Ron Laird served notice on his rivals that he is well prepared for a strong bid at his fourth Olympic team as he won Senior National titles at 10, 15, and 20 Km during the month of May. These wins give him five titles already in 1976 and a total of 64 for his career. Although none of the races had really deep fields, as many top walkers are staying home preparing for the big one, Ron dominated all three races and appears to be the man to beat in Eugene. Stories on the three races follow.

New York, May 2—Ron Laird journeyed up from his Mexican training grounds to easily annex his 62nd National Senior title in the National 20 Km Walk today. Although several of the top contenders for Olympic berths chose to bypass this race since they were already qualified for the trials, Ron had little trouble with those who did show as he came home in 1:33:53.

A mild surprise in second was Dan O'Connor, more noted for his distance feats in the past, who proved he can indeed walk fast, competitive races at 20 Km. Among his victims was two-time Olympian Larry Young, who finished third and still appears to be somewhat short of his top form. Wayne Goucher continued his string of impressive races in fourth and certainly stands ready to pick off any favorites who falter in Eugene. In fifth place, Jim Heirin, who has had so many impressive 10 Km races the past 2 years, finally made the move up and just missed the Olympic Trials qualifying time. He is going to be tough to handle if and when he gets some experience at the distance. Another surprise in the race was the poor showing of John Knifton who struggled home a distant 12th. Dave Rosansky, expected to perhaps give Laird a battle, was disqualified early in the race. At this point I have no further details on the race and only partial results, which follow. Full story next month, I hope.


John Knifton, NYAC 1:44:43

Boulder, Colorado, May 15 (From Pete Van Arsdale)—Neither rain, sleet, or hail seem to be able to keep Ron Laird from his appointed rounds. In this case, he went 'round the University of Colorado track nearly 25 times in a rain storm to capture the National 10 Km Championship. Ron's time of 45:106.9 set a new Rocky Mountain AAU record beating Floyd Godwin's 1:47.9 of 1971.

Laird and Jerry Brown broke to the lead early. Ron passed the first mile in 7:05 and Jerry in 7:08. They were followed by Greg LeGuelle, Floyd Godwin, Jerry Gymer, and Pete Van Arsdale. By the 3-mile mark it was a two-man race, Laird up on Brown 21:20 to 21:45. Unfortunately Jerry had already received a caution and eventually was disqualified at the 4-mile point. The final order of finish went unchanged, with Van Arsdale hold-
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...continued from Page 12...

ing on to fifth just ahead of Chris Amoroso. The Colorado Track Club "Blue" team captured the team title with 10 points. The results:


Champaign, Illinois, May 29—Laird wrapped up his month's activity on the national level with a decisive victory in the 15 Km Championship on the Memorial Stadium track here today. Laird took command after the first 100 yards and was never challenged after that. Storming through the first mile in 6:58 he stayed ahead of the above 10 km pace through 3 miles and, although slowing considerably the last 4 miles when he lost concentration with no opposition, finished in a very respectable 1:08:49.

John Knifton and Jerry Brown waged a duel for the second spot in the early stages. Jerry received a caution during the 2nd mile and eventually gave up the chase as Knifton improved considerably over his poor pace in the 20 km. Floyd Godwin, still hoping to make the qualifying standard for the Trials, walked a lonely race in fourth. He was one of the only runners who dropped out at 20 km at the start and the officials were ready but he was unable to maintain his pace and gave it up at the official distance.

Alan Price walked a swift first 800 and a strong final 5 km to capture fifth, in second place ahead of the field started to spread, his pace dropped sharply after the first 3 laps or so. He quickly dropped back to fifth and at about 3 miles, your editor, once nearly a half-lap in back of Price pushed him back into seventh. After dropping about 150 yards behind me he stayed right there and then at about 10 km he was flying past me and closing on fifth-place Jerry Young who also had my eye on some 40 yards ahead. Price moved swiftly away from both over the final 2 miles as he recovered fully from his mid-race doldrums.

The young Young, who looks very promising with fine style, reopened his lead on Larlton during that last 2 miles. Jim Breitenbucher, who walked with Karlton for the first 9 laps and then had a Price-like laped also came back well at the finish to preserve eighth place over Larlton's walker leeward Buen.

