Evoniuk breaks record despite heat

By OLE HOLSTI

DURHAM, N.C. -- Mark Twain once said that the coldest winter he ever spent was a summer in San Francisco. That's where Marco Evoniuk, two-time Olympian and defending U.S. Olympic Sports Festival 35K walk champion, does his training.

Although the 35K men's racewalk on July 25 started well before sunrise, the North Carolina heat and humidity were especially noticeable to Evoniuk and others who train in more moderate climates. Indeed, the justified expectation of heat lead USOF officials to schedule the walk for 35K rather than the official distance of 50K.

Despite being forced to stop in the second and 12th laps, the 28-year-old Evoniuk took the lead in the sixth lap from Jim Heiring and he walked to a convincing victory in 2:50:51. His time, which works out to about 7:51 per mile, broke his on USOF record by over four minutes.

Heiring, a 31-year-old walker from Kenosha, Wisc., led through the first five laps and finished a strong second in 2:52:36, also well under the previous record.

Randy Mimm of Colorado Springs, son of a 1960 Olympic walker, began racewalking and eight and is now in his 25th year of competition. He placed third, also finishing in under three hours.

Evoniuk and Heiring will next race at the World Championships in Rome, while Mimm will be going to the Pan Am Games in Indianapolis. All three have an excellent chance to represent the U.S. at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

Mark Fenton placed fourth, followed by Dan Pierce, Mike Dewitt, Steve Vaitones, Dan Fitzpatrick, Scott Demaree, Craig Bunch and Regis Dandar. Eugene Kitts walked well through 10 laps, but a combination of heat and diarrhea forced him out of the race in the 11th lap.
Untied shoe doesn't stop Gary Morgan

By JULIE MORRISON

DURHAM, N.C. -- Four-time national 10K champ Gary Morgan was overall winner by more than three minutes at the July 26 U.S. Olympic Festival 20K. It appeared at first that it was going to be quite a race. Morgan completed the first 5K in 22:40, with Paul Schwartzberg and Arthur Koestner hot on his heels, but by the next lap (it was an eight-lap course) the other two began to drag behind.

Morgan, who is from Clarkston, Mich. and competes for N.Y Athletic Club, finished in 1:31:10, despite having to tie a shoe during the second half. He said this race was a tune-up for the World Championship in Rome Aug. 30.

The course featured one really evil hill and the temperature was in the 80s despite the 6 a.m. start.

Torrellas and others smash USOF record

DURHAM, N.C. -- The U.S. Olympic women's record was broken by the top three finishers at the July 26 U.S. Olympic Festival women's 10K. Maryanne Torrellas, Debbie Lawrence and Lynn Weik all finished under the previous record.

Torrellas completed the first 5K in 23:45, with Weik beside her and Lawrence slightly ahead. She said later she'd wanted "to go sensibly because of the heat," which had climbed close to 90 by the end of the race. However, "the competition took care of that," she said. "At the third lap I didn't know who would win."

Torrellas, a mother of three who was celebrating her 29th birthday on race day, said she wanted to prove that "... as you get older you get better."

Last-place finisher Sydney Kleinhenz of Houston didn't know she was participating until three days before the race when she was called to replace Yvonne Warner. Kleinhenz began walking only last September, after being inspired by last year's USOF walks in her hometown.
The finishers:


Some of the medalists thought:

Marco Evonik: "I wanted to establish a new record and I did it. ... I probably could have gone about 5 minutes faster today, but you have to remember that it's a race and not a time trial. The big thing is to win the race. ... If I can get into the top eight at the World Championships, that would be a great way to head into the Olympic year!"

Jim Heiling: "Marco is a tough competitor. I knew it would come down to the two of us. I had to stop and stretch my knees (he is returning to form after a July 1985 knee operation) about a dozen times during the race and that hurt me. But overall, I'm happy with my performance."

Maryanne Torrellas: "I wanted to go out sensibly because of the heat. The competition made the record possible today. As you get older, you get better. I gave myself a good start."

Debbi Lawrence: "I think the race was a good experience. That was the team that will represent the U.S. at the World Championships (Lawrence, Torrellas, Walk) in Rome. It was good for both of us to be singing in the race and watching others move. That's what we're asked to do as a team if we hope to be successful."

