

Ohio Race Walker  
3184 Summit Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43202



# OHIO RACEWALKER

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 9

COLUMBUS, OHIO

NOVEMBER, 1973

## LAIRD EARNS 7TH BLACKBURN AWARD

For the seventh year, the Ohio Race Walker is presenting the Dr. John H. Blackburn Award for the most outstanding single performance in U.S. race walking during the preceding year, in this case 1973. With a month still to go, we confidently are announcing Ron Laird as the winner off his inspiring walk in the Lugano Cup 20 Km, reported last month. Written off by some as finally being on the downhill side of his career after many, many years at or near the top, Ron suddenly reemerged with one of the finest races of his career. Passing four men in the final 5 Km he matched his third place finish of 1967 in this prestigious World Championship. That earlier performance went for naught as far as the Blackburn Award went, for it was Larry O'Neil's amazing performance in the first 100 miler in Missouri that inspired us to start the Award that year.

In subsequent years, Ron has had some great races together with some rotten ones, but there has always been at least one really remarkable race by someone else to cop award. In 1968, it was Rudy Haluza's close fourth in the Olympic 20 (and Larry Young's third in the 50 as a very close contender). The next year, Bob Kitchen walked a fast 50 on the track. In 1970, Goetz Klopfer walked a world-class 20 miher on the track, to nose out either a brilliant 50 or 10 by Dave Romansky. Kitchen was back in 1971 with a world's best 35 Km on the track and last year nothing could touch Larry Young's Munich performance, or several other Young races, for that matter. Which reminds me Larry, I have to get that thing in the mail to you. Yes, you do get more than mention in the ORW. A handsome plaque is the award and Larry's has been languishing here for several months, awaiting my trip to Columbia last month, at which time I remembered it about the time I hit St. Louis. Perhaps Ron won't have to wait quite so long, but then I'm not sure I can bear the postage to Germany.

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## RACE WALKING RESULTS, of all things.

Had hoped to have results of the U.S.-Canada dual by this time but it looks like they must wait until next month, so on with other results that have come my way.

NEAAU 25 Km, Attleboro, Mass., Nov. 11--1. Paul Schell 2:05:49 2. Tom Knatt 2:08:59--In cool weather, on a four lap course, Schell and Knatt were together until the last lap when Schell put on the pressure and with about 2 miles to go gave the Knatt the business (per Fred Brown). John Knifton holds the course record at 2:05:08. 3. Francis Maher 2:08:59 4. Steve Reitman 2:23:51 5. Tony Medeiros 2:25:45 6. Robert Morse 2:27:32 7. Kevin Ryan 2:29:49 8. John Gray 2:33:56 9. Roger Pike 2:34:45 10. Charles Scott 2:36:27 11. Keith Ryan 2:38:00 12.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

