GONZALEZ BRILLIANT IN OLYMPIC WALKS
On the cover: With 5 Km to go, Mexico’s Raúl González moves toward a gold medal in the Olympic 50 Km walk. A week earlier, he was second at 20.

Above: Guillaume Leblanc leads the Olympic 20 after the first 3 Km. Just behind him are González, defending titleholder Maurizio Damilano, winner Ernesto Canto, and Norway’s Erling Andersen. The shades over Anderson’s shoulder belong to Marco Ewenius.

Below: Into the last 5 Km, González, Canto, and Damilano have sewed up the medal spots. SPORTPHOTOS® by John Allen.

MEXICANS STRIKE GOLD IN LA

It may not quite be El Dorado their forebears sought on the new continent, but Mexico’s race walkers certainly found gold in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles—a gold medal in the 20 Km for Ernesto Canto and a gold medal for Raúl González in the 50 Km. Heightening their joy was the silver González captured in the 20. Dominant on the international racewalking scene for the past 8 years—starting with Daniel Bautista’s 20 Km gold in the Montreal Olympics—the Mexicans made amends for a dismal showing in Moscow 4 years ago.

The 20 Km was contested on Friday, August 3, beginning at 5:15, so that the temperature was cooling during the race. The 24-year-old Canto was a strong favorite off his world record performance in Norway in May, but certainly had no easy time of it. He was able to escape González and a determined defending gold medalist, Maurizio Damilano, only over the final 2 miles. Even then, he was never able to build up a commanding margin and won by just 7 seconds in an Olympic record time of 1:23:13, more than 4½ minutes off his record, but good in the conditions. Damilano was only 13 seconds behind in third.

The early pace was not exceptionally fast for a race of this caliber, but 10 walkers were able to break clear of the field early. They were led by Canada’s Guillaume Leblanc, who seems to rise for the big races—his season had not been impressive until this one. Hitting 5 Km in 20:46, the Canadian had 9 seconds on the rest of the field. Closely bunched Mexican Marcelino Collín in the trailing group were Canto, González, and Damilano, along with Italy’s Carlo Mattioli, Spain’s Jose Marín, Marco Ewenius, Norway’s Erling Andersen, and Australia’s David Smith. Jim Heiring was desperately trying to maintain contact 4 seconds in arrears of this group, but it turned out not to be a good day for Jim. He was followed closely by François Laponis, Canada, and Simon Baker, Australia, with the rest of the field already well spread out.

Canto accelerated over the next 5 Km, covering it in 20:35 with Damilano right with him. This put them just ahead of Leblanc at 10 Km in 41:33, with only González and Mattioli still in tow. Smith led Andersen some 14 seconds back of the leaders, with Ewenius just 5 seconds behind them. Marín, who has been so tough the last few years and looked on as a strong medal contender in both races, was struggling. Although in 8th place, he already seemed to out of it—better than a half minute behind and slowing.

Damilano made a strong move from 10 to 15 Km, valiantly trying to recapture the gold, and passed 15 in 1:02:14, 8 seconds ahead of Canto. Leblanc, having the race of his life was still right with Canto, with González appearing to be losing contact, another 9 seconds back. Mattioli was a lonely 5th and Ewenius continued to look strong as he fought to keep Andersen in sight for the sixth spot. At this point, they both appeared to have Marín beaten.

Leblanc had shot his wad, and dropped back well back over the final 5, but easily held onto fourth over Mattioli, certainly an excellent result for a...
22-year old. Damilano also had apparently given his all in the third quarter of the race and as he slowed he was forced to yield first to the very strong and fast Englishman, who has won the European gold over the last 5. Marin, meanwhile, was able to catch Evonik and Anderle to capture sixth. Garcia also caught the tailing Anderle for seventh, perhaps a better result than he expected as he pointed for the 50. Just back of Anderle was Columbia's Jose Moreno, probably the biggest surprise of the day. He was well clear of David Smith, who had some fast races in Europe and secured a decisive win in our 10 Km but faded badly over the second half today.

