Results


5:31:41 (16 finishers, 2 DQs, 4 DNFs)


Carol Simonds 1:22:57 (I don't like to be a cynic, but there is something very suspicious about these times when compared to the 10 Km at the same site and to the known abilities of the walkers)

5 Km, Mobile, Ala., Oct. 28–1. John Vignes (52) 27:03 2. Nicholas Burrows (51) 30:58 (15 finishers)


For those who compete with their walking feet

**Sun. Dec. 3**
- 5 Km, New York City, 9 am (G)
- 5 Km, Ft. Collins, Col., 10 am (H)

**Sat. Dec. 9**
- 1 Hour, Ft. Monmouth, N.J., 10 am (A)
- 2.8 Miles, Seattle (C)
- 4 Miles, Denver, 10 am (H)

**Sun. Dec. 10**
- 5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)

**Sat. Dec. 16**
- 1 Hour, Ft. Monmouth, N.J., 10 am (A)

**Sat. Dec. 17**
- Indoor 1500 meters, Long Island (F)

**Sat. Dec. 23**
- 5 and 10 Km, Washington, D.C. (J)

**Sunl. Dec. 31**
- Polar Bear 10 Mile, Asbury Park, N.J., 10 am (A)

**2001**
- Mon. Jan. 1
- 2 Miles, Albuquerque (I)
- 5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)

- **Sun. Jan. 7**
- South Region 50 Km, Houston
- 10 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
- 7.4 and 3.2 Miles, Las Cruces, N.M. (I)

- **Sat. Jan. 13**
- 5 Km, Ocean Township, N.J., 10 am (A)

- **Sun. Jan. 14**
- 5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)

- **Sun. Jan. 21**
- Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Vir., 7:45 am (J)

- **Sun. Jan. 25**
- Indoor 3 Km, Findlay, Ohio (M)

- **Sat. Jan. 26**
- 5 Km, Ocean Twp., N.J. (A)

- **Sun. Jan. 28**
- Rose Bowl 10 Mile Handicap, Pasadena, Cal. (Y)
- Indoor 5 Km Men, 3 Km Women, Toronto
- 5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
- Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Vir., 7:45 am (J)
- Las Cruces, N.M. (I)

- **Sat. Feb. 10**
- 5 Km, Ocean Twp. N.J. (A)

- **Sun. Feb. 11**
- Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Vir., 7:45 am (J)

Contacts
- A-Elliot Denman, 28 N. Locust, West Long Branch, NY 07764
- B-Kalamazoo Valley Walkers, P.O. Box 19141, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
- C-Bev LaVeck, 6633 N.E. Windermere Road, Seattle, WA 98115
- D-Walking Club of Georgia, P.O. Box 190011, Atlanta, GA 30319
- E-Sierra Race Walkers, P.O. Box 13203, Sacramento, CA 95813
- F-Jake Jacobson, P.O. Box 640, Levittown, NY 11756
- G-Stella Cahnsman, 320 East 83rd St., New York, NY 10028
- H-Bob Carlson, 2261 Glencoe St., Denver CO 80207
- I-New Mexico Race Walkers, PO Box 16102, Albuquerque, NM 87191
- J-Mil Wood, 5302 Easton Drive, Springfield, VA 22151
- M-Vince Peters, 675 Omar Circle, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
- N-Steve Vaitones, 90 Summit Street, Waltham, MA 02451
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From Heel to Toe

Korzienowski looks forward. At age 32, Poland's three-time Olympic gold medalist in racewalking, Robert Korzeniowski, has no plans to retire from the sport. Speaking at a press conference in Bratislava, Slovakia, he outlined plans to continue at least through the 2004 Olympics. "The question is whether I will stop competing after the Athens Games. The answer is most probably yes. Even though I have already fulfilled my dreams as far as the Olympics are concerned, I still have enough motivation to continue. I want to be the ambassador for walking and athletics, a good example for the young generation. Once you have experienced the great feeling of winning, it's not easy to forget. So, I will continue, but everything according to strict planning." He will not start his 2001 racing season until June and will walk just one 50 km during the year—the World Championships in Edmonton. "I will miss the European Walking Cup," he said.