George Grzebien 2:47:23 13. Sigmund Podlozny 2:57:50 14. Fred Brown Sr. 2:58:02 15. Paul Treeful 3:02:07 16. Bill Corrigan 3:09:32  
 ICAAU 30 Km, Eastham, Mass., Nov. 17--1. Paul Schell 3:07:57 2. Tom Knatt 3:08:08 (Course was long, particularly at the end. Schell had 10 km splits of 53:48, 58:14, and 75:55. Knatt adopted different tactics and gained about 3½ minutes the last "10" aided by the fact that Schell went off course, making a long course longer) 3. Francis Maher 3:11:38 4. Robert Morse 3:23:00 5. Tony Medeiros 3:23:58 6. John Gray 3:24:25 7. Charles Scott 3:39:48 8. George Grzebien 3:44:47 9. Bill Bayes 4:00:52 10. John Doucette 4:00:52 11. Sig Podlozny 4:04:58 12. Fred Brown Sr. 4:05:03 Mt. AAU 20 Km., Greenvale, N.Y., Nov. 18--1. Dr. John Knifton 1:34:55 (23:25, 47:13, 1:11:04) 2. Ron Daniel 1:40:35 (24:10, 49:55, 1:15:17) 3. Steve Hayden 1:40:35 (24:17, 49:40, 1:15:17) 4. Ron Kulik 1:45:47 5. Jim Murchie 1:45:58 6. Gary Westerfield 1:47:41 7. Dr. John Shilling 1:50:50 8. Larry Newman 1:51:10 9. Ion Barbu 1:51:15 10. Jack Memendez 1:59:27 11. Bill Hungelman 2:04:46 5 Km., Greenvale, N.Y., Nov. 18--1. Pete Warren 25:27 2. Ellen Minkow 27:03 3. Ben Kopyscianski 27:10 (I don't know about that spelling. This is taken from a very fuzzy ditto copy, obviously spirited late at night on the school machine by Hayden.) 4. Joanne Shime 27:10 5. Rich Harbus 27:40 6. Lynn Olson 28:45 7. Brendan Halpin 30:04 1 Mile, South Huntington, N.Y., Nov. 17--1. Jim Murchie 7:53.9 2. Rich Harbus 8:21.7 3. Ben Kopyscianski 8:58.1 (I'll stick with that, it's not much clearer on yet another fuzzy ditto.) 4. Paul Ma ne 9:12.1 5. Bob Asher 9:19.6  
 Open 10 Mile, Long Branch, N.J., Oct. 27--1. Dave Romansky 1:17:40 2. Ron Kulik 1:23:37 3. Bill Hanglemann 1:34:30 N.J. AAU 10 Mile, Long Branch, Oct. 27--1. Bob Falciola 1:20:56 2. John Fredericks 1:28:36 3. Don Johnson 1:32:15 4. Fred Spector 1:34:54 5. Alex Turner 1:37:25 6. Roger Barr 1:37:30 7. Elliott Derman 1:39:48 8. Wayne Normandin 1:41:07 (15 finishers) 15 Mile, Long Branch, Nov. 4--1. Ron Daniel 2:06:19 2. Ron Kulik 2:11:00 3. Bob Mimm 2:17:20 4. Bill Hanglemann 2:24:45 5. Randy Mimm 2:33:22 6. Jack Memendez 2:35:27 N.Y. AAU 15 mile Long Branch, Nov. 4--1. Bob Falciola 2:08:36 2. Don Johnson 2:26:39 3. Fred Spector 2:29:56 4. Wayne Normandin 2:36:54 5. Alex Turner 2:41:02 6. Bill Lloyd 2:50:05 5 Mile, Detroit, Nov. 16--1. Leon Jas-ionowski 99:32 (7:47, 15:39, 23:35, 31:41) Bill Walker had a bad back and did not compete, Jerry Bocci was babysitting, and Jeanne Bocci ran, so Leon was on his own. 5.7 miles or so, Lawrenceville, Ohio, Nov. 11--1. Jack Blackburn 48:16 2. Good old Stu 52:14--since last month's issue I still don't know Stu's last name, but he is getting tough. 3. Jim Teague 52:22 4. Bob Smith 55:45 5. Doc Blackburn and Clair Duckham 60:42--no details on this one. As is getting to be usual, I didn't show. 2 Mile, Worthington, Ohio, Nov. 17--1. Jack Mortland 15:45 2. Jack Blackburn 15:56 3. Kevin Butler 17:38 4. Bob Smith 17:56--times are from memory and not necessarily correct to the second. Kevin bombed out at a speed we old men can no longer attain and went through the 440 about 15-20 yards up with we two Jacks in an unaccustomed 1:55. As Kevin came back, out speed dropped to 2 minute laps and the mile went in 7:56. The Mort managed to open up the last 2 laps to get clear, but Blackburn, who had done a flat out 8:13 mile three days before, once again showed his racing ability. Kevin looks very good at speed, and will be tough for any other 14-year olds to handle and with just a little more strength for old men to handle. Blackburn also won a race in Cincinnati on Thanksgiving day over a very short 6 miles in 43 something over Stu, Jim, Smith, Doc, and maybe Duck. Again, with my careful reporting techniques, I don't have much in the way of detail. More results on page 6.

## FOURTH ANNUAL ORW WORLD RANKINGS

For the fourth year, the Ohio Racewalker is ranking the world's race walkers at both 20 and 50 Km. These rankings are one man's opinion based on performances throughout 1973. I consider a man's overall record, his top times, how he performed against other top contenders, and his record in major races. The 20 Km this year is a real mess as no one was real consistent and the top men did not all get together. Here is how I see it.

- Hans-Georg Reimann, E. Germ  
 1:30:05.4 (2) Erfurt 4/1 (tr)  
 1:27:44.8 (1) Karl Marx Stadt 5/20  
 1:26:35.0 (2) Dresden 7/19  
 1:27:51.0 (2) EG Champ. 9/1  
 1:29:31.0 (1) Lugano Cup 10/12
- Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller, EG  
 1:33:52 (2) Naumberg 5/1  
 1:28:37 (5) Bucharest 5/20  
 1:27:38 (1) Karl Marx Stadt 6/10  
 1:34:10 (3) vs. G.B. 6/30  
 1:25:21 (1) Dresden 7/19  
 1:29:36 (2) Lugano Cup 10/12
- Bernd Kannenberg, E. Germ  
 1:35:16 (1) Pretoria 4/6  
 1:32:31 (1) vs. G.B. 5/27  
 1:31:37 (1) CISSM Games 6/6  
 1:27:18.8 (1) vs USSR 6/16 (tr)  
 1:31:40 (1) vs France 6/24
- Stefan Tzukev, Bulgaria  
 1:28:08 (1) Russe 4/14  
 1:28:31 (1) Flordiw 5/26
- Ron Laird, USA  
 DQ Santa Barbara 4/15  
 1:36:20 (1) Toronto 7/29 (tr)  
 1:31:54 (1) Hamburg 9/16 (tr)  
 1:30:45 (3) Lugano Cup 10/12  
 1:30:27 (2) West Germany ?  
 1:32:25 (1) West Germany ?
- Nikolai Smaga, USSR  
 1:31:41 (4) Moscow 8/4  
 1:29:14.8 (13) Moscow 7/10  
 1:30:56 (4) Lugano Cup 10/12
- Peter Frenkel, E. Germ  
 1:31:12 (1) vs. G.B. 6/30  
 1:26:41 (3) Dresden 7/19  
 DNF Moscow 8/4  
 1:33:23 (10) Lugano Cup 10/12
- Siegfried Zscheigner, E. Ger.  
 1:33:41 (3) Naumberg 5/1  
 1:28:02 (2) Karl Marx Stadt 6/10  
 1:27:21 (1) Bucharest 5/20  
 1:26:53 (4) Dresden 7/19  
 1:26:24 (1) E.G. Champ. 9/1  
 1:34:12 (15) Lugano Cup 10/12
- Constantin Stan, Rumania  
 1:29:13 (2) Russe 4/14  
 1:28:01 (2) Bucharest 5/20  
 1:32:16 (4) Bucharest 6/24  
 1:33:35 (1) Balkan Champ. 8/25
- Yevgeniy Ivchenko, USSR  
 1:28:17 (1) Soligorsk 5/12  
 1:29:19 (6) Bucharest 5/20  
 1:29:11 (1) Moscow 6/5  
 1:31:52 (3) vs. W. Germ 6/16  
 1:35:13 (1) vs. U.S. 7/20  
 DQ USSR Champ. 7/10  
 1:31:33 (5) Lugano Cup 10/12