Gary Morgan: "The Olympics? Hey, what happens, happens. My immediate goal is the World Championships. I'd love to get a medal, but it'll be tough. I need to improve my time by about 7 minutes. The guys that are tough are the Mexican, the Italian, the East Germans, and the Russians. Those four are the world powers in race walking right now.

AUGUST 1987

Paul Schwartzberg: "I'm psyched. They've treated us well here. I'm looking forward to the ceremony. Race walkers don't get a lot of recognition. This will make for a nice home ride home."

MORGAN ALSO CAPTURES 10 KM

Niagara Falls, N.Y., July 11—Gary Morgan and Debbi Lawrence both had rather easy wins in National 10 KM races today, both repeated as champion, and both won their third title at the distance. In the women's race, Maryann Torrellas started very fast, but couldn't hold it on to win. She was soon overtaken by Lawrence, who went on to win by nearly 3 minutes. Morgan also trailed early, following Ray Sharp's early pace, but took control and won by nearly a minute.

Master's titles went to Jeannie Boccia and Alan Price, who both controlled their races throughout. Temperatures in the mid 80s were not conducive for performance.


51 Wood, WVSTC 79:37


51 Wood, WVSTC 19:37


Banton Girls 3000 meters-1. Scott Stewart, Overland Park 11:02.2 2. Steve Frank, N.Y. 11:02.2

Intermediate Women (15-61) 3000 meters-1. Megan Daff, Minneapolis, Minn. 11:02.2 2. Megan Daff, Minneapolis, Minn. 11:02.2 3. Megan Daff, Minneapolis, Minn. 11:02.2


Pan-American Games in Indianapolis-Octavio Mercenariaz at 20 km, Marla Collin at 10, and Martin Bermudes at 50. The U.S. captured a silver (Jim Lewis at 20) and bronze (Maryanne Torrellas at 10).

In the 20 km, contested on Monday, August 10, World Cup winner Mereniazh and his teammate, Olympic gold medalist Ernesto Canto, took command from the start. Jim Lewis separated himself from the rest of the pack, but was soon 60 to 100 meters behind the fast-moving Mexicans. Unfortunately, the course covered the same 20 km road lap after only one lap. Thus, they were given a 5 km time of just over 2 minutes (approximately 12 minutes). Even the, none of the officials seemed to realize there was a problem until Gary Westfield pointed out the impossibility of such a time. The timing vehicle then moved about 200 meters along the course (as measured by the odometer) to give approximate 10 and 15 km splits. Two laps on the track were added at the end of the race.
At about 7 km, Canto dropped out with a hamstring pull and Mercenario was left on his own. Canto appeared to be in severe pain and even an hour later was unable to move on his own. It certainly seemed to be the end of his World Championship hopes, but by the weekend it was reported that the injury was not as severe as originally thought. So it remains to be seen if he will be able to compete in Rome.

At "10 km", Mercenario was 23 seconds ahead of Lewis in 41:59. Surprisingly, Quercub Moreno of Columbia was another 40 seconds back. The fourth place finisher in the World Cup in New York was expected to challenge Mercenario in this one. But then one realized just how strongly he had finished in New York. And sure enough he picked up strong on the next 5 km, cutting Lewis’s gap to just 14 seconds at 15 km. (Mercenario 63:31, Lewis 64:16, Moreno 64:30). But Lewis rallied well, never let the Colombian get any closer, and in the final stages, it was the Colombian, not Lewis who succumbed. So although he was well off his best, it was an excellent race for Tim, beating the fourth place finisher from the World Cup and finishing about 2 minutes closer to Mercenario than he had there. The times were slowed by very high humidity, which probably deceived the walkers, who thought they were starting on a rather cool day.

Carl Schueler had caught Venezuela’s Carlos Ramos early in the second half of the race and appeared to be headed for a fourth place finish, only to have the Venezulean rally in the final stages to repase him and pull away.

