GOLUBNICHY, HOHNE PREVAIL

Two grand masters of the sport reigned supreme in the race walking competition at the XXI European Championships in Rome early this month. In the 20 Km, Vladimir Golubnichiy, the 36-year-old, four-time Olympic medalist, finally won a race that escaped him in the past—a European title. With a World's Record at age 19 way back in 1955 and two Olympic golds plus a silver and a bronze, Golubnichiy had never won this race, missing it twice with injuries and being beaten on two other occasions. This time he was not to be denied. He overcame the Rome heat and heavily favored Bernad Kannenberg to capture the title in 1:29:30.

In the 50, Christoph Hohne came all the way back from his rather dismal 14th in Munich two years ago as he broke 4 hours in winning his second European title. In this one, Kannenberg, who had been considered a good bet for a double win, faded all the way to ninth. The two races were tantamount to world championships, with only Raul Gonzalez (see next story) in the 20 and Larry Young in the 50 missing from those who could be considered strong contenders. The results would seem to stamp these two great veterans as the best ever at their respective distances. More about that later.

The 20 was held with the temperature in the high 70s and the humidity around 95 percent. Golubnichiy led, or was just off the lead, all the way and was apparently not seriously challenged after 10 km as the leading contenders either dropped out, got thrown out, or slowed to a crawl. Kannenberg and Peter Frenkel were with him at 10. Kannenberg nearly stopped at that point, so labored was his breathing. Although he hung on gamely from there and actually finished just 8 seconds back; he never made a real challenge for the lead. Frenkel, the '72 Olympian Gold Medalist and author of a recent 1:23:30 on a reportedly accurate course in Czechoslovakia, dropped off and eventually out before 15 km. Golubnichiy still appeared strong at the finish as everyone else wilted and commented: "my home in the Ukraine has similar weather so conditions were fine for me." One recalls him striding into Franklin Field in Philadelphia in the second US-USSR dual in 1959 looking strong and fit on a 95 degree day that reduced some fine athletes to mere puddles on the track.

The East Germans, for the first time since they started dominating the sport in the mid-'60s, were a complete bust. Frenkel, of course, quit. Then Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller, with a very good season coming into the meet and probably considered the leading challenger to Kannenberg, was DQ'd along with teammate Siegfried Zschekau. It is hard to recall when one of the stylish East Germans was last tossed in a major race.

With the Soviets second string, Yevgeniy Ivchenko, folding up something during the race, it became a wide open battle for the third medal.
The third Soviet walker, a newcomer to international competition, Vladimir Zhakoshik, took full advantage of the situation to capture third better than two minutes back of the leaders. Following him, England's Roger Mills walked a fine race to beat local favorite Armando Zambaldo and Poland's Jan Crnoch, who had beaten him soundly in an earlier dual meet. One thing sure, the results of this race, which should have clarified the picture, are sure going to make World Rankings for the year a difficult task.

The 50, held 4 days later, was a much more formal affair, except for the collapse of Kannenberg and rather poor showing of his teammate and world record holder, Gerhard Weidner. Kannenberg, of course, has concentrated on 20 this year, so his poor showing at the longer distance following an exhausting race may not be too surprising. At the 35 km mark, Hohne, Otto Bartoch, Peter Sellier, and Kannenberg were still together. At this point, however, it might have been expected to make a move, Kannenberg fell apart and Hohne moved out on his own. No one could match his strength in the hot conditions and he finally left Bartoch 3 minutes behind and Sellier another 2 back. Vittorio Visini, who had dropped out of the 20, was a close fourth but it was then a long way back to defending titleist, Benjamin Soldatenko. Winfried Skotnicki was just back of him, and ahead of Weidner who had dropped out of the 20, was still together. At this point, when he might have been expected to follow the leaders, Hohne pushed on and after 40 km totally deserted the others. The appointed finisher was England's Bob Dobson. With a recent 11:41 on the track he could manage only 1:36:35 here. This was, I believe, his fourth or fifth 50 in about 4 months, which may have been a bit much.

Results of the two races (no splits yet, but hopefully next month):


- **50 km, Sept. 7:** 1. Christoph Hohne, W 1:28:38.6, 2. Peter Sellier, USSR 1:29:36.8, 3. Peter Sellier, USSR 1:29:44.8.

Following the race, Hohne stated that he was retiring since there would be no 50 in Montreal. Golubnichiy's plans for the future are not known. A brief summary of the careers of these two who have been at or near the top for so long follows.