Reimann won only two of five races but that included the big one and he had three very fast times...Stadtmuller was inconsistent but had the fastest time and left everyone but Reimann well back at Lugano...Kannenberg may have been the best but did not race against the others to prove it. His fast time came on the track, however, and he did beat Ivchenko and Mills, who was close to ranking, very decisively...Tzukev is a rather unknown quantity but had two fast races and beat Stan who proved himself in Bucharest....Laird had no fast times but along with Smaga clearly outdistanced many of the good ones at Lugano....Smaga had injury problems and came along slowly but proved himself at Lugano...Frenkel too had injury problems but a good race at Dresden and beat Zscheigner before a mild failure at Lugano...Zscheigner would have ranked much higher but for his complete failure at Lugano....Stan was impressive in an early

Bucharest race beating Stadtmuller, tough Gerhard Sperling, and Ivchenko but then took only fourth in the Rumanian championships. He had a very impressive leg for 25 km at Airolo-Chiasso, 2 minutes up on Reimann.... Ivchenko rescued an up and down season with his good fifth at Lugano... Others meriting consideration were Gerhard Sperling who had some good early races and then may have been injured; Armando Zamboldo, sixth at Lugano but only 12th at Bucharest and well back of Kannenberg and Visini in the CISM meet; Visini with two good track times but no top competition except his loss to Kannenberg; and Ion Gasitu of Rumania, a good third at Bucharest and ahead of Stan in the Rumanian championship.

Now the rankings at 50 Km:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Bernd Kannenberg, W.G.<br>4:07:56.2 (1) Eschborn 9/16<br>3:56:50.8 (1) Lugano 10/13  | 6. Peter Selzer, E.G.<br>4:02:35.6 (10) Karl Marx Stadt 6/10<br>4:12:05.4 (1) Prague 7/15<br>4:04:07.4 (1) E.G. Champ. 9/1<br>4:07:06.4 (1) Weinböhla 9/30<br>4:02:10.4 (6) Lugano Cup 10/13 |
| 2. Otto Bartsch, USSR<br>4:11:58.0 (4) Uzhgorod 4/29<br>4:05:53.9 (1) USSR Ch. 7/5<br>3:57:10.4 (2) Lugano 10.13  | 7. Sergei Bondarenko, USSR<br>4:04:36.8 (2) Uzhgorod 4/29<br>4:07:15.0 (2) Moscow 7/5<br>4:07:51.6 (7) Lugano Cup 10/13  |
| 3. Christoph Hohne, E.G.<br>4:08:34.6 (3) E.G. Champ. 9/1<br>3:57:25.2 (3) Lugano 10/13   | 8. Winfreid Skotnicki, E.G.<br>4:08:20.4 (2) Karl Marx Stadt 6/10<br>4:06:25.2 (2) E.G. Champ. 9/1<br>4:08:29.4 (8) Lugano Cup 10/13   |
| 4. Gerhard Weidner, W.G.<br>4:00:27.2 (1) Hamburg 4/8 (tr)<br>4:08:29.2 (1) Salzgitter 6/5<br>4:05:24.2 (1) Furth 6/24<br>4:09:26.8 (2) Eschborn 9/16<br>4:01:58.4 (5) Lugano 10/13 | 9. Sergei Grigoryev, USSR<br>4:04:36.8 (1) Uzhgorod 4/29<br>4:15:58 (6) Moscow 7/5   |
| 5. Benjamin Soldatenko, USSR<br>4:08:23.0 (3) Moscow 7/5<br>4:01:33.6 (4) Lugano Cup 10.13  | 10. Vittorio Visini, Italy<br>4:2 2:43 (1) Lugano Zone 9/16<br>4:09:25 (9) Lugano Cup 10/13  |

Little comment necessary here as the Lugano Cup competition pretty well decided the rankings with all the top men there and everyone walking well.. We have moved Weidner ahead of Soldatenko off his world record race and excellent collection of top times...Selzer, too, had quite a collection of times and may have hurt himself with two fast 50's in the six weeks prior to Lugano....Grigoryev is the only non-Lugano competitor to crack the top ten with a fast early race in which he beat Bartsch and Bondarenko. He failed in the Soviet Championships and did not get to Lugano.