The 2000 season was so long that I need more time for preparing for next year. I also want to give more opportunities to my younger colleagues. My main goal is success in Edmonton." He has just one World Championship gold, in 1997 at 50 km. The father of an 8-year-old daughter, Korzeniowski has his residence in Krakow, Poland, but spends much of this time in the Northern French city of Rouen. He is currently residing in the Polish town of Ostrow and plans to start serious training early in December in Czestochowa in northern Poland. He expressed his views on some negative images of walking, principally arising from the Olympic Games. "I don't think there is a real question about the future of walking at the Olympics or World Championships. It is only the media that like to speculate with this idea. I think walking has a bright future, which is confirmed by the fact that in the Western Hemisphere everywhere you go you see fun-walkers in the parks and streets. It would be impossible to dismiss walking with an administrative decision." Regarding judging questions, he said, "Even computer chips on shoes would not help, as there are so many unanswered questions. Where should the chips be placed, would we train with them, etc.? ... I see ways to improve in communication between the judges on the course and the main judge. According to my knowledge, the decision to disqualify Bernardo Segura in Sydney was made 7 minutes before the athlete was told. We have to find ways to reduce these delays. Deputy chief judges with the power to give red cards should be appointed. We need a strict application of the rules. This would help."  

... Heppner too. Not much has been heard of Al Heppner since last spring, but he too is looking forward now. A member of the Olympic Training Center group, he dropped out a couple of months after crashing at the 50 km Olympic Trials. He had the A standard in hand going into that race and a good shot at one of the first three spots, but failed to finish in the brutal conditions Sacramento offered that day. Suffering from depression, he pretty much disappeared from the scene following an OTC training trip to high-altitude Ecuador. But he is on his way back. Al is now in the U.S. Army and part of their World Class Athlete Program. He will be stationed back in Chula Vista at the OTC and is looking forward to a good competitive season in 2001. And to future contributions to the ORW...
Probably not something to do while training seriously for a particular race, but a good challenge.

Transcontinental walks. Subscriber Greg Leck thanked me for the coverage of the Colorado 100 miler and the Paris-to-Colmar race. Then, he asked if there is any organization, similar to that which records cross English swims, that monitors and tracks transcontinental USA walks. He also asked what the current record is and about common routes. Are there any experts on this out there? All I can tell him is about John Lees walk in 1972. Starting from Venice, Calif. on April 11, this British racewalker arrived at New York's City Hall at 2:00 pm on June 3, taking 53 days, 12 hours and 15 minutes to walk across the continent. The accepted walking record before that was 66 days set in 1960 by British Sergeant P. Maloney and M. Evans. He also shattered the accepted running record of 64 days 21 hours and 50 minutes, set by another Englishman, Bruce Tulloh, a well-known distance runner. But, along the way he got word of a 54-day performance by a South African runner, John Bell, a month earlier and had to press hard to beat that. Lees averaged 53 miles a day and did 73 miles on the final day, which was his longest stint. I don't know if anyone has ever bettered Lees' record, but I have heard no reports of such a feat. I am also aware of the transcontinental running races in the 20s put on by "Cash-and-Carry Pyle," but won't attempt to dig into that here. Anyway, I would be glad to hear from any informed sources on transcontinental walks, or runs. And so would Greg Leck, who can be reached at 101 Bunny Trail Drive, Bangor, PA 18013, 610-588-2474. gregleck@tidalwave.com.