The winner of the race first came on the International scene in 1979, when he took sixth at the Lugano Cup in 1:21:20. In 1981, he won the Lugano Cup race and, after a rather nondescript campaign in 1982, was World Champion at 20 Km last year, winning the Helsinki race in 1:20:49. He was then second to Czech Josef Pribilinve in the Lugano Cup, with a 1:19:40 and was ranked second in the world behind the Czech. Pribilinve, of course, was not in Los Angeles because of the boycott. Gonzalez is more noted for his speed in 50, but certainly came into the race with some good credentials at the shorter distance. He was fifth in the race in Montreal and sixth in Moscow and has been ranked in the top 10 in the world by Track & Field News six times since 1974. His highest rankings were fourth in 1976 and 1977.

Gonzalez is 32 years old. Damilano, now 27, is best known for his 1980 Olympic win. He also was second at the World Cup in 1980, but copped his campaign with a silver medal at the 1978 European Championships. He was disqualified in the 1979 Lugano Cup race, finished 6th in that race in 1981, and then suffered another disqualification in the 1982 European Championships. However, he was ranked third in the world in both 1981 and 1982. Last year, he captured fourth in the Lugano Cup race with a superb 1:20:16, but could finish only seventh in the World Championships.

The results:

All starters finished. Reima Salonen was among four entrants who did not start.
Gonzales was walking in his fourth Olympics. In 1972, he struggled to a 20th place finish in the 50 Km in 4:25:14. Four years later, he was fourth in the 20K. For the Olympic title in 1980, he blew up after leading at 30K and didn't finish, but had an earlier 6th place finish in the 20K. However, he has done very well outside of the Olympic arena. He has won the 50K title three times for the USA and once for East Germany in 1981 - the only East German to win a gold medal in the Olympic race walk. He holds the World record for the 20K (1:41:29) and the 50K (3:34:56). However, he has overextended himself on occasion, including that 1980 Olympic 50K.

In the 1982 Lugano race, he blistered the first 25K in 1:46:12, 5 minutes ahead at J.5, and then blew up to finish 4th in 4:34:16. In last year's World Championships, he led at 25K, but faltered to finish 5th in 3:54:51. He has been ranked number one in the world five times (1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, and 1982) and third twice (1980 and 1983). Bo Gustafsson has done most of his walking at the International level at the 20K distance with a penchant for DQ. He was thrown out of last year's World Championships, the 1982 European Championships, and the 1980 Olympic Games (while in 6K). He did finish 9th in the 1981 Lugano 20K. In one major 50K, he was third in the 1982 European Championships. His best 50K time was 3:15:49 last year.

Sandro Bellucci has also had some troubles this year, having been DQ'd early in this year's Lugano Cup and at the 40K mark while in third place at the 1982 European Championships. His best previous finish was third in the 1981 Lugano Cup. He was seventh in last year's World Championships, 11th in the 1979 Lugano Cup, and seventh in the 1978 European Championships. Gustafsson and Bellucci are both 29 years old. The U.S. showing has been somewhat disappointing, considering the effort that has been put in the last few years, and this is not meant as any criticism of the individuals involved, who gave their best on the day and found it not good enough. I don't know what this says, but it is interesting that the one who did best (Schueler) is the one who laid out for most of the last 5K and who has the least international experience. The year-around training facility, ample opportunity for international competition, and generally greater emphasis on walking has brought about steady improving times, but no progress via-
via the rest of the world. In the 20K, way back in 1980 (with about the same same field and the Soviets and East Germans in the field), there was only fourth best in the Western Hemisphere—behind Mexico, Canada, and Columbia, who all put their third man ahead of our second. Likewise, we keep second what seems to be increasingly stronger teams to Lugano Cup competitions, but the results don't get any better. I hope we continue the programs we have going, that support will still be there. I would be interested in analysis of those closer to the scene than I of why we feel we are retrogressing, whether, if anything, in international competition, and what, if anything, can be done to get over the hump. I see this sound too negative. I don't think there is anything wrong with a sixth and a seventh in the world, but it isn't the break through everything keeps expecting, since we have done better in the past.