The women’s 10 km on Wednesday was contested on the track, with only six starters. However, all six were excellent walkers and it was a highly competitive race for the first time. Mexico’s Graciela Mendoza appeared to have prevailed, crossing the finish line about 10 meters ahead of her teammate, Colín, but then she was disqualified. Canada’s Janice McCarthy had been pulled earlier in the race, both disqualifications apparently for bent knees. As a matter of fact, every one in the race reportedly had cautions for bent knees, as did many of the men in the 20 km. Yet no knowledgeable observers at either race saw any problems along this line. In a New York Times photo taken just before she crossed the finish line in a sprint finish, Mendoza has a decided straight leg and apparently solid contact. But, what’s a walking race without a little controversy?

In any case, the race went to Colín in 47:17:5, with Ann Peel right on her heels in a very exciting finish. Maryanne Torrellas was less than 18 seconds behind Peel and Lynn Weik less than 200 meters behind the winner.

The 50 km saw the return of Olympic gold medalist Raul Gonzales to international competition after a couple of years campaigning as a marathoner. On a very hot day, he was able to stay with Bermuda through 35 km at a sub 4 hour pace, but faded badly from there. He had no trouble holding onto second however. Only four of the starters finished. It was a good race for the U.S. Randy Lima, who had an excellent race in Sports Festival despite a long standing leg injury could not get it going on this day and was reduced to 5 km splits of 21 minutes after 30 minutes after just 15 km. He was out somewhere between 25 and 30 km. Dan O’Connor could never get loose. He went through 15 km in 75:05 in fifth place, but was already slowing. He was DQ’d before the 20 km mark, no doubt for bent knees.

Results on the next page.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Freeman</td>
<td>24:13:50</td>
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<td>Gordon Roberts</td>
<td>24:11:20</td>
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<td>Max Guild</td>
<td>24:11:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Key</td>
<td>24:11:20</td>
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**FROM ACROSS THE SEAS**


**Soviet 20 Km Championship, Novopolozk, July 14**: 1. Alexei Rubanov, USSR; 2. Mark Manning, GB; 3. Giuseppe Grassi, Italy; 4. Mario Bermeo, Monza; 5. Ines Estedt, GDR.


**World Junior 20 Km Championships, Madrid, Aug. 26**: 1. Raffaele Mancino, Italy; 2. Maria Diaz, Spain; 3. Felix Gomella, Italy; 4. Joel Sanchez, GB; 5. Martin Bermudez, GB.


**European 50-64 Championships, Madrid, Aug. 26**: 1. Mike Freeman, GB; 2. Salvatore Brancaccio, Italy; 3. Ken Forward, GB; 4. Peter Tichy, Czech; 5. Mike Freeman, GB.
FROM HEEL TO TOE

The Ohio 10 km Championship in Columbus on Sept. 19, is part of a Kidney Foundation event. In addition to the 10 km racewalk, there will be a 4 mile for fitness/aerobic walkers, and a 2 mile fun walk. Write to the editor for further information and entry blanks. ...The Potomac Valley Walkers are sponsoring Racewalk Clinics each Wednesday evening from September 9 through October 28. There is a $30.00 fee for the eight sessions in which nationally known coaches and racewalkers will provide individual instruction. Call 703-424-4177 for further information.

The National Athletics Congress Convention is scheduled for Honolulu on Dec. 8-13. The race walking committee is scheduled to meet from 7 to 11 pm on Wed., Dec. 9; from 7 to 11 am and 12:30 to 3:30 pm on Fri., Dec. 11, and from 7:30 to 11:30 am and 12:30 to 3:30 pm on Sat. Dec. 12. Race walking coaching/judging seminars are set for 7 to 11 am and 12 to 3 pm on Wednesday. The race walking site selection subcommittee will meet from 12 to 3 on Thursday. There will also be a race walking sports medicine seminar from 9:30 to 11 pm on Thursday. Men's Intermediate Racewalking Training Camp will be held in San Diego on Sept 12 and 13. It is open to athletes ages 19 to 30 who have competed in racewalking for less than 5 years and have walked 30000 km or more. Each day will include three work periods: 8 to 12, 2 to 6, and 6 to 10. Contact Wayne Glusker, 20351 Pearlington Rd., Cupertino CA 95014, (408)996-1272. Another camp for elite junior women will be held in Cupertino, CA on October 3 and 4. It is open to athletes ages 14 to 18 who have competed in racewalking for less than 5 years and have walked 30000 km or more. Each day will include three work periods: 8 to 12, 2 to 6, and 6 to 10. Contact Wayne Glusker for details.