#### SECOND ANNUAL U.S. RANKINGS

While in the ranking business, let us for the second time do the same job as above on the U.S. walkers. This is a much easier job than that messy 20 above as there were few races and everyone was quite firm. First, the 20:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Ron Laird, NYAC<br>see World Ranking  | 3. Bill Ranney, un.<br>1:34:15 (1) Santa Barbara 4/15<br>1:36:37 (3) Minsk 7/23<br>1:39:11 (28) Lugano Cup 10/12 |
| 2. Todd Scully, Shore & C.<br>1:35:14 (4) Santa Barbara 4/15<br>1:32:23.6 (7) Lugano Cup 10/12 |  |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 4. Jerry Brown, Colorado TC<br>1:34:27 (1) Boulder 3/25 (tr)<br>1:34:37 (2) Santa Barbara 4/15<br>1:37:41 (4) Minsk 7/20<br>1:34:05 (14) Lugano Cup 10/12 | 7. Ray Somers, un.<br>1:35:47 (5) Santa Barbara 4/15  |
| 5. Bob Kitchen, un.<br>1:35:02 (30) Santa Barbara 4/15  | 8. Bill Weigle, Colo. TC<br>1:36:48 (7) Santa Barbara 4/15                                    |
| 6. John Knifton, NYAC<br>1:36:13 (6) Santa Barbara 4/15<br>1:34:55 (1) Greenvale 11/18  | 9. Bob Henderson, US Army<br>1:37:09 (8) Santa Barbara 4/15                                   |
|   | 10. Floyd Godwin, Colo. TC<br>1:44:17 (2) Boulder 3/25 (tr)<br>1:38:45 (9) Santa Barbara 4/15 |

The NAAU race at Santa Barbara was the deciding race. Laird, disqualified there, certainly proved himself best later and Scully's great Lugano race moved him ahead of his Santa Barbara conquerors. Knifton moved up one notch with a good late season effort.

#### 50 Km.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. John Knifton, NYAC<br>4:30:20 (2) Des Moines 5/20<br>4:16:48.6 (14) Lugano Cup 10/13                                     | 6. Jerry Brown, Colo. TC<br>4:37:18 (4) Des Moines 5/20                                 |
| 2. Bill Weigle, Colo. TC<br>4:22:27 (1) Des Moines 5/20<br>4:28:40.2 (24) Lugano Cup 5/20                                   | 7. Bob Henderson, US Army<br>4:41:23 (6) Des Moines 5/20<br>4:39:22 (11) Eschborn 9/13  |
| 3. Floyd Godwin, Colo. TC<br>4:38:20 (5) Des Moines 5/20<br>4:34:18 (1) Boulder 9/1 (tr)<br>4:23:18.2 (20) Lugano Cup 10/13 | 8. Augie Hirt, Columbia TC<br>4:48:50 (7) Des Moines 5/20                               |
| 4. Bob Kitchen, un.<br>4:29:38.8 (25) Lugano Cup 10/13  | 9. Mike Allen, un.<br>4:56 (24) West German Ch. 9/13<br>4:47:04 (2) Onsbach, W.G. 10/21 |
| 5. Ron Laird, NYAC<br>4:35:51 (3) Des Moines 5/20   | 10. Bob Bowman, Beverly Hills Striders<br>4:52:19 (8) Des Moines 5/20                   |

Again, the National race was rather decisive. However, Knifton's great Lugano effort moved him ahead of Weigle and Godwin moved up a couple of notches with his Lugano race and a good track effort in Boulder. It just occurred to me that I have made these rankings without yet having the results of the US-Canada meet held in Boulder a couple of days ago (as I type this). If these results make any alterations in the above, I'll put them in next month.

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The Ohio Race Walker is a monthly publication of Mortland Enterprises unincorporated in Columbus, Ohio. Subscription rate is \$3.00 per year or \$30.00 for 10 years. Address all correspondence to your friendly editor and publisher, Jack Mortland at 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202.

Anyway knowing the current addresses of Milt Place, Peter Sutyak, Dennis McPherson, Ben Brown (of Mass.), Joseph Connolly, Bob Woods, Chris McCarthy, or Jim Clinton please let me know. All of their ORWs came back to me with things like moved, left no address; addressee unknown; moved, not forwardable; etc. stamped on them. Woods is a particularly desperate situation because he just started his subscription and probably thinks I