Henry Taskau, who was one of the judges at the Olympics, had these observations:

"Now from my point of view in observing the various styles of the international class race walkers, I must state that the form, and in particular the proper contact with the ground leaves much to be desired. The progression of steps is in such a manner that it is almost a flat touch with the foot, not a forward stretched motion in which the heel should touch the ground first, before the rear foot leaves the ground. Therefore, it seems that the European Judges approve of this method, as long as contact with the ground is maintained. (Oh, perhaps Henry got a little confused there. As long as contact with the ground is maintained, it should be accepted.)"
for cars to the course and, above all, taking care of the publicity. A job which was well done in its finest detail. In addition, Bob Bowman, who took care of the other details of the IAAF officials who contacted the Athletics Congress and coordinated everything with IAAF. This was a flawless operation. There were so many others involved to make the two Olympic race walking events successful. Just to mention a few: Martin Rudow, Jim Hanley, Bob Hickey, Darlene Hickman, Lowrie and Owen Robertson, Raul Nash, Bruce MacDonald, Howard Jacobson, and John Kelly."

Photographer John Allen comments: "All-in-all, it was a very fair and competitive 20 Km walk. One exception-Mattoli of Italy stood out as lookin' bad! So, we look at the time, the weather conditions, and the crown support. When I read 1:18:13, I see what I think, I think of what a 1:18 plus would look like! Oh, there were the runners that caused the usual infractions, but it didn't ruffle me; it wasn't that bad. The Mexicans did have a great advantage with the Latin crowd. You could feel it all along the 2500-meter loop. Marco looked great, though out too fast. Hering apparently had an injury to his leg and was out way too swift."

And here is some feature material on the two races gleaned from members of the "working" press.

10 Part VIII/Saturday, August 4, 1984 Los Angeles Times

Track and Field / 20-Kilometer Walk

Mexico 1-2 as 'Home' Fans Cheer

By MARLENE CIMONS, Times Staff Writer

Jimmy Lopez of Lynwood probably spoke for the 1.4 million Mexican-Americans who live in the Los Angeles area Friday night when he leaped from his seat, jumped onto the track and lifted Mexico's Ernesto Canto off his feet in a giant hug.

Canto had just won the gold medal in the 20-kilometer (12.4 mile) racewalk with a new Olympic record of 1 hour 23 minutes 13 seconds. Lopez and his friends could not contain their emotion. And the joyful outpouring became even more overwhelming when, seven seconds later, Raul Gonzalez, also of Mexico, crossed the finish line to take the silver in 1:23:20.

"I was American, but I am Mexican," Lopez said, nearly in tears. "I feel great. This is the greatest moment in my life."

Canto, world champion and world record-holder in 1:18:40, joined his countryman for a brief celebration. They showed off the silver-and-black sombrero someone had put on their heads and took a victory lap around the Coliseum, holding a hand-painted sheet that said, "Viva Mexico" in red.

Almost lost amid this display of national pride was bronze medalist Maurizio Damilano of Italy, the 1980 Olympic champion who finished third in 1:23:26. Canto said he was deeply affected by the sentiment shown by the Mexican-American community both inside the Coliseum at the finish and on the course outside the stadium.

"We did receive very strong support," he said. "Los Angeles has a large Mexican community. In the Coliseum, I felt tremendous emotion, especially when I came into the Coliseum."

He added: "It was a great experience, but I didn't realize I was going to be a winner—Raul Gonzalez was right behind me. But it was an opportunity I could not let pass. It was now or never."

Canto was in front almost immediately during the first five laps inside the stadium, although he lost the lead to Canada's Guillaum Leblanc after they began their six laps outside, around Exposition Blvd. Canto got the lead back after 10 kilometers but it was never a commanding one.

"It was very strong competition," Canto said. "We were not sure what was going to happen. It was hot, and there was a lot of humidity. Raul came very close to me. It was a very difficult race."