Bob Steadman reports there is no news from Comaba 1987. For new readers, Bob Steadman, an expatriate Australian-Canadian racewalker, now in Lubbock, Texas, shares with us from time to time his experiences. This is part of his autobiography, to be published under the title is A.S.I. Game with the King, a works in progress. He has judged nationals dating back at least 15 years (since I've lived here) and the Sports Fest in 1983. In that time, I've heard very little complaint about him. That also includes when the "colony" was here for 3 years with its international level people. The judge in question IS known as being strict in his interpretation of the rules, but consistent and fair.

The rest of the judges were, I grant you, a mixed lot. But several have judged nationals in the past. Again, there have been few complaints at past nationals.

The judge's comment about "I can't explain what you were doing..." is open to another interpretation. I was standing there when he said it. He took it to mean "I can't give you the exact biomechanical reasons why you looked to me like you were 'lifting', but you were, and I called it."

There was, and still is, a question of what is proper notice of disqualification after the race is over. Is there a (written) time limit? Is the 1 hour "rule" in effect? If "yes" to either, what happens if it is not met--is the athlete reinstated, do we kill the judge, or what? How must the DQ be communicated? At this race, the head judge maintained that a listing of the finish was posted ASAP after the race (including a big red DQ written after those disqualified, like me)... is merely offering my best option based on what I saw. I cannot and will not second guess the judges who were at other points on the course.

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7. Hopefully, Rich's protest and my comments, along with the thoughts of others in the sport will give us something to work with in forming a set of CONSTRUCTIVE ways of dealing with this sort of thing in the future.

Best,
Leonard Jansen

SIN COVERAGE OF RACEWALKING
WORSE THAN NOTHING

Alvia Gaskill, Jr.

ESPN bills itself as the "Total Sports Network", but their coverage of the walks at the 1986 and 1987 Olympic Festivals can at best be described as superficial. The '86 coverage focused on Marco Pantani's cramping on restrooms facilities on the course and the "agony" of the last place finisher.

The '87 coverage was unfortunately orders of magnitude worse. I feel partly responsible, since it was I who allowed the ESPN vehicle on the course.

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Letter to the editor:
Dear Jack,

I would like to comment on Rich Torrella's letter in the July DBW.

Since I was in the middle (literally) of the argument at the 5 km national in Denver, I have the following observations:

1. Rich is right in saying that the topic of who should judge nationals and what their qualifications should be, is a valid area of concern. This deserves some attention at the convention and by the judges and competition groups.
They arrived about 2 hours into the 35 Km and wanted to know "the number of the lead runner." The video coverage consisted of some pitifully amateurish shots of Marco's feet and our crack aid station volunteers, who did an excellent job by all accounts. Then followed the interview with Marco by one John Nabor, an ESPN analyst and former Olympic swimmer. Nabor was much more at home covering the diving events. It was clear to me and others that he was over his head and sinking fast at the finish line, his "feature" having been abandoned. Again our mistake for having the Johns located on the course.

The ESPN anchor compounded Nabor's idiocy by noting that "racewalking can lead to back injuries" and that "jogging jostles the internal organs." In defense of ESPN, their coverage of the men's 20 Km and women's 10 Km was much better—there wasn't any.

AND A FEW MORE RESULTS (And there will still be a lot left over for next issue. This is perhaps the most results filled issue in DW history.)

24 Hours, Rouen/Grand Quevilly, France, May 23-24: 1. Claudio Sterpin, Italy 215.000 Kms, 2. Liovel Mary, France 210.000 Kms, 3. Alfred Vanhers, Belg. 206.250
Nordic Championships, Gote, Sweden, July 11-12: Women's 5 Km (road)-1. Ann Janson 2h 22:05.2 2. Kjersti Thorsen, Nor. 2h 22:39.3 3. Monika Gunnarsson, Sweden 2h 22:44.4
Swedish Championships, Kola, July 16-18: Women's 10 Km-1. Stefan Johansson 3h 39.2 2. Bo Gustafsson 3h 39.3 3. Monika Gunnarsson 3h 41.0