

OHIO RACEWALKER

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DOC BLACKBURN WINS

The first annual Ohio Track Club New Year's Eve Handicap 6 mile was held under the lights at Jack's Indian Village Day Camp. Doc Blackburn, with five minute handicap, won from the two Jacks, Blackburn and Mortland, who started from scratch. Second place went to Jack B. with the fast time and third to Mortland.

Doc showed by far the best conditioning with the other Blackburn trying not to lose a sore leg and Mortland limping and staggering with neuritis affecting his performance. Jim Stettmiller and Chuck Newell walked for the first time since the Thanksgiving Day race.

After the race everyone stayed for a party with the first Mrs. Blackburn and Stettmiller providing the entertainment. Mr. and Mrs. John Webster of Philadelphia (cousin relatives of the Blackburns) were also on hand for the fun. Everyone agreed that Stettmiller and Newell were outstanding stylewise in the race.

Summary:

1. John Blackburn	--49:32	actual 54:32	Time: 7:00 p.m., Dec. 31, 1964
2. Jack Blackburn	--50:55	" 50:55	Place: Indian Village Camp,
3. Jack Mortland	--51:03	" 51:03	Columbus, Ohio
4. Jim Stettmiller	--52:27	" 53:27	Temp: 38°
5. Chuck Newell	--57:00	" 58:30	

First Indoor Walk

Feb. 7--Jack Mortland led from the gun to win the first indoor walking race in the Central Ohio area by the width of his foot over Jack Blackburn in 14:49. The race left both Blackburns helpless cripples for three weeks.

The race was held at the Recreation Department's Nick Carraway Recreation Center on a hard wood, 16 lap, banked track. The only objection to the track was the fact it had been waxed and footing was slightly uncertain.

Mortland held the lead all the way with a 7:20 mile and showed much guts and dry heaves over the last 110 yards. Blackburn pulled the first upper thigh muscle at the 2 mile mark and fell back about 20 yards. He managed to grab a walking stick and limped to the finish.

8:05 Per-for Mort P9

Feb. 28---Jack Mortland turned in a very fine 10 mile on Doc Blackburn's 1 1/2 mile black-top track by averaging 8 minutes for 7 miles (55:59) and then hanging on for 80:48. Jack Blackburn, trying not to reinjure his sore leg skied on 8:30 first and last mile to total 87:47. Doc Blackburn stopped at six miles and Jim Statmiller went for two miles. For Jim, this was his first workout since the New Year's Eve race.

Summary:

1. Jack Mortland-----80:48
2. Jack Blackburn-----87:47
3. John Blackburn-----58 min 6 mile
4. Jim Statmiller---19:45 2 mile

Summary Indoor Two-Mile, Feb. 7,

1. Jack Mortland-----14:49.0
2. Jack Blackburn---14:49.1
3. John Blackburn---17:13
4. Chuck Newell-----18:32

Official: Marty Mortland

TWO IN TOUGH TWC

March 7---An amazing Jack Blackburn overcame the effects of an injured leg and won a fast two-mile race today. Although feeling some pain in the leg, Blackburn accelerated over the second mile to record a 14:21 and score his first victory over teammate Jack Mortland in the OTC's winter series of races.

Mortland led through the mile in 7:19 and then unwisely allowed Blackburn to take over. Blackburn not only took over, but took off at a seven minute pace. Passing the 1 1/2 mile in 10:47, Blackburn built about a 25 yard lead. Mortland managed to close some ground in the final quarter but was still 15 yards back at the finish, although recording his best competitive two-mile. Blackburn, favoring his aching leg, received one warning from the chief judge (Jack Mortland) at 1 1/2 miles, but then settled back to good form.

The race was contested at the Doc Blackburn track. Joe Smithberger made his first appearance in some time, and on limited training took third from Doc Blackburn, who like his son is slowed by an injured leg.

Summary:

1. Jack Blackburn---14:21
2. Jack Mortland-----14:24
3. Joe Smithberger---17:40
4. John Blackburn---17:53
5. Jim Statmiller---18:44

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WALKER OF MONTH

Pg. 3

Jack Mortland was chosen Ohio Walker of the Month for February by an unbiased selection committee (his mother, father, sister and wife) on the basis of his performances in the indoor 2-mile (14:49) and the fine 10-mile on the last day of the month (80:48).

These two performances, made off of very mild training, show a great deal of versatility at different distances as well as varying conditions. With this early season performance, Mortland looks like a strong contender for the national team again this year.

*****WE PREDICT*****

Jeff Loucks will come out of retirement and represent the O.T.C. in at least one national Championship this year.

A STATEMENT OF POLICY

With the thought that too little is written about the sport of race walking, we bring you the first issue of the Ohio Race Walker. On these pages each month you will find complete news coverage of walking in this state, plus any results we receive from elsewhere, together with features and commentary on race walking in general. In short, any information on the sport that we come across, and is of sufficient significance, will be passed on to you, the reader. (And one comes across so little on race walking it is hard to imagine anything of too little significance.)