Part V/1U Saturday, August 4, 1984 Los Angeles Times

Gonzalez Hurries Away From Field

By MARLENE CIMONS, Times Staff Writer

For the second time in eight days, Mexican racewalker Raul Gonzalez found himself sitting inside the victory tent, talking about how good it felt to win an Olympic medal.

This time, though, it was different.

Last Friday, he had walked 20 kilometers—12.4 miles—around the shadless, steamy asphalt of Exposition Boulevard to second place and a silver medal.

Saturday, he walked two and a half times farther under the same difficult conditions on the same course. He pushed himself for 50 kilometers—about 31 miles—and won the gold.

And no one needed an interpreter to translate the words he used to describe the way he felt. "Mas contento," he said, smiling.

American Marco Evoniu, of Longmont, Colo., placed seventh in 1:25:42. His teammates, Jim Hering, of Kenosha, Wis., and Dan O'Connor, of Westminster, Calif., placed 23rd and 33rd respectively in 1:30:20 and 1:36:12.

Evoniu, who will also racewalk the 50-kilometer (about 31-mile) event next weekend, said he was not unhappy with his performance. He considers the longer distance his better event.

He said he was impressed with Mexico's domination of the sport. "They train full-time at altitude," he said.

Then, of the Mexican-American support along the course, he added: "It helped them—and me."

"I am American, but I am Mexican," Gonzalez said, nearly in tears. "I feel great. This is the greatest moment in my life."
This was the culmination of 15 years of work," he said. "It was an unbelievable feeling. It is very hard to explain and very, very special. It was a very emotional moment, almost to the point where I was disturbed.

He said he had prepared himself for this race more than for any other in his life. "The race was very hard," he said. "It got warmer and warmer. I saw others drop off. The same thing could have happened to me. But I felt I had to run that risk because it was my only chance to win another medal. I am already 32 years old and it's hard to predict what the future is going to be like.

González's joy also was tinged with sadness. He spoke of his father, who died about six weeks ago. "I would have liked for him to be able to see this race," he said. "He would have meant a lot to me for him to have been here."

Gustafsson said he had enlisted the aid of a Swedish specialist in hot-weather training, Hemming Atterbom, a professor at the University of New Mexico, to help him prepare.

"I learned how to handle conditions like this," he said. "We've been practicing to race in the heat for 14 days now. I'm glad I came here to the States 14 days ago. It is impossible to make a good race in conditions like this, but I had a very good race. I never had any problems with the heat."

Bellucci, the bronze medalist, said he considered himself fortunate to win a medal. "The places of honor were taken by Gustafsson and me thanks to the pace of others who slowed down," he said.


Finally, this commentary from the astute Dr. Howard Balaramhuk:

The Olympics were very exciting and the drama played out in the walks was just incredible. To this point, I would like to contribute another column on the most devastating aspect of the 50 K---the heat.

**SUMMER HEAT**

by Dr. Howard Balaramhuk

I do not want to risk alienating the fine organization of the Los Angeles Olympics race walking committee, who put on a fine competition in both the 20 and 50 K events. They should be highly commended.

What I witnessed on Saturday morning was one of the most grueling 50 Kms that devastated almost half the starting field of 31 competitors. It was not the judging, nor was it a high injury incidence, that forced a record number of competitors to abandon the most important race of their lives. It was the heat. The list of casualties read like a Who's Who of world class race walking.

Join, Leblanc, Lapointe (the entire Canadian team!), Evinick, Lessie, Dallan (who were over for a half mile before staggering and collapsing to the pavement), Joachim (collapsing to the pavement at my feet and being taken away by ambulance with teammate Villi Swall suffering the same fate), Erling Andresen, as well as a Bolivian and Columbian also succumbing. Ernesto Cano, winner of the gold in 20 and in contention for a possible double also "broke up" and strolled (if 4:07 is strolling). Even Gonzalez showed the heat as his head bobbed from side to side over the last 5 km in an apparent struggle.

