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CLAYTON WINS AAU MARATHON

1: CLAYTON

2: WHITE

3: MACKINNEY

The 1967 A.A.U. Marathon Championship took place at Oakbank, S.A. on Saturday 9th September. The Victorian & New South Wales teams arrived on the Friday and both teams spent some time looking over the course. Just 20 miles from Adelaide in the Mount Lofty Banges the course was an out and back one generally regarded as hilly. Opinion before the race was that the course would be a testing one.

With the medicals and general formalities over, the 41 starters from 44 entries lined up. With teams from Vic, N.S.W., W.A. & S.A. and Terry Nailer from Tasmania. Queensland was the only State not represented. This was the best line-up seen for an Australian Marathon Championship. It included two sub 2.20 men, Derek Clayton and Add Mackinney, V.M.C. champion Fred Howe, N.S.W. Winner Dave Power, Ian Sinfield winner in M.A., lat year's champion Tony Cook, S.A. winner and course record holder Ian Wheeler Linspired! by Clayton's Victorian Marathon win, Ron Clarke.

With the temperature in the 70's at the start the main group started very cautiously. Jim Bell (S.A. Ind) was an early leader followed by Amor Nowell with the rest very bunched. Bell retired at 5ml. Out of a field of 41 the leading group of 18 went through 5ml in 28:17. The gradual rise between 5ml & 10ml brought a sorting out, Clarke & Clayton were together on 56.01 at 10ml. They were closely followed by Henk Van Wingaarden 56.10; Tony Cook 56.121 Ian Wheeler 56.23, Ian Sinfield 56.25, Ray White 56.44, Rod Mackinney 56.46, Barry Tregenza 56.49, Jim Haddow 56.54, George Claxton 56.55, Barry Sawyer made up the first 12.

This was not a day for running records and although CLAYTON & CLARKE looked set for a great battle most of the runners were taking it cautiously, some of them not because of the heat, the number of cars following the race at times proved rather hazardous and some runners had narrow escapes from injury.

At the turn, CLAYTON & CLARKE were still together 1:11:36. Immediately the turn had been negotiated CLAYTON put in a burst which took him away from CLARKE. Next to the turn were WINGAARDEN & WHEELER 1.12.16 they were now 40 secs down on the leaders. TONY COOK the defending champion was finding it hard going 1.12.35. Next to start on the homeward journey were GEORGE CLAXTON, IAN SINFIELD, ROD MACKINNEY & RAY WHITE.

Detween the turn and 15 ml, CLAYTON began to move away from CLARKE and he looked full of running 1.22.06 gave him a 24 sec lead over Clarke 1.22.30, WIMGAARDEN 1.23.20 had now moved away from WHEELER 1.23.40, TONY COOK had dropped a few places. Further down the field the course and the heat were beginning to take their toll, DAVE POWER & FRED HOWE were among the first to call it a day and pull out, as well as ARTHUR ROBINSON. The climb of 250ft in 3 ml had taken its toll.

With a slight breeze behind him CLAYTON was building up a good lead, CLARKE was dropping with WINGAARDEN moving up. At 20 ml. CLAYTON 1.48.34 was forcing himself along, he had a lead of 3 min over WINGAARDEN 1.51.36 who had passed CLARKE 1.51.45. WHEELER was running well in only his second marathon 1.52.00; CLAYTON by comparison seemed to be running stronger as the race progressed. After CLAYTON at 20ml, 2½ min covered the next six, after WHEELER, RAY WHITE came through 1:53.00, GEORGE CLAXTON 1:53.36, ROD McKINNEY 1:54.00, AMOR NOWELL 1:55:03 had moved up and was 2 min ahead of IAN SINFIELD 1:57.02. A tired looking TONY COOK called it a day at 16ml. JIM HADDOW had also retired. At 22 mls. RON CLARKE pulled out while running in 4th position. With CLAYTON now widening the gap the fight for the minor placings was becoming a battle for survival, the hills & the warm weather were still taking effect. With less than 3 undulating miles to go CLAYTON had over 4 min lead from WHITE, WINGAARDEN & CLAXTON were tiring and WHEELER was experiencing the same trouble with cramping which had troubled him in the S.A. race. MACKINNEY was running the stronger of the four. Only a minute covered these four at 25 ml.

This however was DEBEK CLAYTON'S race. He had covered the second half faster than the first, and won by over $5\frac{1}{2}$ mins. The highlight of his race was the decisive break from RON CLARKE at the turn. From that moment the race was his.

RAY WHITE ran well for a good second place, ROD MACKINNEY came through to take 3rd. Team honors went to VICTORIA, but once again, finishing only three. Second place went to S.A. with N.S.W. finishing third.

RESULTS - P.T.O.

TEAMS RESULT: 1st Victoria 15, 2nd South Australia 24, 3rd. New South Wales 30, 4th Western Australia 45.

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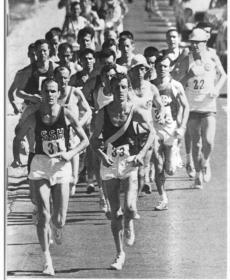
DECEMBER, 1967

40 cents

- CLAYTON WINS NATIONAL MARATHON
- CERUTTY'S COMMENTS CRITICISMS AND CONGRATS
- JACK PROSS
 TALKS TRACK
- LESTER'S
 STEEPLECHASE
 NOTES
 - RACE WALKING
- NATIONAL MARATHON AT OAKBANK, S.A.

Barry Sawyer (31) and Ray White (33) lead the main group in the early stages. Photo: JOHN G. SUNTER

SEE STORY INSIDE



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As in the A.A.U. Marathon, Clayton Tony Cook, Geoff Walker, John and Clarke staged a dramatic duel. Coyle, Dave Power in middle stages.

Photos by Fred Lester.



Barry Sawyer, Neil McLennan and Brian McLennan (no relation) fought tooth and nail.