the film. Probably because that phase doesn't exist, and if it did it was so short that a camera running at 64 frames per second could not catch it. Eventually one finds a frame showing both heel and toe clear of the ground.

I ask again how can the naked eye detect this and again I repeat that it cannot. Therefore, I urge all interested in judging to watch for the advancing foot falling under the center of gravity. Make your decision and most importantly, ACT immediately and in this fashion you will force competitors to anchor that back supporting leg long enough for clear contact to be seen and it will become obvious to all that the style of "walking looks like walking".

McCarthy had a few interesting comments on the above for which we have no room now but may include next month. Reader comments are encouraged, on this or anything else.

Israel's Dr. Shaul Ladany moving to an easy victory in the Lugano 100 km on October 22. Shaul's winning time was 9:38:56.4.