Maynard also at Olympics. Lori Maynard, who has been a devoted racewalking judge and administrator and T&F official since retiring from a good competitive racewalking career several years ago was one of the judges on the International panel at the Sydney Olympics. She was the only American on the panel, and, reportedly, the only American T&F official, since the host country supplies most of the officials. Because of the nature of the job, racewalk judges must come all over the world. The San Francisco Chronicle carried a nice article on Lori, who lives in Redwood City, Calif., in its Sept. 15 edition. A few excerpts from that article: "Maynard, who also officiated at the Olympic Games in Atlanta and served as a volunteer worker at the 1984 Games in L.A., has been involved in officiating since the late 1970s, when she volunteered to judge a racewalk for preteen girls at a track and field meet in the East Bay. It's a wonder I kept on judging," she said. "Those cute little girls were out racing for the first time and it was just awful to have to warn them they might be violating the rules—the tears just came in a flood. ... Maynard, who loves to travel, is excited about being selected to judge the Sydney Games. She'll fly out on Sunday on an all-expenses-paid trip that includes a hotel room not far from the Olympic Village. But until she was picked to officiate at the 1996 Olympics, neither she nor her husband had enjoyed many perks for their labors, other than to take their expenses as a deduction on their income tax. Typically, she said, the promoters of amateur track and field events always give officials a T-shirt, a hat, and a sandwich. By the end of the race meet season, we can't look at another deli sandwich."

Philip Dunn's Olympic Journal

Philip Dunn kept a daily journal of his Olympic experiences from the time he left Chula Vista on Aug. 19 through the day he competed in the 50 on September 29. Elaine Ward devoted practically her whole December issue of the U.S. Racewalking Journal to excerpts from Philip's journal. Here, we repeat his entries for the days of the two men's racewalks.

September 22. I've just gotten back from the men's 20 Km racewalk and I am so tired. It was exhausting! I never thought that watching a race could be so physically taxing, but here I am with sore muscles, tight shoulders, and this heartache that won't go away. Mr friends and teammates, Tim and Jefferson, both raced incredible races and came up short of their dreams.

I've trained with Tim for the past three and a half years, and it was so hard to watch his race get taken from him. He was walking so well from the start and keeping pace with the world's best. Then he got a red card for loss of contact. By 8 km, he got another red card. With an allowance of three red cards, he was on the brink of disqualification. I could see the anguish on his face as he dropped back. (Ed. Note also that Tim was nursing a knee injury that perhaps he had concealed even from his training partner.)

By 10 kilometers, a pack of eight or so guys had separated themselves from the field. Poland's Robert Korzeniowski was at the front pushing the pace from the beginning. By 15 Km, there were only two Mexicans, Bernado Segura and Noc Hernandez, Russian Vladimir Andreyev, and Jefferson Perez trailing him.

In Atlanta, Jefferson was able to destroy a talented field over the last 2 Km and win Ecuador's first and only Olympic gold medal. Figuring that he probably had the best closing speed of any of the walkers in the lead group, I was optimistic that he would do well. At the same time, he seemed to be laboring. Usually when he is racing, he has a tranquil look on his face. He may be walking 4:00/km, but looking at his face you would think he was reading a book or playing cards. With 5 Km to go, he was either reading a very intense novel or he was losing at poker.

With 3 Km to go, Segura seemed out of the hunt for a medal. He was way back. Jefferson was holding on his own but had dropped to a distant fifth position. Over the next 2 Km, miraculously Segura closed the gap on the leaders. Entering the stadium, he was challenging Korzeniowski for the lead and out sprinted him to finish first. It was too good to be true, for Segura was DQd after the race. Jefferson crossed the line in fifth, moving up to fourth after Segura's DQ.

I talked to Jefferson afterwards and expected him to be despondent and upset with his fourth place finish. He was happy. He was pleased with the way he had raced and said that he had given it everything that he had. There are some races, he said, that you won't win, but as long as you give your absolute best, you should be happy. (Ed. I suppose some would call that the attitude of a loser, never be happy if you lose; I call it the attitude of a true sportsman and it is refreshing to hear in "your face" atmosphere.)

September 29. It's over. I'm done! I've finished! What an amazing, exhilarating, and thoroughly exhausting experience. I am so tired now. Or as they say down here in Australia, "I'm stuffed, mate!"

I finished 28th out of 56 starters, right in the middle of the pack. My time was 4:03:10, which was the second fastest 50 I have ever walked and the fastest this year. During the race, there were several disqualifications and several other athletes dropped out. It was very hot. The sun was up early and the humidity at the start was high. By the end of the race at noon it was nearly 90 degrees.

