

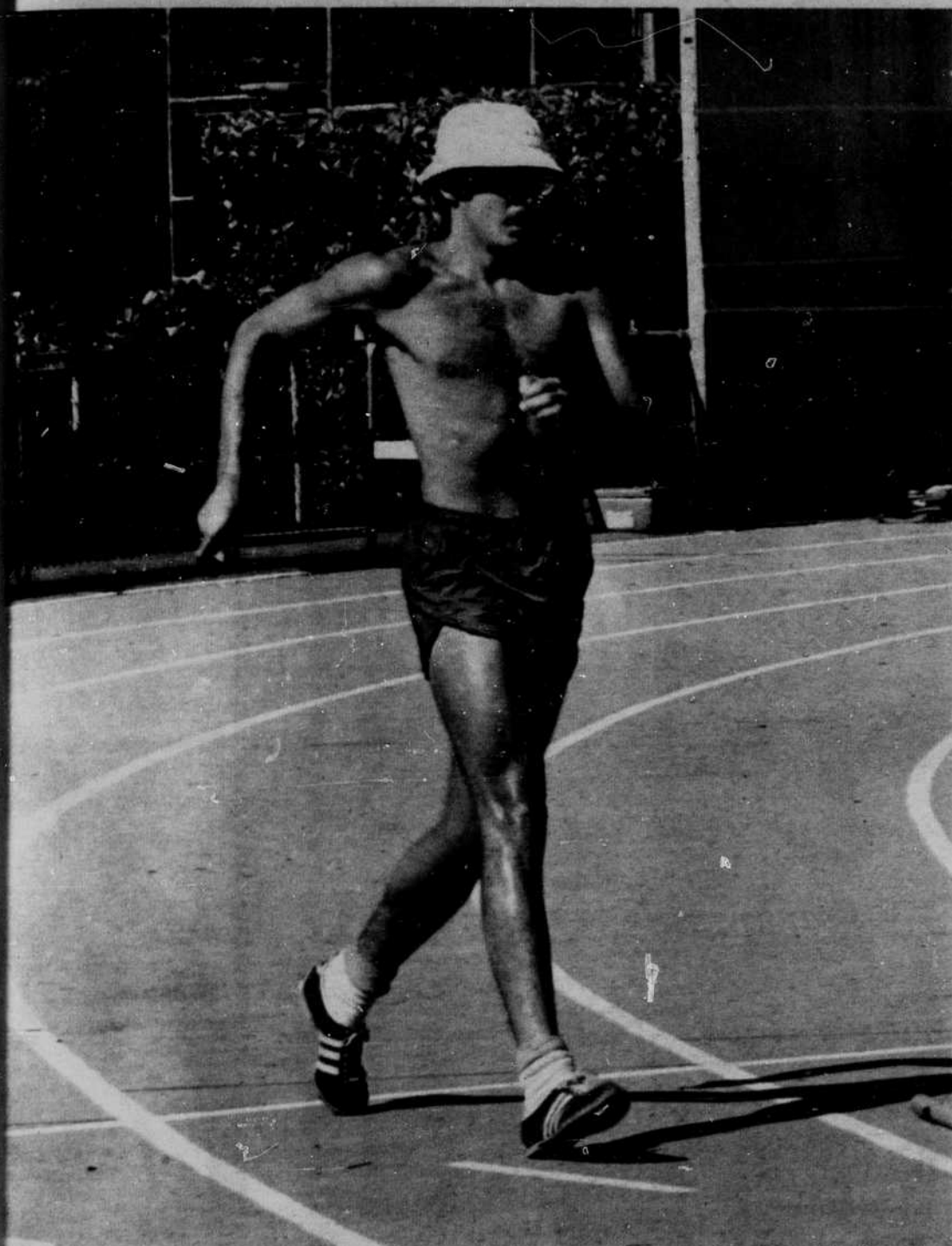


Photo by Al Shirtcliff

20 kilometers around the town

Dooley favored in walk

By EVAN SMITH
Of the Emerald

If you want to watch today's Olympic trials but can't afford the price of admission to Hayward Field, take the footbridge across the Willamette to Day Island Road for finals of the 20 kilometer race walk.

The walkers will stroll the first 800 and last 300 of their 20,000 meters on the Hayward Field track. In between, they will make their way north on Agate to Franklin Boulevard, walk west to the new bike route, cross the Willamette on the footbridge and take six trips on a 2½-kilometer out-and-back course on Day Island Road before retracing their steps to the stadium.

The course is one that offers the worst of all possible worlds. The walkers will get neither the chance to perform before a roaring crowd nor the chance to cover a varied course. The event has traditionally been held as a road race, but it must be held on a small, closed course where the judges can keep the competitors under nearly constant surveillance.

Head walking judge Bruce McDonald told the Emerald Friday of the problems involved in judging walking races: "The hardest part is seeing that they maintain contact with the ground, to see that one foot doesn't leave the ground until the other touches. Then we have to check on both sides to see that the legs straighten on every stride."

Although the threat of a disqualification is always present for race walkers, infractions are not as frequent in the Olympic distances of 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) and 50 kilometers (31.1 miles) as they are in one and two mile track races.

Among Americans competing in the Olympic Trials, the dominant competitor at both distances is Larry Young.

It was Young in 1968 who became the first American to win an Olympic race walking medal. He won a bronze medal in the 50 at Mexico City.

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This year he will attempt to double in the two events.

In '68 Young qualified for the American team in both events but gave up his spot in the 20 to concentrate on the 50.

He may now be the leading American in both events. He told the Emerald Friday that he would try to make the team in both events, then decide after the trials whether to withdraw himself from one of them.

The two races are only three days apart here, just as they will be at Munich. "I don't know if it's enough rest," said Young.

As the trials begin, Young ranks as the favorite in both events. He established his pre-eminence in the 20 early this year with an American record time of 1 hour, 30 minutes, 10 seconds.

Young's record time ranks him well ahead of the second fastest American of the year—Tom Dooley. Dooley has a time of 1:31:52.

Young lists Dooley and Goetz Klopfer (1:39:30) as the most likely contenders. Both represented the U.S. at Mexico City where Dooley was 17th in the 20 and Klopfer 10th in the 50.

All six of the U.S. walkers who competed at Mexico City are entered in the 20 here. The six are Young, Dooley, Klopfer, Dave Romanskey (1:32:14), Ron Laird (1:33:35) and Rudy Huluza (1:37:34). Huluza was fourth in the Mexico 20 with Laird 25th. Romanskey finished 25th in the 50 in Mexico.

The veterans will not have the race to themselves in the 33-man field. Bill Ranney is a contender with the nation's fourth best time of the season (1:33:01). Coloradans Floyd Godwin (1:34:15) and Jerry Brown (1:36:41) could also make the old-timers scramble.

Young says he expects a close battle among many of these competitors for at least 10 or 15 kilometers, but he doesn't expect a particularly fast time: "There are too many sharp turnarounds on this course to keep a fast pace."

A fast pace for these walkers is about 7:20 per mile or faster than eight miles an hour.

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