Vladimir Golubnichiy was born on February 2, 1936. He first came to prominence in race walking when he walked a world's best on the road of 1:30:32.2 at Kiev on September 23, 1955. Nine days later he took to the track, also in Kiev, and set an official World's Record of 1:30:02.8. However, in 1956 his best time was 1:34:29.6 and he was not taken to Melbourne for the Olympics. In 1959 he was back down to 1:31:20 and on September 23 of the following year he shattered his World Record with an astounding 1:27:05 on the track at Simferopol. Apparently he did not compete in the European Championships, or if he did, he was out of the first six.

In 1959, his record came down again as he strode around the track in Odessa in 1:26:13.2. However, although eventually accepted as a USSR record, this time was never submitted for acceptance as a world record. His 1959 record stood until 1969, when countryman Gennady Agapov lowered it. Besides his great track walk, Golubnichiy also had a 1:27:03 and two other clockings under 1:29 during the 1959 season as he prepped for the Rome Olympics.

The Rome 20 was walked in probably worse conditions, heat wise, than the just completed European Championships. And Vladimir was equally ready then. Leading from the start he opened up a 65 second lead by 15 km and then hung on through a tortuous last 5 in the heat as Noel Freeman, from Australia came in with his best of the day's races.

With the USSR choosing not to compete in the first Lugano Cup Championships, Golubnichiy took it easy in 1961 and had a best time of 1:32:17, finishing fourth in that race. The following year he sought his first European Championship but had to settle for third in 1:35:36.6 behind Ken Matthews and Dieter Lindner. His best time for the year was 1:29:11.1. 1963 was another year of relative rest as again the Soviets did not compete. By this time his and Golubnichiy's best time was 1:30:12.

He went to Tokyo in 1964 to defend his Olympic Championship and this time best Freeman by 7 seconds but for the bronze medal, Matthews and Lindner were again ahead of him with Matthews scoring the most decisive victory in any recent top international 20 km some 1:39 ahead of Lindner. Matthews was 1:29:34 with Golubnichiy finishing in 1:31:59.4. It is unfortunate that the Englishman chose to retire following the race as the two would have had many other exciting duels.

The Soviets still failed to show at Lugano in 1965 but Golubnichiy had a good season with a 1:29:36 and also a 1:30:15.6 on the track. The next year he tried again for the European title but was frustrated again by Dieter Lindner who won in 1:29:25 as Vladimir settled for second in 1:30:06. With the 1967 Lugano Cup races in East Germany, the USSR finally competed and Golubnichiy finished second in 1:28:38.4, 20 seconds behind teammates Hans Smagga and 20 ahead of Ron Laird.

With the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, Golubnichiy overcame both the problems of altitude and the running of Jose Pedraza to capture his second gold medal by 1.6 seconds in 1:33:56.4. Not a lot was heard from the great between Mexico City and Munich. He laid out in both 1969 and 1971, due partially to injuries but was very fit in 1970 where he finished second in behind Hans-Georg Reimann in the first Lugano Cup race with 1:27:21.4 when Olympic time did roll around again he was very much ready for a shot at his third gold medal. In the fastest major race ever, he just failed to match Peter Frenkel's strong finish and finished second some 13 seconds back in 1:26:59.6. With his great race in Rome this year it would seem a good bet, barring injury, that we will see him again in next year's Lugano Cup, especially with it being held in the USSR, and probably in Montreal in 1976. Certainly he has had his conquerors through the years, particularly Matthews and Lindner, but years after they have called it a career, Golli is still out challenging and beating, all comers.
Christoph Hohne, some 5 years younger than Golubnichiy (born Feb. 12, 1941), has been even more dominant over 50 km than has the Soviet walker over 20. He can boast one Olympic and two European gold plus three Lugano Cup titles since 1965. But for injury problems, his record would probably be even more impressive. And, he has now come back to beat all his past conquerors.

This East German phenom first came into his own with a fourth-place finish in the 1962 European Championships with a 4:29:37.8. He had a best of 4:25:13.6. The following year, he led the world with a best of 4:10:24.8. He wasn’t quite ready in 1964 finishing sixth in the Tokyo Olympics in 4:17:41.6. His best time was 4:12:49.2 that year. In 1965 he was ready as he won the Lugano Cup 50 in an astounding 4:03:14, leaving the rest of the field better than 3 minutes behind. He also turned in a 4:10:51.8 on the track that year, In 1965 he was ready as he won the Lugano Cup 50 in an astounding 4:03:14, leaving the rest of the field better than 3 minutes behind. He also turned in a 4:10:51.8 on the track that year.

In 1966 he turned in times of 4:06:23.4, 4:09:47.4, 4:11:30.6, and 4:12:15 all winning efforts leading to the Mexico Olympics. With high temperatures compounding the problems of altitude, he completely destroyed the Olympic field leaving second place more than 10 minutes behind with a 4:20:13.6.