Okay, to the beginning. I woke up this morning at 6 am after my roommate shook me awake because I didn't hear my alarm going off. (Oops, that would have been bad!) After eating, I was on the bus at 6:30 en route to the staging area, a training track adjacent to the Olympic Stadium. Two of our athletic trainers were there to help us stretch out. Suddenly, it was 7:20 and time to go through the check-in process. All the walkers were ushered into a tunnel that runs from the practice track to the main stadium. Coach gave us our last instructions and a hug. And my Irish racewalk friend Pierce O'Callaghan wished me luck saying, "There are so many people who would kill to be in your shoes right now as you enter that Stadium. Go get 'em!"

I laughed and then the enormity of it all hit me, and I had to wipe tears away as I walked down the long, quiet tunnel. (Ed. A familiar ring here; but it hit me as I left the tunnel and stepped onto the track of a packed stadium in Tokyo. The usual nervousness before a race was replaced by a feeling of almost of fear and of "What am I doing here??)
Once underneath the stadium, I had a few minutes to collect my thoughts, change into my racing shoes and uniform, and do a few warm-up strides. Because of our 8 am start, the Stadium wasn't full, but the people who were there made plenty of noise as the walkers were introduced.

The three Americans were lined up in the front row. It was a bit nerve-racking since I was ranked 55th of 56 starters, but hey! Bang, we were off for five laps inside the stadium. The crowd cheered in a wave as we came around and around the track. Then we walked into the tunnel, up the ramp, by the Stadium and SuperDome to the 2 km loop where we would spend the next three plus hours sweating it out.

Kelly honored

Certainly one of the most universally well-liked characters in our sport is Irish-American John Kelly. John was a member of the Irish Olympic team in 1968 at 30 kg, in a Centurion, and made a historic walk across Death Valley. Those are just some of his better known feats. A long-time resident of the L.A. area, where he was a stalwart of the race-walking community, he now resides in Arizona with his bride of a few years ago, Kati (then McIntire). She was also a racewalker of some repute in the LA area several years back and was a torch bearer in 1996 when the Olympic Flame went through Arizona on its way to Atlanta. (And, incidentally, a classmate of your editor's in the 1952 class of Upper Arlington High School. Just to be a name dropper, Jack Nicklaus was in the class of '57 and was in an eighth grade Phys ed class your editor helped with as a student assistant. Hey! Since I typed that last sentence several hours ago, I have watched the Upper Arlington Golden Bears-on TV-whip Cincinnati Colerain in the state Division 1 Football semi-finals. This was their sixth trip to the semis, but will be their first time in the finals since 1974. They did win state championships twice in the '60s, in the pre-playoff days when the polls decided it just as in today's NCAA Division I. But, wait, this has nothing to do with John and is probably of interest only to me-and Kati-amongst those who will see the ORW. Excuse my biases.)

Back in September, John's hometown of Loughmore, Ireland honored him with a gala evening for which upwards of 400 friends and relatives from New York and Australia as well as Ireland turned out. Some excerpts from Irish papers follow.

Seventy-one-year-old John Kelly has lived a compact life and not a moment has been wasted. Last weekend, the village of Loughmore gave him a reception that will be talked of for years to come.

In the course of a wonderful life, Mr. Kelly just missed representing Australia in boxing and hammer throwing in the 1956 Olympics, but he did represent Ireland in racewalking in the Mexico Olympics in 1968 and was Racewalk director of the USA team in the L.A. Olympic Games.

Kelly emigrated to Australia by assisted passage in 1949. Soon after arriving, he took up boxing and, in 1953, won Golden Gloves in light-heavyweight and heavyweight in Melbourne. He also took up hammer throwing and missed out on a place on the Australian team in the Melbourne Olympics. He also spent some time in New Zealand and played rugby successfully.

