World Cup detail

Last month we gave you the quick and dirty summary of Race Walking's World Cup, held in Monterey, Mexico on 24 and 25. This month we go into all the glorious detail. Matter of fact, there may not be a lot else in this issue.

First, corrections to what I typed in haste last month. It's one thing to be able to blame USA Today, or some other source, or to simply have some typos. It's another to have errors in fact with no one to blame but yourself. That's what we have here. I got a fax of the partial results, via Elaine Ward in L.A. on Wednesday morning following the event. (Thanks to Elaine, and thanks to Bob Bowman, Sal Corallo, and Howie Palamarchuk for the complete results we have this month.) With the rest of the issue in place and wanting to go to the printer at noon so I could get the issue in the mail on the weekend, I sat down on the boss's time to bang out a few words off the top of my head. Someway in my haste, I referred to the 1991 World Cup in Monterrey, Cal.—it was in San Jose. I was even there. I won't go into the detail of how I seemed to get that thought in my mind. What I had done came to me about the time it was being printed. "Well, most people probably won't notice, I consoled myself. Then, a couple of days after it had put the issue in the mail, I was glancing at the first page for some reason. What do I see but something about Carlos Mercenarlo regaining the gold medal he won in New York City in 1987 and having been runnerup 2 years ago. Wow! How did I come up with that? Carlos won the 20 Km, not the 50, in 1987, a real surprise by the then 20-year old. Then in 1991, he won the 50 when Andrey Perlov was disqualified with about 600 meters to go and finally forced off the course by a flying Gary Westfield about 10 meters from the finish. Again, I was there, overlooking the dramatic event from the announcer's and press stand. Surprisingly, only one person has called me on the latter mistake and no one on the first. But, I knew. Well, on to this year's race, hopefully, with an accurate report.

In the men's races, the Mexicans easily won the team title with dominating performances at both 20 and 50. It was the third team title for the Mexicans. They won previously in 1977 and 1979 and were third in 1981 and 1983. They came back with another third place 2 years ago and now all the way to the top this year. And, this is a young Mexican team that could dominate for a while. Daniel Garcia, the 20 Km winner, was born in 1971. Alberto Cruz in third, Ignacio Zamudio (14th), and Jose Sanchez (29th) were all born in 1972. All except Garcia were virtually unknown until this race. Cruz emerged with a seventh place finish in the Barcelona Olympics. Mercenarlo, Sanchez, and Rodriguez, 1, 3, 4 at 50, were all born in 1967, and Miguel Solis in 30th place was born in 1970. The only old man was 1979 50 Km Cup winner, Martin Bermúdez, who finished 11th this year.
Third in 1989 and runner-up 2 years ago, the Italian women move all the way to the top this year, edging China by 3 points. The Chinese had won in 1983 and 1985. The Italians won with a strong team effort—6,7, and 10—not individual brilliance. They may have more trouble repeating than the Mexican men, with their two top finishers--Ileana Salvador and Annarita Sidoti—both on the far side of 30. The Chinese, on the other hand, fielded a very young team with winner Yan Wang born in 1971 and their next two finishers being at or near 18 (born in 1975). The heat was an obvious factor in all of the races, particularly the 10 and 20 on the first day. Russia's Yelena Nikolayeva tried to steal the 10 Km, opening up 18 seconds on the field by the 5 Km mark, which she passed in 22:24. That seems rather conservative back in second were Yan Wang, China; Sari Essayah, Finland; Madelein Svensson, Sweden; Kerry Junna-Saxby, Australia; Beate Anders, Germany; and Katarzyna Radtke, Poland. It was another 7 seconds back to 8th place and only 10 women were under 23 minutes.

The lead group was now down to 13, with the rest of the field starting to string out. Everyone was content to bide their time for the next 5 Km, which went by in 21:05, so that a group of nine started the final 5 Km together with Ihly (1:04:16) still in the lead. When the real racing began, the pretenders started to drop away, one by one, and Garcia, Spain's Valentin Massana, who was DQ'd with a medal in sight in last year's Olympics, and Alberto Cruz were able to escape from the rest. Garcia proved too strong for the others, and, ignoring the stifling heat, tore through a 20:09 on the final 5 to leave Massana some 6 seconds behind. Poland's Robert Korzeniowski, also DQ'd in Barcelona when within sight of a 50 Km medal, held off defending titlist Mikhail Schennikov for fourth place. Olympic champion, Daniel Plaza, was unable to match the scaring finish of the others and came home in sixth.