Hohne continued his dominance in 1969 and 1970, with a first in the 1969 European title race in 4:12:32.8 and in the 1970 Lugano Cup in 4:04:35. In the latter race he beat Benjamine Soldatenko 5 minutes behind with a 4:20:13.6. The following year, he continued with times of 4:05:19.4, 4:05:09.1, and 4:05:06.6 on the track.

Someone finally caught up with him in 1971 as Soldatenko beat him at his own fast finish in the European Championships. Soldatenko had a 4:02:22 to Hohne’s 4:04:35.2. Hohne also beat to Soldatenko and Selzer in a duel with a 4:06:05 but turned in other fast times of 4:07:12.5 to and 4:07:06.7.

At the Munich Olympics, Hohne was only a shadow of his former self, again fighting injury problems, and finished 14th in 4:20:43.8. Earlier in the year he had appeared ready with times of 3:57:44.4, 4:03:03.4, and 4:06:45.2. Lesser men might have decided it was time to hang it up following such a performance but Hohne came back strongly in 1973 and finished third, just 35 seconds behind Olympic champion Kannenberg, in the Lugano Cup race with a 3:57:25.3. This year he has come all the way back, first with his 3:52:52.8 early in the year and now with another European title. One might wish that if he is indeed retiring, he would have a go at the 50 km record before he does. In any case, he obviously ranks number one and a few titles to win before they can challenge that.

**GONZALEZ IN FAST 20**

Canada took six walkers to Mexico for a dual meet on September 17 and Raul Gonzalez completely dominated the 20 km race with a startling 1:27:52.4. Judging from the times of the Canadians, whose abilities we know pretty well, one can assume that it was a reasonably accurate course. Gonzalez was 20th in the Munich 50 km in 4:26:13 but began to show the stamp of greatness at the shorter races with some fast times, including a 42:37.10 km, in England last year. He also had a 1:36:00.4, 20 km last year. With his brilliant solo effort here, he looks like a man to watch in 1976 if he can get some good competitive races the next two years.

**MILLS IN 1 MILE BEST**

London, Sept. 13 - On an emotionally charged evening, Roger Mills more than justified his sprinting ability by arriving at 1 mile 1.4 sec. inside Dave Romansky’s previous world best of 3:51.0. Blazing through 440 yard in 86.7, the AAA 3 km champion wisely allowed Gerald LeLievre through on the inside at 700 m before retaking the lead exactly a lap later. The Frenchman, who was sharing the lead with Gonzalez, was 6th at 10 km in 35:36 and about to quit with 2 km left (now there’s a bit of information you didn’t get from my sketchy details of that race), never gave up and was only 5 meters down at the finish. The overall standard was magnificent, Brian Adams easily holding third, Amos Seddon showing fine speed, Bob Dobson with no training since the Rome 50 still clocking inside 6:42, while Ken Carter and Alan Buchanan also caught the eye with fine performances. Only Geoff Toone, fourth at 600, fell foul of the judges. The crowd was delighted with both the battle for the lead and the record. Results:


Here is some further detail on the European races. Golubnichiy was 45.04 at 10 km so accelerated from there. By 15 he had 56:54 with Stadtmuller second in 57:06, LeLievre third in 57:15 and Kannenberg fourth in 57:18. Stadtmuller was, of course, disqualified some time after that and LeLievre dropped out. Mills, in fourth, nearly collided in the heat as entered the Stadium, moved off all over the track on his final lap, and finished like a man, finishing on instinct alone. Hohne did another blister finish with 5 km splits of 49:04, 48:26.8, 47:28.6, 46:39.2, and 47:32.6. Kannenberg led at 10 in 49:00 and 20 in 1:37:28.4. Bartsch was ahead at 30 in 1:39:13 before Hohne made his winning move.
50 Km Details:

Here is more detail on the 50 Km for which we had partial results last month. First, the complete results with 5 Km splits for the first six and 10 Km splits for the next 4:


AND RACES (Runs and Flourishes) RACE WALKING RESULTS FROM AROUND:

- Daniele, AAAU 1 Mile, Fairfield, Sept. 8-1. Seth Harwick 6:46:10, 2. Stop Harwick 6:46:10

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1:31:00 8. Milan Belko 1:31:53

UPROCING RACES

Sun. Oct. 19--NAU WOMEN'S 10 KM (TRACK), COLUMBUS, OH, 10 a.m. (D) NAAU SENIOR 30 KM, COLUMBUS, OH, 12:30 p.m. (D)

Sat. Oct. 20--NAU & Open 15 KM, Fairfield, 10 a.m. (K) (Wait a minute! Having typed that, it seems that I got a note sometime recently that the race is off.)