"I went to Australia in 1949," he recalls. "Like a lot of Irish guys at that time, I didn't get much of a chance because I was too busy working. I played a little bit of hurling in Molyglass, but I was very poor at it. In 1950, I took up boxing. I fought at light-heavyweight. However, you could find yourself in the ring with a heavyweight; it all depended on the game you went to and sometimes you had to take on the heavyweight. You had just eight divisions in those days. That was at amateur. I then went to the States to try my hand as a pro. I worked out for the first six months at Bobby Gleeson's Gym in New York. I used to spar three rounds, six days a week. I took on some tough guys such as Tiger Jones and Tommy Howe, and I had been hoping to fight at Madison Square Garden. I was signed up for a four round fight at St. Nick's, but the purse was..."
Foreword

Racewalking is a sport that is enjoyed by many thousands of people worldwide, but has the potential to be enjoyed by many more. In this paper, the writer attempts to analyze the sport and put forward a view of how it may be marketed and become one of a much higher profile.

Perception and Identity

If average sports enthusiasts close their eyes and think about sprinting, a clear picture is formed. A pole vaulter, steeplechaser, or javelin thrower all can be identified by style, which is unique to the event. It is, however, difficult for such a person to clearly picture a racewalker. Since the removal of the law necessitating the landing of the leg with a clear heel, coaches have quite correctly concentrated on minimizing the weaker pull muscle use and maximizing those that give push. Whist improving efficiency and performance, numerous styles have developed that have detracted from public perception of racewalking. Swimming styles are pictured clearly, breast stroke, back stroke, crawl, and butterfly, but suppose these styles were equal in speed and all raced together. It is likely that swimming would have an 'identity crisis'. It is, therefore, a reasonable conclusion that racewalking has an 'identity crisis' that hinders growth. The reintroduction of the heel law is one way of reclaiming an identity, but this should be the subject of considerable debate as other possibilities may be better. However, the focus should be on providing rules that create identity to the sport. (Ed. I'm not sure the rules demanded a clear heel landing, which seems to be what he is stating, but I know that is the way many judges used to see the rules and they would issue DQs for flat-footed landing.)

Involving the Spectator

The involvement of the spectator in racewalking is crucial to its development. Spectators form a support group as well as the base for future participation. For spectator involvement to reach reasonable proportions, racewalking needs to have a clear identity as explained above, a clear and easily understood set of rules, clear feedback of what is happening, and, preferably, some degree of controversy. Taking the last three individually:

**Racewalking rules** are in serious need of revision per se, but also need to be reviewed with the future of the sport in mind. The caution rule is the most obvious priority as it is impractical and causes spectator confusion (and often competitor confusion). Firstly, the rule asks that judges actions are performed by the athletes 'progress'. This means the judge keeping a mental note of every competitor in the race on every lap to make judgment as to whether, by each competitor, they are in danger of breaking the rules. (Ed. I don't really see it that way. The judge needs to view each athlete as he or she passes and determine if the mode of progression is within the rules. I don't see where they need any reference to a way that the athlete looked the last time by the judge might mark someone in mind as bearing close scrutiny, but I don't see that as necessary, and it might be prejudicial. Just judge on the merits of each view of each athlete. My opinion, and I am not a judge.) This is clearly impossible in medium size fields not to mention Olympic fields. Secondly, the judge is asked to signal the caution to the racewalker by means of a paddle. Again, this is impossible unless the judge leaves the judging station and runs after the competitor, because by the time the judge has noticed upon the caution, the competitor has passed the judge. Once the judge starts to run after the competitor, that judge also ceases judging others. To the spectator, this is a farcical situation and one that has no bearing on the outcome of the race.

Experience tends to suggest that cautions are issued not by progress, but by the judge encountering a gray area where the athlete is neither clearly legal nor clearly illegal. Paddles are generally shown on the following lap, which causes extreme spectator confusion. It must be remembered that spectator involvement means each one becoming a sideline judge in the same way as spectators at a football or basketball match become umpires and referees. A paddle shown on the next lap turns spectators away from the sport. This begs the question 'why do we have the caution rule?' This is indeed a hard question to answer. For the athlete, it identifies a keen sighted judge and allows modification of style for the next time that judge is passed, clearly a bad reason for the rule. For the judge, it provides unwanted intrusion into the race as it is always preferable that officials are invisible to the event. I conclude that it is in the best interests of the sport that the caution rule be scrapped.

With respect to the rest of Rule 191, the addition of the heel rule not only gives identity to the sport, but also gives the spectator a rule they can be involved with as compliance is identifiable from the sidelines. The knee rule is subjective due to the fact that legs are not shaped in straight parallel lines and the contact rule is subjective due to the reliance on the eyesight and responsiveness of the judge.

