NASSAU CITY, N.Y., June 2--(Here is the full story on the race for which we had partial results last month, courtesy of Gary Westfield--as you know from last month, Jerry Brown and Floyd Godwin were 1-2 in this 20 km race. Gary provided the following detail.)--The race was conducted on a 2,500 meter course around the picnic grounds of Eisenhower Park in suburban Nassau County, Long Island. The macadam surface was relatively flat and consisted of pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths. A steady rain and cool temperatures kept weekend picnickers home. Had it not rained, allowing the thousands of picnickers that showed up on Memorial Day for the Junior 25 to reappear, I would be reinventing the Guano Pros. All sorts of bizarre episodes would be circulating. Those paranoid, beer-guzzling, horse-shoe-throwing type taking offense that a walker yelled an obscenity at his 'sweet' 12-year-old daughter who was wikiing down the walkway to nearest 12-year-old boy who was only chasing a fly ball in front of that skinny, bearded, queer-looking walker who did something really funny as he ran in the bushes, etc." Anyway, the rain kept most these types away, leaving the walkway to the walkers. What did mark the runners there were, were soon ensnared by Charlie Silkock as everybody's cheering section with the aid of a program listing entries.

A group of seven walkers quickly struck out from the field of 48 starters. Dave Romansky and Floyd Godwin, who had been penalized by TWA the day before (he'll lose TWA as TWA called it) along with Bob Henderson and John Knifton set the early pace. From my vantage point in the race, Jerry Brown was content to take it easy (or walk an even pace from the start). At the first lap, Jerry was 25 yards behind the leaders after having picked up an early caution from the judges, who did everything from hiding behind trees to riding up behind you on a bike. With the rain, it was hard to tell where they were. Ron Daniel and the English Junior Champ, Jack Lord were right behind. Everyone also settled back for their own races, leaving the US-JUNIOR Meet to this elite group.

Dave and Floyd went through 5 kms at 23:03. Brown had closed to within 10 yards. Knifton had backed off the pace after a caution for failure to straighten as he went through at 23:08. Henderson was back five yards and Lord dropped to 23:10 as he began to develop crumbs. Daniel was another 20 yards back and everyone else was out of sight.

At 7 1/2 kms Jerry moved up with Godwin and he started to pull hard in order to break away from the field. At 10 Kms, Romansky began to show the effects of the pace. With his limited training, he picked up a caution for loss of contact. Brown led with 6:12 at the halfway mark. Dave was 1:0 second back and Floyd another. Knifton was 50 yards back now
and falling out of it. Henderson, after his fine 1:33 plus performance in May, was 100 yards back and lusting to keep ahead of Daniel. Lord really moved in and drew out just before the rains (rains?), led by Gary Westfall caught up.

Just before the 15 km mark, Romansky picked up his second caution as he recklessly tired to stay with Brown. He would fall back and then come up to Jerry. Not realizing he was out, he continued to chase Jerry. Godwin, meanwhile, was beginning to feel the effects of his intestinal affirmations and he fell off the pace. Afterwards, Floyd said that he had second thoughts about racing, as he had spent the night in the Westfield bathroom (there were plenty of beds to go around)

Brown went through 15 km in 1:09:40, 8 seconds ahead of Dave who was still walking although he had gotten it. Godwin was 100 yards back now and another 150 yards to go but by 50 yards at 17, 20, 28, 31, 37. He was another 200 yards back, knowing that Bob was off the team. John kept ahead of his NYAC teammate another 200 yards back of Brown.

Brown finished easily in 93:33.4. Romansky, for what it is worth, finished in 93:57. Godwin, who had slowed to over 8 minute pace, captured second place in 95:01. Knifton held onto third over Daniel, and Henderson, who had really fallen off losing a minute to Daniel over the final 15 km, was fifth. Canadian Roman Ciziowski walked a very steady pace to capture the final medal. Westfield, in seventh, slwed just enough the last half to miss a 8 minute miles by about 5 seconds and Howie Pienar and McNamara in eighth missed the 1:40 mark by the same margin.

Junior Champion Jim Hurdie captured the Senior B prize as he finished ninth in an impressive 1:40:27. Wayne Glusker (the only Californian in the race) rounded out the top ten.


Bucci, participating in the concurrent Women's 10 Km, in close attendance, quickly established command of the race. After about a half mile the lumbering trio of Jerry Bucci, Leon Jasienowski, and Ron Daniel attempted to overhaul the flying Ken Boci. As I recall, Jeanne asked for comment on her style to which Jerry replied "You looked better at Boston." (The pair run the Boston marathon this spring.) Not questioning Jeanne's style, but there was but one judge at the race and I only recall seeing him once during the course of the affair.

Be that as may, Ron Daniel quickly established a slight lead and was content to let it stay there. Ron Kilik pulled clear of Falciola around 5 miles and stayed there. Mortland quickly lost about 2 minutes to this trio and gained about a minute on Boci and Jasienowski. All in all, it was a rather dull race up front. Bob Smith had an interesting struggle with 16-year-old Russ Frosts from Cupertino, dropping wall back, catching again, and then watching the long-legged youngster pull away down the finishing hills.

Upon finishing, we found that there was no watch on the race, but as good race-walking wives always do, Mrs. Daniel came to the rescue with at least approximate times for the first six from a trusty wrist watch. Ron was about 1:41, Kilik about 15 seconds back, Falciola around a minute behind him, Mortland about 1:45:30, Boci around 1:47, and Jasienowski at 1:49. Gary Bryant, Jim Johnson, Russ Frosts, and Bob Smith followed, with Bob having 2:07 on his wristwatch. Many minutes after the finish some came along saying Daniel's time was 1:36 and that was listed as the very suspect official time. Where it came from, we don't know. In any case, the margin between walkers was about as above. There were 17 starters and finishers but I didn't record the rest.

Jeanne's time in the 10 Km was recorded as 55 minutes, which lassos Boci and Jasienowski immediately jumped on as probably less accurate than Daniel's 1:36. In this case, there was no unofficial time to fall back on, so we have to accept this outstanding performance from the lady who has been doing practically no walking, albeit a lot of running.

Plus factors for the race were an excellent course in the Park and a very good field afterward. Minus factors are rather irrelevant since no one was too serious about the race anyway.

AND NOW, ON TO RESULTS****


Sat. July 27-20 km, Columbus, Oh., 6:30 a.m. (D)
20 km, Columbus, Oh. (S)
31 km, Athens, Ohio (D)
Sun. July 28-20 km, Columbus, Oh. (D)
31 km, Athens, Oh. (S)
Sat. Aug. 3-10 km, Ontario Games, Sudbury (D)
Sat. Aug. 4-MAU WHITNEY 40 km, Ind. 9 a.m. (D)
Sat. Aug. 8-1 freelance, Stratford, Conn. 6 p.m. (H)
Sat. Aug. 11-1 freelance, Columbus, Oh. 7:30 p.m. (N)
Sat. Aug. 14-1 freelance, Columbus, Oh. 6:30 p.m. (G, N)
Sun. Aug. 16-20 km, Sarnia, Ont. 2 p.m. (D)
Aug. 27 or 28-Caradore Senior 20 km, Toronto, Ont. (R)
Aug. 31-10 km, Independence, Mo. 10 a.m. (D)
Sept. 1-Kamehameha 50 km, Honolulu, Hawaii (N, D)
Sept. 2-Lawrence to Lowell, Mass. 20 km (T)