Our purpose is mainly to present information and news on the sport (and to keep our own names in print) and we are not planning any crusading-type journalism. However, when controversy arises in any way regarding our sport, we will not hesitate to take a strong editorial stand. At the same time we will make our pages available for the opinions of others, though they may disagree with our own.

Any news, comments, criticisms, or general features on walking from our readers will be more than welcome. We are sending this first issue to you for free. Future issues will sell for ten cents a copy or \$1.20 a year. Address all correspondence regarding subscriptions to: Ohio Race Walker, 3033 Fishinger Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221. Address all correspondence regarding anything else you might have on your mind to the same place. (Needless to say, editorial preference will be given material which comes in envelopes also containing \$1.20.)

OLYMPIC REFLECTIONS,

by Jack Mortland

The victory by Ken Matthews in the Olympic 20 Kilo was as decisive as any win in the Games, with the exception of Bikila in the marathon. Moving out from the gun, he clearly proved that there is now no one in the world to match him at the shorter distances. Although he did get one warning early (so did practically everyone else up front) his style appears to be faultless. After what seemed a fast five kilo, Matthews accelerated to an even faster pace and started to leave the field. From then the question was only how much he would win by, as no one attempted to stay with him.

Ron Zinn's sixth place finish was by far the finest performance ever turned in by an American in any walking race. He set out to walk as fast as he could for as long as he could, was with Matthews at 5 kilo, still even for fourth at 15, and although slowing down all the way, never really fell apart. Only an extremely fast finish by Solodov (last 5 kilo 22:45) kept him from fifth, and he finished only 44 seconds away from a medal. It is interesting to reflect on Max Truex's 6th place in the 10 kilo run at Rome, which was considered a big break through for Americans, followed by Bill Mills' stunning victory in Tokyo. Could it be an omen for American race walkers at Mexico City.

The determination with which Ron walked this race was shown by the fact that he was genuinely disappointed immediately afterward that he had not finished at least fifth. His training prior to the race, although very hard and of good quality, did not indicate to me he was ready for this type of performance. As a matter of fact, I had hoped if I could stay close to him for 10 kilo I might be able to beat him. I never suspected that he intended to walk up front, and of course never saw him after the race started. I'm sure Ron has been in as good shape physically before, but never keyed as he was for this one.

The race was extremely fast from start to finish. The course was a very accurate 20 kilo, and although flat not ~~exceptionally~~ not really fast due to the crown of the road. The weather was sunny and about 70°.

As to Laird's disqualification, I guess it is not wise to try and make up 20 yards in about 50 at the end of an international race, no matter how well you may think you are walking. Many, including Paul Mihill and Don Thompson, were not sure that he was actually off, but he just moved too quickly and got a red flag just as quickly. The following five kilo splits of the first six, plus Laird and Mortland tell the story of the race clearly.

Matthews	22:19	44:23	1:06:52	1:29:34
Lindner	22:22	44:47	1:07:45	1:31:13.2
Golubnichy	22:23	44:51	1:08:12	1:31:59.4
Freeman	22:40	45:29	1:08:48	1:32:33.0 1:32:06.8
Solodov	23:00	46:27	1:09:48	1:32:33.0
Zinn	22:20	45:29	1:08:48	1:32:43.0
Laird	23:47	47:17	1:11:31	Disq
Mortland	23:20	47:44	1:12:13	1:36:35

Turn Sideways For Less Eye Strain



Ohio Track Club Walking Schedule

***** 1955 *****
Blackburn's 3/7-8 2 Mile
" 3/14 8 Mile

" 3/21 Open

Chicago 3/27 1 Mile-U. of C. Inside

Blackburns 4/4 1 Mile

" 4/11 12 Mile

" 4/18 2 Mile

" 4/25 10 Mile

" 5/2 15 Mile

" 5/9 10 Kilo.

" 5/16 8 Mile

" 5/23 4 Mile

D Dayton 5/29 1 Mile-Ohio A.A.U.

Blackburns 6/6 6 Mile

Chicago 6/12 10 Kilo. National

Cooke Center 6/20 10 Mile 90 kmo Ann, Balt.

" 6/27 8 Mile

" 7/4 10 Mile

" 7/11 6 Mile

" 7/18 8 Mile

" 7/25 10 Mile

" 8/1 12 Mile

" 8/8 8 Mile

" 8/15 10 Mile

" 8/22 6 Mile

" 8/29 8 Mile

Chicago 9/5 1 Hr. National Champ.

Blackburns will be given to the top three in races held at Cooke Center and three trophies to the top three in points for all the races.
Points will be awarded as follows:
6 pts. for 1st, 4 pts. for 2nd, 3 pts. for 3rd
2 pts. for 4th and 1 point for all finishers.