**Spectator feedback** is vitally important. Consider a long jump event where there was no feedback as the length of the jump. The event would no longer hold interest to the spectator. With racewalking, the feedback of warnings for disqualification not only allows spectator involvement, but promotes it. It is an added interest, which potentially can make racewalking more interesting to watch than many other events.

At this point, it is prudent to question the sport's direction as a distance only discipline. From a spectator standpoint, it is far more enjoyable to sit in a stadium with good feedback rather than being on a road. The increase in distance for women from 10 to 20 km is good for racewalking as these road events are clearly seen as distance events. I believe it also provides the opportunity for 5 km track racing as an Olympic event. When compared to a 5 or 10 km track running race, the racewalk event can provide substantially more entertainment. Modern day electronic communications can easily provide warning boards visible to spectators and competitors at various points on the track. Hand-held terminals operated by judges assistants could update the boards just as soon as a warning is given. The judge would simply write on a card '23C' and the assistant would record a contact warning against athlete 23 into the terminal. Cautions would be a thing of the past. From a spectator and media viewpoint, the added space of potential disqualifications, visible to them with clearly defined rules would provide a great deal of excitement and potential for discussion.

An additional reason for track races is the excitement created by breaking records, which is not possible on the road as the course conditions vary. It is also confusing for the spectator as well as the judges to have too many competitors in any one race. A reasonable limit on numbers would enhance both road and track events with qualifying rounds if necessary. Clearly, qualifying rounds for distance races would need to happen several weeks before major international meetings. (Ed. Interestingly, I was just recently looking at the December 1969 issue of the ORW in which I had a report from the IAAF meetings in Athens during the European championships earlier in the year. I reported on three actions related to racewalking (which, subsequently proved to have been recommendations, not actions, since they never went into effect). One was that international races at 20 km, such as Olympiads and European championships, be held on the track with qualifying heats. So, the idea is not new. Another recommendation was that the leg must be straightened as the heel makes contact with the ground. It took near 30 years before that became part of the rule. And the final one was that heels on racewalking shoes be made compulsory, with a minimum depth of 1 cm and a maximum of 1.5 cm. The British had always worn shoes with a distinct heel and adi's had made such a shoe in 1964. I had a pair of those and found them to be an excellent shoe, but they were never produced in quantity. But, I digress enough from Mr. Bone's treatise.)

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Including controversy. Racewalking has been fraught with controversy for decades, but some facets are positive for the sport. Most of the popular spectator sports have an element of controversy because it creates passion and discussion. The key to this is the fact that in these sports, some of the official's judgments are subjective. It is important that most of the rules are not subjective because a foundation of the rules of any sport must be clear to the spectators mind. For example, a baseball player is called out by an umpire because he failed to reach the base before the ball, in the umpire's opinion. The rule is clear in the spectator's mind, the controversy surrounds the decision. Racewalking presents a set of rules, which are harder to comprehend, particularly the knee rule. Incorporation of the knee rule would simplify racewalking to an extent in the spectator's eyes. Arguably, an enhancement could be the marking of a thick black line running on the outside of the leg before competition starts. This would make the knee rule easier to see and judge. However, it again brings into question the current rule, which mentions straightened, i.e., straight. There are many walkers who can straighten their legs but cannot make them straight, therefore a straight line cannot be drawn. In this case, theoretically, the athlete should be disqualified before the start. This is a very delicate issue. On one hand, the athlete whose legs are inflexible gains no advantage as long as he or she does not straighten the leg further from contact to upright vertical so, arguably, the rule could be "straightened as far as possible" and not "straight". But once again, we come to the identity of the sport and how it appears in the mind of the spectator and because of its importance, inflexible athletes who cannot make a reasonably straight leg, arguably, should not start a race.

**Conclusion**

Racewalking has great potential if we are prepared to make some hard decisions and changes. No matter what is done, the sport will not develop without change. With the advent of Internet communication, we now have the tools to form a global structure and plan for the future. An IAAF committee should be formed to recommend future strategies for development and debate should ensue through a medium such as the racewalking list, which is free and open to all. (Ed. To subscribe to the racewalking list, send an e-mail to racewalking@e-list.com with the message "subscribe.")

