

McArdle, Mills Make Olympics in Marathon

Peter McArdle of New York and Billy Mills of the Camp Pendleton Marines made the United States Olympic team Sunday morning by finishing one-two in the annual Western Hemisphere marathon at Culver City.

McArdle, a wispy, bald athlete of 34, is a naturalized citizen from Ireland. By occupation, he is a bus mechanic.

Mills, 26, was born in South Dakota and is half Sioux.

Games Trials

McArdle, who qualified for the Russian meet in the 10,000 meter run, elected to skip that competition to try for a position on the Olympic team in the marathon. He'll also try to make it in the 10,000 at the final Olympic trials here in September and, if successful, plans to compete in both rugged events at Tokyo.

The third U.S. Olympian in the marathon is Buddy Edelen, South Dakota schoolteacher who qualified by winning the Yonkers, N.Y., race in May. Alternates are John J. Kelley, off his showing at Yonkers, and James Green, who finished third Sunday, both of the Boston Athletic Assn.

Winning Time

McArdle's time for the 26-mile, 385-yard route was 2:27.01. He also won this race in 1962. Mills finished a close second in 2:27.29. McArdle said afterward that he pulled a muscle in his right leg during the race, but wasn't bothered too much.

It was Mills' first try in the classic marathon. He never before had run more than 9.5 miles.

John Macy of the Houston Track Club set an unusually fast pace in the early going, but developed blisters on his feet and finally dropped out at the 20th mile after slipping to seventh place.

Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia, the 1960 Olympic champion, had filed an entry, but was not among those present when the field of 150 set forth.

The first 10 finishers:

1. Pete McArdle (New York), 2:27.01;
2. Billy Mills (Camp Pendleton), 2:27.29;
3. James Green (Boston AA), 2:30.36; 4. Wayne Van Dellen (Woodlake, Cal.), 2:31.39; 5. Joe Tyler (Los Angeles TC), 2:32.50; 6. Nick Kift (LATC), 2:35.06; 7. Gordon McKenzie (New York), 2:37.24; 8. Ralph Buschman (Spartan AC, N.Y.), 2:38.51; 9. Antonio Manrique (Mexican Olympic), 2:40.01; 10. Gene Gurule (Striders), 2:40.18.