MVAU 50 Km, Jefferson City, Mo., Nov. 11--1. Augie Hirt 5:08:53  
 2. Al Sschrik 5:18:46 3. Dave Leuthold 5:35:57 4. Jim Breitenbacher  
 5:51:21 5. Leonard Easen 5:57:04 6. Rob Spier 6:13:50 2 Hour,  
Foulder, Colo., Oct. 21--1. Jerry Brown 14 mi. 1146 yds (1:36:05 at 20  
before hitting the wall) 2. Floyd Godwin 7 miles 1003 yds. (1:38:19)  
3. Chuck Hunter 12 mi 120 yds. 1 Mile, Mt. Hood CC, Ore., Nov. 3--  
1. Jim Bean 7:04.9 2. Doug Van Meer 7:59.9 3. Scott Massinger 8:17.2  
4. Don Jacobs 9:10.3 10 Mile, Hamilton, Ont., Nov. 3--1. Frank Johnson  
1:22:16.8 2. Max Gould 1:26:20.6 Helmut Boeck dnf 37 3/4 Mile, Isle of  
Man, Aug. 18--1. K. Smith 5:57:15 2. E. Crompton 6:00:48 20 Km, Banska  
Bystrica, CSR, Aug. 26--1. Gerard Lelievre, Fr. 89:37 2. J. Bencik, Czech  
90:28 3. E. Zednik, Czech 93:50 8 Hours, Petit-Quevilly, Fr. Sept. 29--  
1. Colin Young, GB 78.4 Km 2. Dave Boxall, GB 75.3 km 3. J. Bonnin,  
Fr. 73.9 km 4. Huner, Fr. 70.8 km 5. Desplanques, Fr. 69.7 km 6. Dovellet  
69.2 km 10 Km, Haywards Heath, Eng.--1. Peter Marlow 44:06 2. Shaun  
Lightman 44:17 3. Peter Selby 46:57 4. Dave Steven 47:04 50 Km, Onsbach,  
W.G.-- 2. Mike Allen, US. 4:47:04.2--which I forgot about in  
those rankings and certainly should entitle him to consideration. I  
might have to redo that next month 20 Mile, London, Oct. 27--1. John  
Warhurst 2:32:34 2. Roy Thorpe 2:34:04 3. Carl Lawton 2:34:44 4. Bob  
Dobson 2:38:13 5. Arthur Thomson 2:38:36 6. Amos Seddon 2:41:38 7.  
Ray Middleton 2:41:38 8. Stuart Maidment 2:42:43 9. Eryan Adams  
2:43:58 10. Peter Hodgkinson 2:45:01 Lugano 100 Km, Oct. 21--1. Yuriy  
Schulgin, USSR 9:43:45 2. Yevgeniy Lungin, USSR 9:43:45 3. Sergei  
Grigoryev, USSR 9:43:45 4. Alfred Badel 10:09:13 5. Michel Valloton,  
Switz 10:09:19 6. Raymond Girod, Sw. 10:14:01 9.8 Km, Lugano, Oct. 29--  
1. Heinz Mayr, WG 41:18.4 2. Paavo Pohjolainen, Fin. 41:30.8  
20 Km, Hamburg (track), Sept. 16--1. Ron Laird, US 1:31:54 Rumanian  
20 Km, Bucharest, May 24--1. Constantin Staicu 1:31:04 2. Leonida Caraiosifoglu  
1:31:27 3. Ion Ga situ 1:31:49 5. Constantin Stan 1:32:16  
5. Constantin Enache 1:32:24 Rumanian 50 Km, Bucharest, Sept. 16--  
1. Leonid Caraiosifoglu 4:17:44 2. Rudolf Csunderlich 4:26:41 3.  
Ion Gasitu 4:27:41 4. Tanase Erandt 4:33:39 5. Silviu Odobasian  
4:34:40 6. Constantin Enache 4:37:46 20 Km, Sofia, Bulg., Oct. 7--  
1. Leonida Caraiosifoglu 1:33:10 20 Km, Stutschka, USSR, Aug. 12--1.  
Alvars Rumbenjaks 20 Km, Charkov, USSR, Sept. 20--1. Yevgeniy Lyungin  
1:28:50.2 2. Valeriy Nefedov 1:29:52 3. Sergei Bondarenko 1:30:42  
50 Km, Karski-Muia, USSR, Sept. 15--1. Olav Laiv 4:12:56 20 Km, Gdansk,  
Poland, Oct. 7--1. Feliks Sliwinski 1:29:51.6 2. Jan Ornoch 1:29:51.6  
3. Jerzy Jackiewicz 1:32:31.4 Women's 3 Km (track), Uddevalla, Swed.,  
June 16--1. Elisabeth Olsson 14:40 Women's 5 Km, Sweden, Oct. 14--1.  
Eritt Holmquist 25:37 2. Elisabeth Olsson 25:46 3. Monica Karlsson  
25:56 4. Ann-Marie Larsson 27:27 Women's 10 Km (road), Malden, Swed.  
Sept. 23--1. Berit Jonsson 54:23 Women's 10 Km (track), Uddevalla,  
Aug. 26--1. Thorild Sarpebakken 53:01.2 --she's from Norway.

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 Now to some of those letters and things I ran out of space for last month. Colin Young writes from England:

"Hope you will find a little space in one of your future editions for the following appreciation of your Lugano Cup squad. I would like to say how great a pleasure it was to meet the boys in Lugano. It was a privilege to speak with such a bunch of keen, dedicated guys whose guts and fairness in the racing and maturity and knowledge generally have never been equalled by any previous squad. I just hope fellows like Elliott, Jack, Rudy, Larry, and Tom can be added when I next meet you all.

"Without Larry and Tom, the team excelled themselves to get an equal fourth and there is no doubt in my mind that a clear third place is well within your compass in the near future if not at this very time.