The following historical article is from Elliott Denman's Anthology of the Olympic Games, which we mentioned in the August 2000 issue. It originally appeared under Elliott's byline in the Asbury Park Press (N.J.) as he covered the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Elliott's Olympic odyssey, of course, began when he competed in the 50 km walk in Melbourne in 1956. You can order the book from Elliott at P.O. Box 381, West Long Branch, NJ 07764 for $25 postpaid. This article covers the first of Larry Young's two Olympic bronze medals at 50 km.

**Young's Walk Historic**

**U.S. Olympic Performance**

"When I got to the stadium and saw that I was in third place I almost cried. I just couldn't believe it."

Talking was emotion-charged Larry Young, who had just made U.S. Olympic history with his come-from-behind bronze medal performance in the longest individual track and field event of the Games, the 50 kilometer walk.

It was an amazing performance by the 25-year-old athlete from San Pedro, California. He covered the 50 km in 4:31:55.4. Only gold medalist Christoph Hohne of East Germany (4:20:13.6) and Hungary's silver medalist Antal Kiss (4:30:17) finished ahead of him in the 36-man starting field. U.S. teammate Goetz Klopfer of Stanford, Cal. finished 10th in 4:39:13.8.

The best any American walker had ever finished in prior Olympic 50 km competition was seventh, achieved by Dr. Adolf Weinacker at Melbourne in 1956. If Young was the happiest American athlete at Estadio Olimpico, the happiest people in the stands had to be his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Young and his sister, Mrs. Leah Kay Kern. The three set out from Sibley, Mo. last Friday and completed an 1,800 mile drive here in 3 1/2 days.

No American had ever beaten a Russian in Olympic 50 km racewalking, yet two of them did it this time. "It was a long drive, but it sure was worth it all," said an exuberant Mr. Young. "We're mighty proud of him," he said.

Mr. Young is so happy with Larry's walking that he took up the sport himself a year ago and now is the junior national 20 km champion. (Ed. Last year you wonder how a youth could have a 25-year-old son, the junior championships in those ancient days were for athletes who had never won a junior or senior national; they had nothing to do with age.)

Three summers ago, Larry went to an AAIU all-comers track meet in Los Angeles and it was there that the Olympic dream was born. He quickly became "hooked" on the event and has made a rapid climb to the top. By the 1966 indoor season, he was rating invitations to the one-mile races at the major meets and that fall he annexed the first of three AAIU 50 km crowns in Chicago.

A year ago, he competed for the U.S. team in the Lucopo Cup World Championship event in Bad Saarow, East Germany, and this summer put in the hardest workouts of his life at the U.S. Olympic altitude camps at Lake Tahoe, Cal. and Alamosa, Colo.

I planned to walk my own pace and let the other guys take off if they wanted," he disclosed afterward. "I just wanted to feel good at 25 km and work it in from there. If I had anything left, I was going to really blast the last 10 km."

Everything seemed to work according to plan. He was eighth at 25 in 2:14:15 and gradually began to close on the leaders. He moved to third at 35 and passed three more laboring rivals to take fourth at 40.

The disqualification of West Germany's Bernhard Nermicher at 43 km moved Larry up into medal position and he almost made it a silver one by closing to within 100 yards of Kiss three different times.

"I saw him ahead of me and drove with all I had, but I guess my legs couldn't go any faster," he reported.

All this glory is a far cry from Larry's high school days at Fort Osage High School in Independence, Mo. There, he was an undistinguished 4:48 miler and 2:10 880 man.

Whereas other walkers in the race suffered all kinds of after effects and several collapsed at the end, Larry was relatively fresh. "I was in better shape than I thought," he admitted.

The pats on the back came in profusion as soon as he had put on his sweat suit. One of the heartiest greetings came from Ted Hayden of the University of Chicago, an assistant Olympic team coach.