Sat. Nov. 2--15 KM, Toronto, Can., 9:30 a.m. (E)

NAAU 100 KM AND OPEN 50 MILE, NATCHES, LA. (H)

Sat. Nov. 9--NAAU 10 KM, FORT WORTH, TX. (M)

Sat. Nov. 23--10 KM (Track), Chicago, IL. 9 a.m. (E)

Contact for above races:

A--Dave Eidahl, Box 72, Richland, WA, 52565
B--Joe Duncan, 4004 Defoe, Columbia, Mo. 65201
D--Joe Duncan, 4004 Defoe, Columbia, Mo. 65201
M--Don Jacobs, Box 2346, Tigard, Ore. 97223
N--Jack Baitano, 40 McLeod Place, Stratford, Conn. 06497
Y--Bill Ross, 2835 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL.

U.S. WOMEN IN SCANDAVIA

Last month we had partial results of the Women's International 5 KM in Stockholm in which Sue Brodock recorded a World's Best and the US team finished second. Here are details on all the results and experiences of our team on this trip as supplied by Bruce MacDonald.

The girls on the team were Sue Brodock, 18, Esther Margarida, 19, Linda Brodock, 15, Chris Sakelarios, 14, and Joanne Shima, 14. All but Joanne, who is from New York, live in California. Gill Bristow was the chauffeur.

The first stop was in Copenhagen where the girls stayed in a small hotel on the outskirts of the city. The hotel was a block from the city center and was filled with joggers and wild deer, which was where the girls trained for their first 2 days in Denmark.

The next step was in Odense where after a couple of interesting sight-seeing tours, they had their first race. This was a 5 KM affair held on a 1 km road loop, which was fairly flat and fast. The course was only 1 mile and apparently quite accurate. Sue won this race in 24:57. (Results follow.)
It was then off to Sdr. Omme by train where they stayed in police housing and were fed in private homes. There was a meet the first day at 3 km in which the girls were told to take it as a strong practice. Sue won again, breaking the Danish All-C'mers record as did Ester in second, Chris in fourth, and Linda in fifth.

Three days later the team was driven to Fredericia for a 5 km road race. Again all the girls walked extremely well and all bettered their times. The course was an up and down one but the hills were not too bad. As with the other meets, there were many races for all ages with many of the same people as at the other two races. There was a pleasant get together after the competition with kids flocking around the girls for their autographs. This was a new experience that made them feel good. They stayed in a youth hostel that night and in the morning were taken on a tour of the town during which they were given T-shirts with their names on them.

The following day it was back to Copenhagen for 2 days of training and relaxation at a sports hotel. There was time for sight-seeing and shopping with much of this conducted by Palle Lassen, Chairman of the IAAF Sub-Committee on Race Walking.

From Copenhagen, it was an 8½ hour train ride to Stockholm for the big race on Saturday. In Stockholm they had three nights at the Swedish Sports Institute before the competition. This is on an island and the Institute is right on the edge of the water. The food was good and again there was ample time for sight-seeing and for rest for the meet.

In the race, the girls moved out quickly and started to get away from the traffic jam and the elbows, which the English girls had told them about. Sue took the lead from the gun and moved right away from the pack with our other girls 2, 3, 4. Ester Marques was given a caution after 1½ laps and was EQ'd after three. Left the US with just four walkers and four to a team to score, putting the pressure on the other girls.

The championship this time was an unofficial world championship. Next year it may be official because at the technical meeting the US asked if the IAAF would recognize the championship as such. The competition may be conducted the day before the Lugano Cup Championship. Other countries were pleased that the US team showed up because it made the competition more worldwide and will make it easier to apply to the IAAF for recognition.

The five girls improved greatly on the trip and put in good times in Denmark. The times were so good that I thought the courses must have been short but I didn’t tell the girls this. The times they walked in the Championship indicate this was not the case.

The day after the Championship, four of the girls went into 5 km on the road. They went in mainly for a workout and to get additional international experience. The team was treated extremely well in both Denmark and Sweden and some of the expenses were taken care of by the governments of both countries through their sports federations.

The girls feel that the trip was worthwhile and a team should go next year. Finally, I should mention that after Ester Marques was disqualified, she got into the next race for women. It was 3 km and she took second. I was extremely proud of her because she was really broken up about being EQ’d but she showed enough guts to come right back and get into the next race.

In Sweden there is one man who goes all over the country teaching race walking to the elementary school students. If they obtain a certain time they receive a pin. They have more than 100,000 kids racing each year.