"The 20 Km boys were superb with Ron strengthening my opinion that he could have been (or still could be) another Golubnichiy. He hung on in the first half and then powered through in the last 6-7 kms. Let's hope he keeps injury free, steers clear of the German Frauleins, and really concbrates and dedicates right through to Montreal. Sensation of the meet for me was Todd Scully. All the English fans were convinced he would have to die after his explosive start but he hung in all the way with the greats. What a character! After a grand last leg in the relay he compliments and enthuses about my effort, some 8 minutes slower. Jerry had two very satisfactory races using very sound judgement, while Bill, a favorite with the English girl supporters--sorry Ron, they don't all go for those baby faced 35-year-olds--had a tremendous relay walk after suffering stomach wise in the 20 km. Talking of the relay, Bob Henderson walked a cracker on the mountain stage and how about the Italian girl friend!! The 50 Km did a thorough job, John looking the part and getting near the elite guys. Bob took a gamble off with the big boys and hung on grittily while Floyd and Bill came through together with Floyd taking off in great shape near the end. A real treat for me until the next time."

The great thing about these words is that in the first place Colin says things very sincerely and is always quite candid in his comments, in the second place he had to be quite disappointed over the performance of the British for whom he had predicted a possible third, and finally, he is always "a real treat" for our guys when they get to meet him at one of these affairs. He is as knowledgeable and enthusiastic as anyone you will meet in the sport and is always boosting our boys as much as the British in his side-of-the-road exhortations. As a matter of fact, I spent a good deal of the time during the 1967 Lugano 50 in East Germany with Colin and must admit he did considerably more in offering support and encouragement to our guys than I did, somewhat to my shame, I guess, but much to Colin's credit. He really bowled Jerry Brown over this year by recalling his races in the mid '60s as Regis Brown. Who in the U.S. ever heard of Regis Brown, let alone some dude over in England. A few more words on Colin's enthusiasm in the following Ron Laird odyssey, which describes Ron's experiences leading up to Lugano and the Lugano and Airola-Chiasso races.

"Flew from New York on September 6 for London. Stayed with Hohn Lees for about 2 weeks but didn't have any races. Got in some good training and then went to Paris for a 25 km road race. I'd never raced in France before and found the experience unique because of the enthusiasm of the many people who came out to watch us go by. A sound truck up in front of us kept up a steady combination of advertising and racing talk. The start was on a track and out onto a 5-lap city street course. I stayed with a group of five others for just over 10 kms and then pushed hard all the way to open up 6 minutes on 2nd place. There was a cold, hard rain most of the last half. The reception afterwards was again enthusiastic and loaded with awards. Never saw so much merchandise. Everyone got two or three items. (Obviously the source of his enthusiasm. Ron won this race in 2:04:56.)

"There was a 20 km race the next day but the people driving me got lost and got me to the start 25 minutes too late. Could have won it and picked up some more nice prizes. That evening I took a train up to Hamburg to visit my twin brother who works as a design engineer for Messerschmitt aircraft. The cold weather in London, Paris, and Hamburg was a great change from the heat and humidity of the N.Y. city area where I'd stayed for 3 weeks before coming over. Had done a 1 Hour time trial by myself on a London track just before going to Paris and managed 8 miles 127 yards. My brother put me up and I slept and trained the day a way as usual. Hadn't worked for 2 years and that had sort of become the routine of my existence. Phoned Hannes Koch, who Ron Zinn and I had raced against in the US-WG 10 km match back in the summer of '63. (Also you and Jack Mortland in Augsburg in the summer of '65.) He still races, trains others, and organizes races in Northern Germany. He speaks good English and is a real help to anyone interested in our sport. They had a 20 Km track walk the next weekend, and I was invited to take part. This was held on the same track where Weidner recently set world records at 30 miles and 50 kms. It is a new, very hard asphalt surface. I felt good so went out fast. Broke big Julius Muller at the 3rd lap and just kept on pushing. Came through 5 km in 22:20 and 10 km in 45:15. Had 1:08:35 at 15 and 1:31:56.4 at the finish for my second best ever on the track. Koch came second in 1:39 plus.

"The next day I started work for Messerschmitt. My brother had fixed up a resume for me the week before and luck was with me for I landed the job a few days later. Luck was really with me because I got into a fairly easy section along with some English contract workers. These guys have forgot more than I'll ever know in aircraft engineering and have helped me to fake it for about 3 weeks now. Things seem to be working out well so far. Work 58 hours per week because the pay is so good. Figure for every month I work, I can live one year on the savings. This great financial situation is hurting my training, but I'm sure going to make that sacrifice. Really hope I can stick it out through the winter but any minute expect some boss to come up to me and tell my game is up.

"After a week of work, I took a train down near Hanover for a 10 km volksmarch. Broke the course record with a 44:35. Half of this was on a rough dirt trail through the forest. Pushed very hard because of the Lugano Final coming up the following week.....Had my first contact with officials who wanted me to join an athletic club over here. Seems they are willing to find me a place to live and a job. The job would be for 4 hours and then I'd be free to train the rest of the day but I'd get full pay for an 8 hour day. Seems the word had gotten out about my 20 km track race....

"The next day I started the North German 50 Km but had decided to only go a good strong 25 to 30 km of it for a workout. Helped the leader and eventual winner Gerhard Schuth for 25 km (about 2:07) and then sprinted 3 km to finish off. I started to work overtime the next day and was too tired to train so didn't for the next 4 days. That Thursday evening I flew down to Miland, Italy after getting permission to have Friday off for the race. Got into Lugano about 4 a.m. by train and wandered around town looking for an open hotel. The next late morning I wandered around until I ran into one of the English lads in town for Sunday's relay. I talked to other athletes in the hotel lobby until time to go to the race. Didn't warm up much because I felt very loose and relaxed due to no sleep the night before. We had to stand through a fairly long ceremony but finally went up the road to get started.