"Walkers have been really doing a job down here and the whole team is mighty happy with the job they're doing. A lot of people don't pay attention to an event until it gets you into the medal column. Maybe more people will pay attention to those guys now."

(Ed. Ted Hayden was a real friend of the sport. The track coach at the University of Chicago and for the U. of Chicago Track Club, he put on many walking races, including hosting the National 10 km annually. As to the times in the race described above, note that Mexico City is at 7000 feet and smog bound, and it was very hilly on the day. For a better perspective, consider that Hohne won the 1965, 1967, and 1970 Lucopo Cup races in 4:03:14, 4:09:09, and 4:04:33, respectively.)
Looking Back

35 Years Ago (From the November 1965 ORW)—In the Ohio T.C. Club's Annual Distance Carnival, Jack Mortland won the opening event, a 7 miler in 55:45 with Chuck Newell second in 56:21 and Wayne Yarcho third in 56:32. A couple of hours later, Jack Blackburn was looking for a 14-minute effort in the 2 miler, but fell 12:3 seconds short. However, he left Mortland 44 seconds behind, with Newell third in 16:38. Canada's Bert Life edged Wayne Yarcho for fourth with both at 17:17. On Sunday, Jeanne Bocci was an easy winner in the women's 5 mile in 48:38.

Mortland had little trouble in the 15 miler, as Blackburn had finished a 4 mile run only about 15 minutes before the start. Mortland had a 2:09:10 to Blackburn's 2:24:57, with Yarcho third in 2:26:44. Ron Laird won his seventh National title of the year, taking the 35 km in Detroit in 3:07:09. Ron Daniel was 5 minutes back and Dan Calef third in 3:14:47.

20 Years Ago (From the November 1980 ORW)—Larry Young easily won the National 30 km title in 2:25:26, with Paul Ide nearly 13 minutes back and Augie Hirt in third. Two weeks later, Mark Knifton edged Young in the National 35 km in Pittsburgh. John had 2:53:04 and Larry 2:53:36. Ide was third. Bernd Kannenberg (West Germany) set a World 50 km record on the track with 3:56:51, and Italy's Vittorio Visini bettered the 20 Mile record with a 2:27:38.

15 Years Ago (From the November 1985 ORW)—Sweden's B Gustafsson was the first walker home in the New York City Marathon in 3:15:55. Marco Evoniuk was next in 3:23:56 and Sweden's Ann Jansson led the women, finishing third overall in 3:39:43. Tom Edwards edged Curtis Fisher in the Metropolitan 10 km Championship, 45:35 to 45:36. Fisher won the Henry Laskau 5 Mile in Mineola, N.Y. in 36:51. Mexicans swept the first four places in the Los Angeles 10 km, Fulguril Andavio had 39:57 and Martin Bermudez 39:58. Paul Wick was the first U.S. walker in 41:46 and Larry Walker led the masters in 43:51. In Czechoslovakia, Josef Pribilinicek did a track 10 km in 38:02:61. Roman Mracek was a full minute back in second.

10 Years Ago (From the November 1990 ORW)—Mexican walkers were dominant in the Pan American Games. In the women's 10, Graciela Mendoza (46:07) was well clear of Canada's Janice McCaffrey (46:41). Teresa Vaill was first for the U.S. in 47:18. Led by Ernesto Canto (1:21:46), Mexico swept the first four places at 20, with Canada's Guillaume Leblanc (1:23:26) finishing fifth. Carl Schueller had 1:28:21 in seventh. And at 50, Martin Bermudez (3:51:30) beat teammate Francisco Reyes by 8 minutes. Gene Kitts was fifth in 4:19:27 for the U.S. The teams standings for the 20 were Mexico, Brazil, U.S., and Canada; for the 50 Mexico, Guatemala, U.S., and Brazil, and for the 10 Mexico, Canada, Ecuador. Canada's Tim Berrett was the first walker home in the New York City Marathon in 3:24:12. Following were Carlos Mercenario, Mex. 3:26:28; Bo Gustafsson, Sweden 3:30:31; Ronald Weigel, Germany 3:35:11; and Stefan Johansson, Sweden 3:36:05. Tim Lewis was eighth in 3:45:37.