By the 8 am starting time, it was starting to get uncomfortably warm. By 9 to 10 am, temperatures were on their way into the 80's. By 11, it was downright hot. Mind you, the air temperature might not have exceeded 80 to 85°F, but the intensity of the sun beating down as it moved to its most intense radiation position, made conditions closer to the 90 to 95 range. Add to this black asphalt radiation heat in the neighborhood of 120 plus and the high drop out rate is easily understood. Water, sponging, and aid stations were more than adequate, as well as a sprinkler system on the course, but did little to slow the discomfort. According to research done by the U.S. military, cold sprays of water may actually cause the pores to close down and reduce sweating (according to Alberto Salazar, who avoided the sprinklers in the marathon, but didn't do well anyway.)

The biggest problem with the course was absolutely no shade for its entire 50 km length. There was no escape from the relentless sun. Although the same course was used for the 20, the starting time of 5 pm had the sun in an evening sky with less intense radiation and a rising evening breeze. Conditions were overall more tolerable in that race.

I understand the reasons behind the course, such as easier judging, better crowd exposure (although it did take place in one of LA's low income and rundown areas), and access in and out of the Coliseum. But, I feel that better attention should have been given to a "safer" course—one that provided some shade. Even the men's and women's marathon course had the first half of the race run along the Santa Monica and Pacific Coast, where cool ocean breezes were plentiful. Once again, the typical opinion was voiced (source not identified) that they would rather have the walks on the track at midnight with the true walking fans coming out to see the event no matter what. At least it would be cooler.

I do understand the logistics of laying out the course near the stadium and certainly commend those who worked so hard on the course to make the races a success. Not only did they have to worry about the position of the...
course in relation to the stadium, but also police cooperation and traffic control, intrusion into neighborhoods, etc.

But even as I sit here writing this, I can see Carl Schueler and Vince O’Sullivan growing in their gait, receding from the lap, sweating profusely, and wavering in their gait, praying that they would not be the next ones sprawled on the pavement. Granted, there was no serious injury as a result of the race, but the real potential was always there. A 50 km is hard enough, lone having to contend with severe heat and a course that did not protect the health of the walkers.

So that’s all the Olympic coverage for this issue (unless some exciting commentary or insight arrives in tomorrow’s mail). But you can look forward to more photos, any further information that reaches us via the grapevine, and, perhaps, some heated rebuttal to some of our commentary in this issue as part of our continuing coverage of the sport in the future. Our thanks to all those who have supplied material used in this issue, helping to make our coverage as complete as possible.

There were a few other races going on and these are some results:

**5 Km, Providence, RI, July 29—**

**6 Km, West Boivington, Mass. Aug. 4—**

**7.5 Km, Queens, NY, July 28—**

**8 Km, Penn. July 29—**

**10 Km, Derby, June 29—**

**10 Km, Porto Alegre, Brazil, Aug. 5—**

**10 Km, North Bay, Ont., Aug. 5—**

**15 Km, Tokyo, Japan, Aug. 11—**

**20 Km, Mexico City, June 29—**

Some recent articles of interest have turned up: Walking and Running,” by Robert Alexander, Professor of Zoology at the University of Leeds, appeared in the July-August issue of the American Scientist. It examines patterns of movement, which dictate a dramatic change in technique from walking to running at a very predictable speed for normal-sized adults. It also shows how race walking style extends the speed at which walking is economical. The greater economy of energy an animal can achieve at slower speeds and greater training effect is also stressed in an article by Dr. Turbin, “Walking yet! Running no!” in the Jan.-Feb.-March 1984 issue of *FEFJ. Journal. Finally, “Sports Biomechanics: Olympics’ Competitive Edge,” by Dr. Davis in the July-August issue of High Technology includes a discussion on the track with a race walker at the USOC Biomechanics Lab in Colorado Springs. Oh, yes. One More. The September 1984 issue of *New England Monthly has an article on race walking “Me Walk…Like an Angel Walker” by Carol Falke. Bob Stedman reports that he heard from Comabah last month. He was to assist assistant manager of the Monongolian Olympic team and is preparing to be happy about the boycott. Hopefully, Bob will send a copy of the new issue of *New England Monthly should provide some interesting insights. (Note the vertical space of some tables. An expensive typewriter is not always functioning as it should.)...Dave Gwyn, in Texas, alerts us to a publication that may be of interest to some of you. *Runathlete in published quarterly by the IAAF’s offices for North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. It has aided the Western Hemisphere field, long distance running, and race walking in the Western Hemisphere, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Dave gleaned the following information from the National NW lists in a recent issue: Mexico had 6 under 1:30, 10th at 1:37:08 and 4 under $100 with 10th at 1:24:30. Greece had 1 under 1:30 with 10th at 1:41:01. Brazil showed 1 under 1:40, and 10th at 1:49:08. A race walking division has...
HEY, MATE! THESE ARE OTHER RACES TO COME.