It was a hard fast effort right from the start as Reimann and Scully battled it out with Laird drifting along. The course was 10 laps plus 300 to 350 yards extra at the start. I was feeling bad because of the rapid oxygen but knew I'd move on through it in the usual 30 to 45 minutes so just hung on trying to work on ultra-efficiency. Soon other blue and red shirts joined up. It was inspiring and most challenging to be in close company with the "great ones". It sort of blew my mind when Frenkle pulled along side me at about 4 miles and said, in very good English, "You feeling O.K. Ron?" I sort of grunted that I wasn't and went back to trying every trick I knew to hang on. The course was a rectangular affair with a sort of up-and-hill slope to it. Found I really had to work on the uphill but could sort of relax on the downhill part. Dropped back to 8th after 10 km but then started to go through the field at about 8 miles. Scully was still up there and having the race of his life in his Hush Puppies. I only had 5 seconds on him at 15 km (1:07:50). Got past Solomon, the young Russian I had judged the summer before at the U.S. Junior meet in Sacramento, and he dropped out. Zamboldo looked to me a great stylist but gave no fight at this point. Had a real tussle with Ivchenko. We tried to out sprint each other with about five separate bursts in the next km. All the time the many English walkers who had come to do the relay were urging me on as were our group. I've got to give a lot of credit to the words of encouragement and stimulation of Colin Young. He has to be the all time greatest at this sort of thing.

"With a lap to go only Smaga was a few yards in front of me in 3rd place. When I caught him going up the slope he said something in Russian which had a laugh at the end of it. Figured he might be trying to get me to rest some so once again off I went in an all-out acceleration. Really felt I was starting to disintegrate so tried to concentrate only on technique and speed. Opened up nicely going on down towards the finish line to hand on the third. The weather was nice but we caught a lot of fumes from cars and busses, especially on the uphill slope of the course. Scully was in very soon behind me and was very emotionally overjoyed at his performance. He really did a great job for and is a real fighter.....It was nice to finally beat all the Russians over my distance of 20 kms. Would have liked to have had another shot at Golubnichiy but Smaga said he had a bad knee....

"I had asked to do the first leg of the relay but sure felt bad during the drive to Airolo the next night. Bruce MacDonald and I shared a room and were up early for the 6:30 a.m. start. I'd given myself a good rubdown with hot stuff on my legs plus lots of stretching exercises so didn't feel too bad. We got to the start just in time and what a blast off that was. Figured if I could concentrate on continually keeping my body weight forward gravity would do most of the work and all I'd then have to do is get my legs out in front of me to catch myself as I fell down this mountain. The pain in the knee and hip joints was somewhat eased by the cold and rain. Moved well for about 7 miles and was in the lead. Then disaster struck. Seems some sort of 1-day flu hit me and I had to jump into the bushes. This took place three more times before I finally staggered into the hands of what had to be a very frustrated Jerry Brown. All the other lads raced very well and I must apologize for putting them so far back on that first leg. Sure had a lot of guys pass me in that last hour. Jerry must have thought I'd fallen off a cliff. I sure wanted to jump off one at times. Bruce did a great job bringing us along and is now a real expert at it. It was nice to have the friendship and encouragement of Henry Laskau with us. (Henry went as an International judge.) Both Henry and Bruce did outstanding jobs on our behalf....Hope both the AAU and the Olympic Committee know of

our gratitude for their financing of our top walkers to these competitions. Sure hope their aid continues in the light of what is happening to our sport in the Olympic Games. I'd like to thank Bob Kitchen for giving me the opportunity to compete in the 20 km event.

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A FEW RACES IN THE NEXT COUPLE MONTHS

Sun. Dec. 9 3 Mile Hdcp. 1320 yd. grade school, Boulder, Col., 1 pm (B)

Sat. Dec. 15 10 Mile, Columbia, Mo., 8:30 a.m. (A)

5 Km, Seattle, Wash., 10 a.m. (S)

15 Km, Toronto, Can. (K)

Sat. Dec. 22—PW 15 Km, Kent, Wash. (S)

Sun. Dec. 30 New Year's Eve 20 Km, San Francisco (G)

5 Km, Kenosha, Wis. 11 a.m. (C)

Sat. Jan 5 5 Mile, Seattle, 10 a.m. (S)

Sun. Jan 13 5 Mile, Kenosha, Wis., 11 a.m. (C)

Sat. Jan. 19 5 Mile, Tacoma, Wash. (S)

We will continue our informal races on a bi-weekly basis in this area. If you are going to be around and are interested in a race, contact me for details. For the above races, contact the following:

A--Joe Duncan, 4004 Defor, Columbia, Mo. 65201

B--Floyd Godwin, 935 Ash, Broomfield, Colo.