When the 50 started at 7 the next morning, it wasn't quite as hot, but everyone chose to test the waters with a very slow first 5. Still, there were only 10 walkers in the lead group, which passed through in 25:05. Only four of these walkers eventually wound up in the first 10. The pace picked up considerably with the next two 5 Km segments taking 23:18 and 23:30. As they hit 15 km in 1:11:53, there were now 14 walkers in the lead pack and the race was beginning to take shape as nine of these 14 finished in the first 14. The Ukraine's Vitaliy Popovitch, a veteran of international races with the USSR, opened up the race and by 20 Km led by 21 seconds in 1:34:34 (he had 22:40 for that 5), with the rest of the lead group remaining relatively intact. That group started to haul Popovitch in, and by the halfway mark, his lead was down to 8 seconds as he went through 1:57:47. The group following him still had 10 walkers in it.
Next it was Canada's Tim Berrett who tried to make a break. Covering the next 5 in 22:48, he went through 30 Km in 2:20:43. Australia's Simon Baker, the 1989 winner, was trying to follow in 2:20:47, with Martin Bermudez, 1979 winner, only a second back of him. There was still a group of seven just 4 seconds further back, with Mercenario riding his time in sixth place. Popovich was now 11th, but nearly 50 seconds back. Berrett still led by 35, but his pace dropped a bit and Spain's García, France's Thierry Toutain, and the Mexican trio of Mercenario, Sanchez, and Rodríguez were right on his heels. Baker had now dropped 20 seconds off the pace and was just ahead of the great German veteran Hartwig Gauder.

When everyone else had dropped 20 seconds, Baker had now dropped 20 seconds. Rodríguez was 17 seconds behind and Mercenario was merciless and continued with the pace to begin and dropped quickly to a 22:04, putting them out of reach of the 10 others as he started the final 5. Everyone else was pretty well settled into their finishing spots with only two changes in the top 10 over the final five. Baker passed Gauder for seventh and Toutain blew up completely, dropping all the way 18th with a 3:08 over the last 5. Giuseppe De Gaetano, only 22nd at the halfway mark, came through the field to capture ninth. Tim Berrett walked brilliantly, and after losing the lead to the onslaught of Spanish-speaking men, hung on well for fifth.

Poland was the big surprise in the team picture, performing very well in both races to finish just one point behind France in fifth. France also had their best ever World Cup, up one place from 1991. The Russians were below par, probably due in part to the breakup. But although they were several former Soviet Internationals competing for the new Republics, none of them did very well and wouldn't have done much for the Russian cause. The U.S. men improved four places as a team from 1991 and did well to finish all but one despite the severe conditions. The U.S. teams were led by Sal Corrallo (men) and Mary Hosell (women), with Howie Palamarchuk as the manager.

Some other comments on the Cup races:

Bob Bowman, IAAF Racewalk Chairman: The event went very well. Only problem was the heat and that the course was a pretty hard surface. Crowds were great (about 40,000 on Friday), 30,000 on Saturday morning for the 50). The Mexicans did very well on their home turf. U.S. women were down a bit this time with a totally new team. The men did better than expected, mainly by finishing a full team in the 50.

Howie Palamarchuk, Team Manager: The races were exciting, but slowed by the heat and the road surface. Everyone was equally affected, however. This was the best group of athletes I have ever worked with. They acted like a team, looked out for each other like a team, and raced like a team. Out of 15 athletes, 14 finished the races with no disqualifications. The race organization was good and all were made to feel welcome. It was incredible to witness the excitement of the Mexicans cheering their countryman on to Cup victory. It was nice to see racewalking get the respect it so deserves in the world of sport.

Dave McGovern, U.S. 20 Km Team: I would like to nominate Andrzej Chylinski as man of the year. His 4:17 in those conditions certainly would have earned him a sub-4:05 berth on the World T&F Championships team for Stuttgart under a more favorable racing environment. Tim Berrett is God! I remember beating him fairly regularly no more than 3 years ago. He really decided to "go for it". 120 miles weeks, training with the Australians.

