

"Engelsholm" July 3, 1976

Mr. Jon Hendershott  
TRACK & FIELD NEWS  
P.O.Box 296  
Los Altos  
California 94022  
U.S.A.

Dear Jon,

Bislett Games:

WALKER NOW 4:51.4 FOR 2000 METERS

Oslo, Norway, June 30 - Before the meet John Walker promised, that he would improve Michel Jazy's 2000 meter-world record (4:56.2) set back in 1966.

And he also did emphatically - with the fantastic time 4:51.4.

With a rabbit in front of the field the first round was passed in relatively slow 60 seconds, but then it also went quick. The following splits were for 800 meters 1:58.5 and 1200 meters 2:56.0. Then west german Thomas Wessinghage, who was in front, had to give up because of a fiber injury in his thigh. The last two rounds it was only kiwi John Walker fighting against the clock. He rushed through 1500 meters in 3:38.5 - when there still was 500 meters left - and sprinted home the last round (57.4) with all the spectators standing applauding and roring to give the former record a 4.8 seconds-push. About nine seconds later came second west german Karl Fleschen clocking 5:00.4 and third European 1500 meter-champ

Klaus-Peter Justus of East Germany in 5:00.6.

After a victory round a satisfied Walker thanked the spectators and promised, that he will get back to Bislett after the Olympic Games for taking the world 1500 meter-record, as he missed by only two tenths in the Norwegian capital last year.

-I didn't think, it was possible, he told after the race. -When I saw the light breeze, I was afraid, that the record attempt should fail. Perhaps one second's improvement was inside my reach, I thought. And then I got nearly five, Walker happy said.

The 1500 meters turned out to be a fight between the other two black kiwi-horses Rod Dixon and Dick Quax. Feverill Dixon ran a sensible race and crossed the line in fast 3:36.1 with Quax coming up second timed 3:36.7. A surprising third was Oregon Norwegian Lars Martin Kaupang in national record time 3:37.4.

/attendance 15,546/ - 100, Meite (IC). 400, Solomon (Tri) 46.4. 800, Wulbeck (WG) 1:47.2, 2. Wellmann (WG) 1:47.6, 3. Hoving (Hol) 1:47.7, 4. Plachy (Czech) 1:47.9. 1500, Dixon (NZ) 3:36.1, 2. Quax (NZ) 3:36.7, 3. Kaupang 3:37.4 NR, 4. Nevens (Bel) 3:37.6, 5. K.Kvalheim 3:38.1, 6. Iskii (Jap) 3:38.4. 2000, Walker (NZ) 4:51.4 WR, 2. Fleschen (WG) 5:00.4, 3. Justus (EG) 5:00.6, 4. Hudak (WG) 5:04.4, 5. Ryffel (Swi). HJ, Almen (Swe) 7-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 2. Falkum 7-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 3. Totland 7-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 4. Brokken (Bel) 7- $\frac{3}{4}$ . DT, Danek (Czech) 207-1. JT, Thorslund 260-6, 2. Grimnes 259-11, 3. Lorentzen 257-8.

Women: 1500, Waitz 4:06.6, 2. Holmen (Fin) 4:08.9, 3. Garrett (NZ) 4:12.3, 4. Wellmann (WG) 4:12.7, 5. Tyynela (Fin) 4:12.9, 5. Werthner (Can) 4:14.7.

Sincerely,

  
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