San Jose, Cal., April 21—Debbie Lawrence and Tim Lewis solidified their positions as the top U.S. walkers in their events with impressive wins in the World Cup Trials today. The 29-year-old Lawrence bettered her own American road record for 10 Km as she qualified for her fourth World Cup team. Her blazing 11:08 for the first 2 1/2 Km put her 12 seconds ahead of Lynn Weik and Teresa Vaill and she just continued to pull away through the rest of the race. After that fast start, she walked an amazingly steady pace with 11:26, 11:26, and 11:32 splits thereafter. Her 45:32 was 2 seconds under her best last fall at the Alongi Invitational.

Weik and Vaill got away from Victoria Herazo after the first 1250 meter lap and walked together the whole way. Weik got the nod for second as both finished in 46:56. This will be the third World Cup for Weik and fourth for Vaill. Herazo, never dropped more than 18 seconds behind the pair and closed on the final lap to take fourth in 47:05. This will be her first World Cup team. Wendy Sharp took the final spot, her second time on the team, catching Sara Standley just past 5 Km and pulling well clear by the finish. Standley really hit the wall the last two laps, losing the sixth spot to Debora Van Orden and just holding off Lynda Brubaker. Viisha Sedlak in 10th was the first Master, some 31 seconds ahead of Gayle Johnson, who took 50 seconds off her time in the Mortland Invitational the week before.

Lewis also was in command of the race throughout as he won the 20 Km Trial in 1:26:52. This will be Tim's fifth World Cup, a place he already had won with a fifth place in the 50 Km Trial. We assume he will go in the 20, moving Dan O'Connor onto the team at 50--his eighth team. Doug Fournier broke up a race long dual with Allen James and Curtis Fisher over the last 4 Km to cop the second spot and make his second team. Don Lawrence was also in that race for second through 12 Km, but dropped away at that point. However, he was never challenged for the final spot on the team over the final 5 Km and joins wife Debbie. James, Fisher, and Lawrence will all be on their first World Cup team. The only other person in contention for a spot on the team after the first 10 Km was Andrezzej Chylinski—and I don't know who he is. Obviously a Polish name, but I assume he was eligible for the team or he wouldn't have been in the race. We should solve the mystery by next month.
Above: Doug Fournier hits the tape to win the National Invitational 20 Km held around the reflecting pool in Washington D.C. (Photo by Tracey Wong Briggs)

Below: Brentwood, N.Y. racewalkers Roselle (L) and Danielle, (R) Safran became the youngest competitors at the National Scholastic T&F Championships to gain All-American honors, finishing fourth (7:51.3) and fifth (7:54.7), respectively, in the 1 Mile. Roselle is 13 and Danielle 12.

The race was for second between two masters who both dropped in having Gayle captured the women's 10 Km before holding second all the way, and at 10 Km the day before. Fighting cool weather, intermittent heavy rains, and several major puddles that completely covered the course, Gayle moved away from Canada's Micheline Daneau after the first kilometer and recorded an easy win in 52:59, better than a half-minute faster than she had done in Washington 3 weeks earlier.

In the men's race, Michigan's Dan O'Brien took command from the start and won easily in 1:30:09, though he slowed significantly on the final 5 km. The race was for second between two masters walkers, Alan Price and Victor Sipes. Price held second all the way, and at 10 km had 21 seconds on Sipes and 59-year-old Max Green. The lead was down to 16 seconds at 15 km and 6 seconds as they started the final 2 km. But Sipes could not catch up, and the Washington endurance specialist had his second place. Green was unable to match the other two over that final 5 km, but still had an amazing time for someone in his 60th year. The results:


Schennikov and Anders win at World Championships

Both Mikhail Schennikov of the Soviet Union and German's Beate Anders bettered world indoor records in winning the walking races at the World Indoor Championships in Seville, Spain on March 9 and 10. Anders beat defending champion Kenny Saxby of Australia in the 3 Km on March 9, as she broke her own world indoor mark with a 11:50.50. The old record was 11:56.0. In the men's 5 Km the next day, Schennikov barely beat Italy's Giovanni DiBenedetto while bettering the old world mark by just 0.33. Results of the races:

Women's 3 Km-1. Beate Anders, Germany 11:50.90 2. Mary Anne Tann (41) 45:23 3. Debbi Lawrence, and Florida 11:51.50

OTHER RESULTS

Thu. June 6
5 Km, Miami (Q)

Fri. June 7
5 Km, Trenton, New Jersey (A)
5 Km, Winthrop, Mass., 9 am (U)
5 and 10 Km, Dearborn, Michigan, 10 am (J)
5 Km, Lebanon, Oregon, 10 am (S)

Sun. June 9
Metropolitan 1 Hour Championship, New York City (Z)

Mon. June 10
5 Km, West Long Branch, NJ, 6:30 pm (A) (And each Monday evening through August 26)

Sat. June 15
1 Mile, Lawrenceville, New Jersey (A)
4 Km, Chicago (G)
5 Km, Rock Valley, Iowa (L)
5 Km, Los Angeles (B)

Sun. June 16
15 Km, Portland, Oregon (S)
5 Km, New York City, 9 am (W)

Wed. June 19
1 Mile Handicap, Holmdel, New Jersey (A)

Thu. June 21
Start US Junior Championships, Blaine, Minnesota (N)

Sat. June 22
5 and 10 Km, Dearborn, Michigan, 10 am (J)
Western Sectinal Masters 5 Km, Los Angeles (B)
5 Km, Miami, 7 am (Q)
5 Km, Palm Beach, Florida, 8 am (Q)
4 Mile, Seattle (C)

Sun. June 23
North American Masters 10 Km, Van Nuys, Calif. (B)
Peace Arch Games 1500 meters, Seattle (C)

Sat. June 29
1 Mile, West Long Branch, New Jersey (A)
5 Km (Track), Dedham, Mass., 2 pm (U)
Peace Arch Games 5 Km, Seattle (C)
Southwest Territorial 10 Km, Oklahoma City (D)

Thu. July 4
5 Mile, Wall, New Jersey, am (A)
Garden State Games 10 Km, Edison, NJ, evening, (A)
1500 and 3000 meters, Detroit (P)
5 Km, Miami, 7:30 am (Q)
National Masters T & F Champ. begin, Naperville, IL (O)
5 Km, Los Angeles (B)

Sat. July 6
Garden State Games 5 Km (A)
3 Mile, Columbia, Missouri, 8 am (M)

Contacts
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D--Ivan Decker (405) 942-2722
E--Cornbelt Running Club, P.O. Box 1032, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722
F--Bob Carlson, 2261 Glencoe St., Denver, CO 80207
G--Jan Berezniak, P.O. Box 336, Wood Dale, IL 60191
H--Barbara Waddle, 2327 Redfield Dr., Norcross, GA 30071
I--John White, 4865 Arthur Place, Columbus, OH 43220
J--Frank Alongi, 2650 Woodshire, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
K--Kansas City Walkers, P.O. Box 30301, Kansas City, MO 64112

FROM HEEL TO TOE

Here are the 10 Km splits for the leaders in the National 50 Km reported last month:

Paul Wick—49:51, 1:39:10, 2:27:57, 3:20:45, 4:16:39 Tim Lewis—48:27, 1:36:57, 2:25:28, 3:17:48, 4:15:33 (Note that the old fellow went under 50 on his final 10 and was eating up the youngsters. Suggests that at 43 he still hasn't done his best.)
Paul Wick—49:51, 1:39:10, 2:27:57, 3:20:45, 4:16:39 Tim Lewis—48:27, 1:36:57, 2:25:28, 3:17:48, 4:15:33 (Note that the old fellow went under 50 on his final 10 and was eating up the youngsters. Suggests that at 43 he still hasn't done his best.)