Sat. Sep. 15--10 and 20 Km, Denver, 9 am (V)
Sat. Sep. 16--20 Km, Denver, 9 am (AA)
Sun. Sep. 16--1 Hour, College Park, Maryland, 10 am (L)
Sat. Sep. 22--Maine 1 Hour, Lewiston, 1 am (T)
Sun. Sep. 23--NATIONAL ATHLETICS CONGRESS 40 KM, MORNONG, NJ (A)
Sat. Sep. 29--NATL'NALS OONGRESS 100 MII'E, OWlMBIA, MO , 1 pm (M)
Sun. Oct. 27--Biathlon (5 Mile Run

10 Years Ago (From the July and August 1974 OR)---The National women's 1

Mile went to Sue Brodick in 7:29:7... Later, Sue won the Women's National

5 Km in 24:15:2 over Sweden's Margareta Sim and England's Marlene Fawkes.

Ron Kulik took the National 40 Km in 3:42:01, 3 minutes ahead of John Knifton.

Karl-Heinz Stadtmüller walked a quick 1:25:1.3 to take the East German 20 Km.

Montclair again beat Blackburn on the Ohio scene in a thrilling 2 mile

(18:49 to 15:55) just minutes after a thrilling 3500 run also won by Montclair

in 2:39:29... Comebacking Larry Young captured the National 50 in 4:52:51

5 minutes ahead of John Knifton. Algie Hirt and Ron Kulik followed. The age

of Vladimir Golubnichiy (must have been around 60 then) took the Soviet

22 Km in 1:28:21.

5 Years Ago (From the July and July 79 OR)---Daniel Bautista and Paul

Gonzales swept honors in the Pan-American Games. The 20 went to Bautista

in 1:28:15, with Neal Pyke and Todd Scully 2 and 4 minutes back. Marcel

Jobin managed only fifth. Gonzalez easily beat Martin Bermudez in the 50 in

2:03:17. Marco Evoniuk was third (1:34:23) and Vincent O'Sullivan fifth

(1:36:12). In the USSR, Nikolai Vinnitchenko did 1:29:29 ahead of Anatoly

Sidorin's 1:32:39. Maurizio Damiano was sixth in the race (1:30:14) and

Neal Pyke 13th (1:26:34)... Daniel Bautista did a world's best 20 Km in

Sweden in 1:21:04, with his teammate Felix Gomez just 15 seconds back. At

the same time, Paul Gonzales turned in a 1:34:42, just over 2 minutes ahead of

Bermudez... USOC Sports Festival titles went to Marco Evoniuk (1:35:10)

and Dan O'Connor (1:39:18).... Neal Pyke also won the National 20 at Niagara

Falls in 1:32:39, ahead of Marcel Jobin's 1:32:41... Chris Hansen pushed

Jobin with a 1:32:40 in third and Jim Heilman did 1:30:46 to beat Dan O'Connor

for fourth. Evoniuk just edged Carl Schuler for sixth... Viktor

Tigges 3:43:54 and Dan O'Connor 3:45:10 led the chase. AIA

Sweden, beating fellow Englishman, Marlene Fawkes (23:19:2).