C--Mike DeWitt, 8608 21st St., Kenosha, Wis. 53140

K--Doug Walker, 29 Alhambra, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

S--Dean Ingram, 507 Cobb Building, Seattle, Wash. 98101

Also, send me your schedules for 1974 races as they are drawn up. The schedule in here will only be as good as you make it as my only source of race information is from readers

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FROM HEEL TO TOE

A follow up to the Ron Laird letter above: a recent postcard from Ron indicates that he is still working at Messerschmitt, taking home \$91 per day, and has learned that if he puts a bottle of booze on the boss's desk he may be there for years. So he is thinking in terms of a long stay over there and joining a German club so he will be eligible for their nationals with 13 Senior titles. Also reports that he has found a nice room complete with English speaking daughters and piano, which he loves to practice (the piano)...Regarding the two Barbuszynskis who were 1-2 in the World Deaf Games 20 Km, one from Poland and the other from Denmark. They are indeed brothers, according to Carl Cronberg in Maryland. Stanislav defected to Denmark and this meet was the first time the brothers had seen each other in years....Tentative arrangements at the Lugano Cup competition for an international postal match at 10 km between the U.S. and Great Britain. The competition will be in spring and Bruce MacDonald should have further details later....Bruce also reports that the Women's international at 5 km will be in France next year and that the U.S. will be welcomed to make it a world championship if we can get a team there. Every effort will be made to do this, but as of now competitors will have to finance their own way if we do send a team....There will also be a Junior competition for boys with Canada next September at 5 km, with the Junior 5 Km Championship in Oregon used as a qualifier. The plans are to add a 10 km when both countries have sufficient depth of talent. So despite the present gloomy Olympic picture, about which we have no more at present, some things are looking up on the international scene.

LOOKING BACK (This feature has been missing for two months due to space limitations so we will cover three months here.)

Sep.-Nov. 1963 (From July-Aug. and Sep.-Oct 1963 issues of The Race Walker, both of which came out considerably later than their dates indicate.)

After about 3 weeks debate, Ron Laird was awarded first in the National 25 Km, held in Providence. Pulling away from Ron Zinn and Alex Oakley at about 10 miles and piling up a lead of some 600 yards, Ron was led astray by the escorting policeman and finished in 1:47:20, having actually gone about 22 Km. Zinn, trailing Oakley walked about the right course in 2:04:08 and was originally declared the winner. Oakley was led onto a long course and eventually finished in a taxi. Others approached the finish from all directions. Three weeks later, Laird was given the win, with Oakley, who never really finished through no fault of his own, given second and Zinn third. A well organized race...Laird also won the 15 in Atlantic City in 1:12:13 with Oakley a minute back and one J. Mortland edging Felix Cappella for fourth...And Laird also won the National Postal 20 Km track walk in 1:39:10 with no one else apparently in shape as Martin Rudow took second in 1:46:44...The Lugano trophy went to Great Britain with Ken Matthews murdering the 20 Km field by more than 3 minutes in 1:30:10 and Hungary's Istvan Havasi beating Ra y Middleton by nearly 3 minutes with 4:14:24.2 in the 50. The British were 29 points ahead of Hungary who nosed out Sweden by one point. Italy, Czechoslovakia, and West Germany followed. The USSR did not compete...Felix Cappella recorded a 1:34:24 20 Km in Canada and Bruce MacDonald turned in 4:58:17 for 50 on Staten Island...On the other side

of the country, Laird did 4:46:28  
5 Years Ago (from Sep., Oct., and Nov. 1963 ORWs) In the final Olympic Trials at Alamosa, Col. Ron Laird opened nearly a 2 minute lead by 15 km in the 20 and then wintstood a challenge by Veteran Rudy Haluza to win in 1:37:45 to 1:38:14. Larry Young was a clear third in 1:38:40 as Tom Dooley took fourth in 1:41:03. Following were Martin Rudow, Larry Walker, and Bill Ranney as Don DeNoon, Ray Somers, and Dave Romansky failed to finish....Three days later Young walked away with the 50 in 4:34:18 with Goetz Klopfer second in 4:44:02 and Romansky third in 4:47:23. Bob Kitchen finished faster than anyone, including Young, in the tough altitude conditions but still trailed Romansky by 3½ minutes at the finish. Bill Ranney was the only other finisher as Bowman, Kulik, Bocci, Hanley, and Kelly dropped out. Young chose to try only the 50 in Mexico, putting Dooley on the team...A day after the 50 Km trial a little 7 pound kid named Derek came to live with the Mortlands back in Columbus...Akos Szekely, one of our top walkers in the mid 60's, lost his life in Vietnam...About 9 days before his Olympic Trials endeavors, Larry Young won the NAAU 30 Km by nearly 3 miles over Jack Blackburn in Columbia with a 2:31:30...And in the National 15 in Atlantic City 2 days after the trials, Laird beat Romansky by 39 seconds in 1:09:03 with Kulik edging Blackburn by 8 seconds for third some 3½ minutes back...In Mexico City, Vladimir Golubnichiy held off a literally flying Jose Fedraza to win the 20 in 1:33:58.4 with Rudy Haluza a very strong fourth in 1:35:00.2. Dooley was 17th and Laird 25th....In the 50, it was all Christoph Hohne in 4:20:13.6, 10 minutes ahead of Antal Kiss of Hungary. And in third, beating Peter Selzer was Larry Young...In the Ohio TC Distance Carnival Gary West-erfield won Saturday's 7 miler in 55:01 with Blackburn 5 seconds back, and came back the next day to leave Mortland 5 minutes behind with a 2:06:13 for 15 miles...Bob Pollack won the Nat. Junior 50 in Missouri with a 5:01:26.3.