If you have a suggestion for a new walking club, please contact the organization listed in the contacts section.
with the shoes as we have designed them, they should be very good racewalking shoes. We have specified many of the performance aspects of the shoes to meet the needs of walkers rather than having to be a compromise to allow for runners, mall walkers, or street-type shoes. As the project progresses, I'll keep you up to date... Don't know if anyone is interested, but here is where I sent the February issue of the ORW: Canada 16 copies, other foreign 14, Puerto Rico 2, Massachusetts 15, New Hampshire 2, Maine 5, Vermont 1, Connecticut 13, New Jersey 33, New York 73, Pennsylvania 38, Delaware 3, District of Columbia 3, Maryland 13, Virginia 17, North Carolina 14, South Carolina 8, Georgia 7, Florida 35, Alabama 2, Tennessee 2, Mississippi 3, Kentucky 7, Ohio 39, Indiana 19, Michigan 23, Iowa 10, Wisconsin 9, Minnesota 16, South Dakota 1, North Dakota 1, Illinois 21, Missouri 14, Kansas 6, Louisiana 6, Arkansas 3, Oklahoma 5, Texas 29, Colorado 26, Wyoming 1, Idaho 1, Utah 4, Arizona 7, New Mexico 14, Nevada 1, California 69, Hawaii 3, Oregon 8, Washington 17, Alaska 4. So we are missing only Rhode Island, West Virginia, Nebraska, and Montana on our list.

* * * * *

The following article, written by your editor, was published in the April 1991 issue of Ohio Runner magazine. They even used my photo on the cover, but no one has mentioned seeing it. Not a real wide circulation magazine, though I can see my face on local newstands. Anyway, I don’t think they will object to my repeating the article here.

A Brief History of Racewalking in Ohio

Walking as a sport can be traced at least to the mid-18th century in England, where such contests were a part of county fairs and many feats of “pedestrian” endurance were recorded. While the rules of walking at that time are not clearly defined, the reports show evidence that a clear distinction between walking and running was made, and at some time the term “fair heel and toe” was adopted.

The sport seemed to take root in this country toward the middle of the 19th century, largely as a professional endeavor. In the 1860s, 6-day races on indoor tracks became very popular. The leading figure in the sport was Edward Payson Weston. His well-documented walk from Portland, Maine, to Chicago in 1867 followed a route across northern Ohio, attracting large crowds along the way. This event may have boosted the sport in our state, but it is likely there were already some contests in various towns, since this seemed to be a popular diversion across the country.

In the late 19th century, amateur sport took hold, and walking became part of the championship program at the National Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), although most of the athletes seemed to have been in the East. Any early Ohio activity in the sport was probably centered in Cincinnati, where a walking division became part of the annual Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, to Cincinnati Thanksgiving Day 6 miler. That event, first held in 1908, continues to this day. There was also an annual summer track meet at the old Coney Island Amusement Park in Cincinnati that included a 1 mile walk for men and an 880 yards for women. This meet may have featured one of the earliest walking races exclusively for women anywhere in the country.

In 1929, the AAU added the 50 Kilometer walk to its championship program. Starting in 1934, this national title race was held in Cincinnati every year through 1949. It returned there in 1951 and 1957. The credit for Cincinnati’s spot on the walking map went to Sebastian Linehan, a tireless promoter of various track activities, also involved in both the Thanksgiving Day race and Coney Island meet.

From 1937 on, Cincinnati’s John Abbate was a fixture among the first three or four finishers in the National 50, finishing second in 1938, 1941, and 1944. He finally won it in 1945, but had moved to Philadelphia since the previous year’s race, so Ohio was denied its first national champion in the sport. Abbate also won the race in 1947. As late as 1962, when he was in his late 50s, he finished fourth. That race was a matter of survival. With the temperature in the 90s, few finished, while the veteran was able to survive, albeit in very slow time.) Clarence Hickman and Joseph Rosenhofer were other Cincinnati athletes who did well in these early 50 Km races.

Cincinnati continued at the center of racewalking activities in Ohio through the early ’50s, also hosting national title races at 35 and 40 Km at various times, again promoted by Linehan. When Sebastian left the scene, so did the city’s strong walking program. The center of activity then shifted to Dayton, where Wayne Yarcho and Clair Duckham started to dominate what races there were in Ohio. Duckham finished fifth in the 1957 National 50 Km and Yarcho fifth in both the 1953 and 1957 National 2 MMs, which were held in Dayton’s Welcome Stadium as part of the National T&F Meet. Duckham, now 85, is still seen at both walking and running races and also be found riding in high-wheeler tours. He once drove his motorcycle to Boston, ran the marathon the next day, and then hopped back on the bike for the ride home. But, he was only in his 50s at that time.