A hot sun during parts of the race and fairly humid conditions did not help the competitors, but it thwarted what you'd call one of our real furnace races by any means. Unfortunately, final times were taken only for the first six (and the final finisher) and some of the times in (cont. on Page 14)
From this, one might guess that Baptista, Gonzalez, and Colín would be the Mexican trio in Montreal, but Flores won an International 20 km over Fred Karnberg in May (results elsewhere in this issue) so it may still be up for grabs.


Portland, Ore., May 21 -- Scott Kaesinger won the National Junior 5 km Walk here today, becoming the first American in a dual program at Delta Park today. Both winners got the lead early and then stayed there without serious challenge. The results:

**Junior 5 km:***
1. Scott Kaesinger 21:37 
2. Bill Hillard 22:02 
3. Pat Wilson 22:16 
4. Julio Fraschini 22:29 
5. Dave Faber 22:43 
6. Nolan Johnson 23:01 
7. Steve DiBenedetto 23:22 
8. Duke Hensleco 23:41 
9. Brian Connors 23:49 
10. John Hensleco 24:09 
11. Paul Lea 24:23 
12. Don Little 24:49 
13. Don Wiersma 25:31 
14. John Smith 25:46 
15. Gary Yockey 26:05 
16. Brian Connors 26:25 
17. Scott Kaesinger 26:34 
18. John Hensleco 26:42 
20. Don Little 27:18 
22. Scott Kaesinger 27:34 
23. John Hensleco 27:42 
24. Brian Connors 27:50 
25. Brian Connors 28:08 

**Senior 10 km:***
1. Scott Kaesinger 42:58 
2. Roger Hilly 43:08 
3. Paul Lea 43:16 
4. Don Little 43:24 
5. Don Wiersma 43:32 
6. Brian Connors 43:40 
7. John Smith 43:48 
8. Gary Yockey 43:56 
9. Brian Connors 44:04 
10. John Hensleco 44:12 
11. Brian Connors 44:20 
12. Don Little 44:28 
13. Brian Connors 44:36 
14. Scott Kaesinger 44:44 
15. John Hensleco 44:52 
16. Brian Connors 45:00 
17. Don Little 45:08 
18. Brian Connors 45:16 
19. Scott Kaesinger 45:24 
20. John Hensleco 45:32 
21. Brian Connors 45:40 
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**MASTER'S AND DIAMONDBACK NATIONAL TITLES**

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**MASTER'S AND DIAMONDBACK NATIONAL TITLES**

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Mexican Contenders. In the top photo, Domingo Colin is seen during a 20 km in Toronto last May. In the lower photo, Enrigue Vera leads Daniel Bautista, Number 1 in the World at 20 km in 1975, during a 10 km at the same site. The latter two ably demonstrate the extremely flexible Mexican style. This could be the Mexican team in Montreal, although there is little to choose between them, Pedro Aroche, Angel Flores, and Raul Gonzalez.

(Photos from Raymond Bluteau)

Four All-Time Greats at 50 km. From left: Benjamin Soldatenko, USSR (863); Bernd Kannenberg, W. G. (471); Otto Bartsch, USSR (823); and Christoph Hohne, E. G. (397). Kannenberg and Bartsch (provided he qualifies for the Soviet team) are leading contenders for the 20 km Gold in Montreal. (Photo from Dansk Gangforbund)
UPCOMING RACE-WALKING ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT

Sat. June 19—20 K Olympiad Trial, Eugene, Ore., 1 p.m. (Qualified individuals only)
TEAM 10 K (T)
USSTP Easter's 1 Mile, California, Pa., 2:20 p.m. (V)
Sun. June 20—USSTP Easter's 6 Mile, California, Pa., 11 a.m. (V)
Sat. June 26—USSTP Easter's 10 K (T)
Senior Olympics 5 K, Irvine, Cal., 9 a.m. (J)
4 Mile, 2 Mile Women, Boise, Id., 6:30 p.m. (J)
6 Mile, Birmingham, Mich., 9 a.m. (X)
Sun. June 27—Sr. Olympics 10 K, Irvine, Cal., 8:45 a.m.
20 K, Hillsdale, Ontario (H)
Sun. July 4—USSTP JUDEI 15 K, Ogdensburg (G)
2.2 Mile, Denver, 9 a.m. (G)
5 and 10 K, National Master's Track Meet, Gresham, Ore.
(Only 5 is a title event) (R)
Mon. July 5—Daruma Festival 10 K, Bridgeport, Conn., 10 a.m. (A)
Sat. July 10—10 K, Columbia, Missouri, 9 a.m. (D)
Sun. July 11—10 K, Midwest Easter's, Chicago, 8:30 a.m. (L)
USSTP EASTER'S 20 K, CHICAGO (G)
1 Hour, Iowa (J)
Sun. July 18—USSTP Class 20 K (T)
Sat. July 25—USSTP 50 K, Longmont, Colo., 7 a.m. (F)
Canadian 20 K (I)
Sat. July 31—20 K, Columbia, Mo., 6:30 a.m. (D)
15 K, Grand Forks, N.D., 6:30 p.m. (J)
Sun. Aug. 1—USSTP JUDEN 20 K, VANCOUVER (R)
Sun. Aug. 8—USSTP JUDEN, "NO" AND KASHIVER 40 K, LOUGHAUGH (B)
Sat. Aug. 14—24 Hour Relay and 50 Mile, Ft. Monroe, Va., 12 noon and 6 p.m.
3 K, Cedar Rapids, 9 a.m. (J)
Sun. Aug. 15—USSTP JUDEN 50 K, CHICAGO (I)
Sat. Aug. 21—15 K, Columbia, 9 a.m. (J)
Women's 5 K, Children's 5 K, Men's 10 K, Brownfield, Col. 6 a.m. (F)
5 K, Pocatello, 6 a.m., 6 p.m. (J)
3 Mile, Pocatello, N.Y., 4 p.m. (W)

ENDS

ALL-THE-50 KM RANKINGS

The Danish race-walking magazine has come up with an interesting ranking of the top 50 men over the years, which we are passing on. Fortunately, their ranking was completely statistical so the fact that I don't read Danish didn't stop me from understanding. They merely took each man's top ten times, assigned a point scale of some kind, and came up with total points for each man. An average of the ten times would have achieved the same ranking. Here is the way it looks:

[Table with rankings and times]

FAY 1976
E—Sal Giral, 10031 Cheshunt Dr., Cheshire, WA 99026
F—Fred Quandt, 20303 E. Bluff, Denver, CO 80210
G—Mike Ryan, 1508 E. Oakley, Chicago, IL 60625
H—Dave Kondal, Box 500, Richland, WA 99352
I—Robert Fine, 10 Park Place, New York, NY 10007
J—Fred Holm, 157 Main, Watam, TX 76501
K—John Harvick, 467 Beverly Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15216
L—Carl Carlson, 25 University Park, Fredericton, N.B. 10063
M—Bill Walker, 1520 Chandler Park Dr., Detroit, MI 48224

(* * * * * * *)

(Names in parentheses are personal bouts)
Subjectively, one would be hard put to choose between Hobbs and Kameancr as the better, but certainly one would not place Kameancr sixth. However, one can quickly see that one more race of 4:00 or better could jump Kameancr to third and two more into first. And certainly he hasn't yet proven himself over the period of time or number of races that people did. Running down the great East German's record one finds Hobbs sixth in the Tokyo Olympics, when he was just arriving at excellence, first at the Los Angeles, and 14th at Munich in his one bad international race. In Eugene Cup competition, he won in 1965, 1967, and 1970 and once third in 1973. In European Championships he was 6th in 1962, 2nd in 1971, and won in both 1969 and 1974.