SCOTT MORTLAND JOINS RANKS OF INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES

Scott Mortland, 13-year-old son of your editor, is back from a 17-day
trip to England with the Dingos soccer team. Earlier in the summer he had
become a "full international" playing against several Canadian in tournaments
and training matches (they broke even 3-3-1), a visit to the Tottenham
Hotsurp training site, attendance at several professional matches, including
the Everton-Liverpool match in Wembley to kick off the season, and soaking
up the English culture.
Whooops! Suddenly, I realize that I just did page 15, which was to wrap this up, but page 15 is already at the printers with a photo. That means I have to quickly throw something onto three more pages, or hold this up another day while I get creative to fill those pages (there goes the old spacing problem again). I mean we learned from the 1982 Race Walking World Statistics, which was all right through the end of 1983, and from the 1984 U.S. Race Walk Handbook, showing world record progression.

## SECTION 7 - World Record Progression

### WORLD OUTDOOR TRACK RECORDS (MEN)

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<th>Distance</th>
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<td>GER</td>
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**Note:** All times are in hours, minutes, and seconds.

### 20,000 Metres Track

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**Note:** All times are in hours, minutes, and seconds.
Such celebrations have been commonplace at the Coliseum throughout the years, mostly on fight nights when champions like Jose Becerra, Vicente Saldivar and Chango Carmona have won world-title bouts.

Ernesto Canto also wore short pants during his triumph Friday, but his path to victory was far different.

Starting on the west side of the arena, he heeled and toed five laps in the zany style of the race walker, looking very much like a man in desperate need of a comfort station.

Then he exited the parade tunnel in first place, led the pack up Menlo Avenue to Exposition Boulevard and took six tours of a 2¼-kilo course that stretched from Catalina Street to Hobart Boulevard.

More than an hour later, he reappeared through the parade tunnel, the leader in red jersey, white shorts, and blue shoes, his head bobbing beneath a white cap.

He was still full of walk as he completed the final lap, the crowd spurring him on to an Olympic record.

"I will never forget those cheers," he said later.

And his country will never forget the moment that Mexico finished 1-2 in the Olympics. In all the years of the Games, only Daniel Bautista, in the same 20-kilo walk in Montreal in 1976, had won a gold for Mexico in track and field.

You pause to wonder why Mexico is so good at walking, and not so good at running, and discover it is something the nation has worked at very hard since 1968.

That was the year that Jose Pedraza Zuniga, a 31-year-old soldier, passed one Soviet for the silver and nearly bagged the gold in front of 60,000 on his home turf.

In preparation for this competition, Canto had flown here well in advance to scout the course.

He toured it several times without incident, leaving secure in his knowledge that the streets of Los Angeles indeed are safe to walk.

Then, in the final month before the Games, the Mexican walkers journeyed to La Paz, Bolivia, to train.

Mexico City wasn't high enough for them. Their lungs needed to be tested by some of the thinnest air breathed by human beings.

Canto — 5 foot 7, 128 pounds, the world champion and record holder — was well-prepared for his assignment in Los Angeles.

Not so finely tuned was No. 216 in your program and No. 1 in your heart, Luis Campos of El Salvador. Due to a local war, Campos has not been able to keep his mind totally focused on the 20-kilometer walk.

In the spirit of the Games, though, he competed Friday.

When Ernesto Canto headed into the parade tunnel after his fifth lap, Luis Campos was just beginning his fifth lap.

As he walked the oval, as determined as Canto or any of the 37 others, the fans awarded him a standing ovation.

Much later, during a heat of the 10,000-meter run, he reappeared in the Coliseum.

He finished 25 minutes and 32 seconds behind the winner — but ahead of Amjad Tawalbeh of Jordan and four walkers who had quit the race.

The crowd roared again and Luis Campos cried.

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Carl Schueler, seen here with but 2 km to go, was the highest U.S. finisher in the Olympic Games with his sixth in the 50 SPORTSPHOTO by John Allen.