A Columbus family doctor, John Blackburn, saw the Dayton pair walking when he went to the Ohio AAU meet in 1956 to watch his son Jack, an Ohio State sophomore, run the 2 mile. Seeing that these fellows were about his age and excelling in this branch of athletics, he struck up an acquaintance and began to compete with them. From that meeting, the sport experienced a mini-boom in the state, as Dr. Blackburn took it back to Columbus. Soon that city became the hub of the activity.

In the spring of 1958, Jack Blackburn, who had been sixth in the 1956 Olympic Trials 10,000 meter run, had to give up his senior year of track because his class schedule and family responsibilities (he had been married the previous summer) did not allow him to train with the team. He started walking with his father and found immediate success. By February 1959, he was able to place second in the National Indoor 1 Mile walk. He then quickly established himself as one of the nation’s premier walkers, taking second in the 40 Km, third in the 10 and 25 Km, and fourth in the 20 Km National races later that year.

With Yarcho, Duckham, and the two Blackburns setting the example, interest in the sport grew in the state and more frequent races saw starting fields of 10 or more. A graduate student at Ohio State and former Bowling Green quarter-miler and cross country runner, Jack Mortland, started walking with the Blackwells in the summer of 1958, and also found a natural affinity for the sport, which he began to pursue vigorously the next summer, after a 6-month tour with Uncle Sam’s forces. In 1960, the two Jacks took second and third in the National Indoor Mile.

In 1960, the two Jacks took second and third in the National Indoor Mile.
Outdoors, Blackburn finished fourth in the 50 Km National, which was also the 1960 Olympic Trial, and a few weeks later also won the alternate's spot on the Olympic Team at 20 Km. Unfortunately, alternates don't make the trip. However, in the fall, he won the National 15 Km title, a first for an Ohio walker.

As Blackburn and Mortland led the way, the Ohio Track Club became a power in national walking circles in the early and middle '60s. They won several national team titles, including both the 10 and 20 Km in 1962, and were also runnerup on several occasions. Jeff Loucks was often the third scorer on these teams, as was Paul Reback, from Cincinnati, later. Other members of the team at various times included Dr. Blackburn, Charles Newell (Ashland), Jim Stattemiller, Joe Smithberger, Earl Cline, Forrest Conrad (Ashland), Dale Arnold (Dayton), Francis Winner, John Ackerman, Bob Smith (Dayton), and John Barry. Dave Staley, a name now well known in Master's triathlon and running circles, and Marv Croston, long-time Upper Arlington track and cross country coach, were seen in some of the local walking races.

On an individual basis, Mortland finished second in the 1961 National 10, 20, and 25 Km races. The 20 Km finish put him on the U.S. National Track Team for dual meets in the Soviet Union, Poland, West Germany, and Great Britain. That fall, he set an American record for 20 Km (broken many times since) on the track at Jones Junior High track in Upper Arlington (his old high school track). Both Jacks continued as dominant forces in National walking throughout the '60s. Mortland won the 1962 National 30 Km and 1965 National 10 Km and was on the 1964 U.S. Olympic team and 1965 National Track Team for dual meets in Europe (USSR, Poland, and West Germany). He was also on the first U.S. team to compete in the Lugano Cup (the World Racewalking Championship) in 1967. That team comprised the first group of U.S. athletes to compete in East Germany. Mortland and Blackburn both represented the country in dual meets with Canada, in 1969 and 1970, respectively.

The two also promoted the Annual Ohio Track Club Distance Carnival through the '60s, which included several road runs and walks over two days and attracted such luminaries as Ron Laird, John Allen, and Chris McCarthy. This endeavor later became strictly a walking event (Race Walking Orgy, it was called), as others in the club took over the Carnival and turned it into essentially an age-group cross-country meet. Like the Coney Island track meet, the Distance Carnival pioneered walking events for women. The Ohio Track Club was often represented by Corinne Blackburn, Linda DeLong, and Kathy Bennett. The meet also gave a start to Detroit's Jeanne Bocci, who helped push women's walking to a national level. Blackburn and Mortland also promoted the Tour of Ohio Waalks for a few years in the '70s, taking races to various locales around the state during the summer months.