FROM HERE TO TOE

The Olympic qualifying picture: Unofficially, the following people are qualified for the Final Trials: Ron Laird, Jerry Brown, Bob Kitichen, Larry Young, Tod Smuly, John Knifton, Tom Dooley, Goetz Klopfer, Wayne Quinter, Johnny Lee, Tom Gate, Larry Walker, Dave Rooney, Bill Ranney, Ron Daniels, Ted Krabach, and maybe Bryan Shaselle, Steve Johnnson, and Dennis Slattery. At this point, Ron Laird appears to be ahead of the field and a solid choice to be on the team. This writer would have to pick Larry Young and Tod Smuly for the other two spots but they don't look as sure to me as they do a few months ago. (I forget many of my favorites.-Author.) If there are no other candidates, Tom Dooley, Wayne Quinter, John Knifton, Larry Young, who have no national records, are most likely to step in. (Whoops, I forget one other candidate--the new fellow, Kail Pyke. Thus there may be as many as 22 qualifiers, with a few people still planning last-hour attempts.)

Bill Emmons, the marathon man, is planning an assault on the Strawbourg-to-Paris race next year (that's an approximate 215 km affair) and would like to take a 5 or 6 man American team with him. He has some money promised to sponsor such a venture and would like to see who might be interested. It is possible a triatlon race or two might be held sometime in the interim. If you are interested please drop a note either to the editor or to Bill at 111 Grandview Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43222...Bob Steinman has asked me at that age does one achieve "master" status and suggests that I might publish the answer as a matter of general interest. On your 40th birthday, you are officially a "Master," veteran, 40-49, etc. In 1959 the best marks for any distance or age, i.e., 40-49, 50-59, etc. or 50-59, etc. When you reach your 50th, 60th, etc. birthday, you "graduate" to the next class. In some meets they also have sub-master competition starting at either 30 or 35...Dean Ingraham writes regarding a race walking travel fund, which has been started with a $750.00 contribution from Larry Lorson, raised through the sale of 111, a list of American patches. Dean has watched this sport for years and believes it is very promising. Upon completion of his study he will, if possible, publish the results. Write Dean at 507 Cobble Hill, Seattle, WA 98101 for further information.
In the 20 K, Todd Scully, competing in the Invitational section and not as a scoring competitor, was clearly the class of the field. He led all the way after opening up a 1-minute lead in the first 4 miles and finished in 1:31:05.2. Dan O'Connor led the U.S. team in 1:35:51, a personal best, and Bob Kitchen finished strongly to nip Glenn Sniez in 1:36:05.6. A series of head-to-head duels marked the competition as less than 2 minutes separated the field from second to eighth place for the first 12.5 kilometers. Sweeney dueted O'Connor for 15 K before faltering and yielding to Kitchen's challenge. Alex Oakley matched stride for stride with Tom Knatt and Kenter l'dth before being overcome by the Americans' superior late pace. The Capital Walkers' Alan Price traded the heels of Ron Kulik for 5 miles, then moved up to threaten Tom Knatt briefly at 20 K, building up a margin sufficient to withstand Kulik's late push.

U.S. Walkers dominated Saturday's 32.6 K race as Jerry Lansine won by 6 seconds over Angle Hirt of Columbia, Missouri in 2:45:20. Again, the outcome was in doubt until the final seconds as Hirt and Paul Ide were neck and neck for 14 miles while Lansine built a 50 second lead. Ide then sprinted to catch Lansine but faded in the final two laps to finish third. Hirt made up 54 seconds in the last two laps to come even with Lansine, but the latter pulled away in the final 200 meters.

During the race it was discovered that the loop was too long and the decision was made to reduce the race to 12 laps making the 32.6 K distance. The course was resurfaced following the race and adjusted to an approximate 2.5 K for Sunday's races.

In the 10 K, Todd Scully and Helmut Boech come back from the 35 K to finish 1-2, Sal Corrollo won the 3rd division in 50:01 and Dr. Ed Doran, 78, of Buffalo, finished in 81:25. The women's 5 K went to Eileen Smith in 27:53. Results:


In line with some interpretations, Dr. Bernstein said it could be supposed that in small towns fewer activities are taking place on the street and one can walk at a leisurely pace without suffering a sensory overload. In big cities, however, the streets are full of commotion; walking faster may be a way of keeping one's attention focused and of getting through the commotion more specifically.

We now have our Second Class permit and perhaps the service will improve without the pending statement on the front. The last two issues have apparently taken anywhere from 1 to 6 weeks to reach their destination.