In the 1970s, as women's walking became more popular, Steve Price developed a strong group of walkers with the Kettering Striders. Most prominent were Carol Mohanco, who placed second in the National Indoor 1 Mile in both 1973 and 1974 and won the National 20 Km in 1976, and Susan Ruiz, who was the National Junior 3 Km titlist in 1978, 1979, and 1980. Also during this period, Laurie Tucholski, from Toledo, developed into one of the nation's top walkers. In 1976, after moving to Columbus and affiliating with the Ohio Track Club, she finished second in both the National 1 Mile indoors and the National 5 Km. The latter race
nearly 300 yards behind, about 50 yards ahead of comebacks Larry Young.

John Knifton turned in a swift 4:10:42 for 50 Km on the road and 6 days later took to the track for a 1:35:19 for 20 Km. Ron Kulik was second in the 50 in 4:15:31 on a suspect course. Elliot Denman won his annual 50 miler in 8:47, with our own Jack Blackburn struggling to third behind George Braceland. On the local scene, Jerry Brown, then living in Louisville, won a 10 Km on the Worthington track in 49:06, leaving your editor some 34 seconds behind. ORW subscription rates went from $2.00 to $2.50.

15 Years Ago (From the April 1976 ORW)—Shaul Ladany returned to New Jersey to win the National 75 Km title for the second straight year in 7:13:46. Tom Ambury had 7:58:02, Alan Price 8:03:26, and Tom Knatt 8:14:07. In the 100 Km Championship in Longmont, Colorado, Paul Ide was an easy winner (if 100 Km can be easy) in 10:31:28. Augie Hirt finished in 10:45:38 and Jerry Brown in 11:24:44.

Ron Laird won the National 25 Km in Seattle, overhauling Larry Young in the final 5 Km. Young went through 20 Km in 1:33:54 and led by nearly a minute, but hit the wall soon after and succumbed to Laird’s strong finish. Ron had 1:59:09 to Larry’s 2:00:33.

10 Years Ago (From the April 1981 ORW)—Jim Heiring set an American record for 5 Km (20:41) at the Dogwood Relays in Knoxville, Tennessee. Todd Scully was second in 21:17. Tim Lewis, a student at East Tennessee St., was third in 22:05.

Australia’s Sue Cook had two world’s bests: 22:53.2 for a track 5 Km in Adelaide and 6:47.9 for 1 Mile in Canberra.

5 Years Ago (From the April 1986 ORW)—Tim Lewis and Lynn Weik scored double victories in the Rockport Regional held in Washington, DC. Lewis won the 5 Km on Saturday in a quick 19:54 and came back on Sunday to walk 20 Km in 1:25:43. Weik won a 5 and a 10 in 23:36 and 48:20. Carl Schueler followed Lewis on both days with 21:09 and 1:28:43. And Teresa Vaill was also second in both women’s races with 23:47 and 49:01.

In the Mexican race walking week, Czechoslovakia’s Josep Pribilinec won the 20 Km in 1:23:34, with Ernesto Canto second in 1:23:48. Canto took a 1 Hour race with 14,339 meters in torrential rains, with Czech Pavol Blazek second some 47 meters back. The 50 went to Felix Gomez in 3:56:25 with Martin Bermudez and Sweden’s Bo Gustavsson also under 4 hours.

Canada’s Pat Farrelly sent us some material, including a program from a 50 Km race held in Guelph, Ontario in 1935. The caption under one picture read: “No. 107, Clair Windsor, No. 106, Nancy Ross, No. 105 Eva Dennis. They are members of the Maroon AC, Hamilton. They competed in the 50,000 meters U.S.A. Championship held at Cincinnati in April last and the photo was taken as they crossed the finish line in 6 hrs 20 minutes. They defeated many of the male contestants and all of the American girls who competed. Their walking action is perfectly fair. Canadian AAU rules prevented them competing today. They volunteered their services to assist the competitors in today’s Championship Walk and will help the Vi-tone Company in serving refreshments. They will walk many miles servicing the men (Ed. Boy! That sure bogs comment, but far be it from me to make it.) Watch them step on Wyndham St.” The point is that this certainly reinforces my brief comments about Cincinnati races pioneering in women’s walking.