More proof that it can be done on this continent if we begin to do some work. (I'm up to 80 to 90 miles per week under new coach Bohdan Bukalowicz's tutelage). (Ed. Since Dave said further proof, earlier proof is what the Mexicans have demonstrated for the last 20 years, but they of course are in a different environment. But, that aside, Berrett still has a way to go to measure up to the feats of his countrymen, Marcel Jobin and Guillaume Leblanc.

Women's 10 Km:


Carriego, Argentina 58:19 84. Ofelia Puyol, Arg. 60:43 85. Olga Buitrago, Arg. 1:01:05
Qinghua Shang, China; Mira Saastamolnen, Fin.; Graciela Mendoza, Mexico; Beata Biede, U6; Pascale Grand, Can.; Janice McCaffrey, Can.; Gao Hongmiao, China (22:54);
Pasko Grand, Can.; Janice McCaffrey, Can.; Gao Hongmiao, China (22:54);
82 22. Brazil 45 23. Argentlna 24 (For those who are new to the
cross-country and, as we've already noted, can have up to five . However, only the first three score. The others serve as backups In
given this number plus one--ln this case 73. Second then gets 71, third 70, fourth 69, and
these standings, but get their proper place In the Individual standings. For example, the
first non-scoring athlete to finish here was Italy's Cristina Pellino in 14th, but the fourth
member of the Italian team to finish. Thus, for team scoring Allison Baker moves up to
been two non-scorers In the finish list), and those behind her also move up two places,
until the next non-scorer, where all finishers will move up three spots from their actual
finish. Rather simple, but not easy to explain. The advantage of this system over cross-
place and the low score wins, Is that you don't have to finish a full team to get a score.
scorer to finish, so Jenny Jones-Billington moves up to 24th (two places since there now
until the next non -s corer, where all finishers will move up three spots from their actual
finish. Rather simple, but not easy to explain. The advantage of this system over cross-
place and the low score wins, Is that you don't have to finish a full team to get a score.

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(21:52, 43:47, 1:06:26) 26. Querubln Moreno, Col. 1:29:05 (22:09, 44:22, 1:06:45--a strong second for the veteran--fourth In 1987--as he moved up from 41st at halfway)


Men’s 50 Km: 1. Carlos Mercenario, Mexico 3:50:28 (48:23, 1:34:55, 2:20:52, 3:05:48; his 1:29:26 for the final 20 would have captured 29th place if he hadn’t been delayed 20

For the Heel and Toe Crowd

SUMMER OUTINGS FOR THE HEEL AND TOE CROWD

**MAY 1993**

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<tr>
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<th>Event Details</th>
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<td>3 Km, Seattle (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. June 9</td>
<td>1 Mile, Holmdel, N.J., 6 pm (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. June 11</td>
<td>5 Km, Lisle, Illinois (CC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. June 12</td>
<td>2 Mile, Lakeview, Col., 7 pm (I)</td>
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<td>Masters 5 Km, Los Gatos, Cal., (N)</td>
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<td>5 Km, Evansville, Indiana (BB)</td>
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<td>5 Km, Chicago, Illinois (EE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast 5 Km Championship, Dedham, Mass. (I)</td>
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<td>5 Km, Miami (C)</td>
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<td>5 Km, Overland Park, Kansas (K)</td>
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<td>5 Km, Denver (H)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. June 14</td>
<td>5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:30 pm (A)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 17-19</td>
<td>USA Mobil Outdoor Championships, Men's 20 Km, Women's 10 Km</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Km, Eugene, Oregon (R)</td>
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<td>5 Km, Lockport, Illinois (CC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. June 19</td>
<td>10 Km, Albany, N.Y. (F)</td>
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<td>Two 5 Kms and a 10 Km, Denver (H)</td>
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<td>5 Km, Sacramento (D)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Mile, Evansville, IN (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. June 20</td>
<td>2 Mile, New Orleans, 8 am, (M)</td>
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<td>Mon. June 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26-27</td>
<td>US Jr. T&amp;F Champ., Men's 10 Km, Women's 5 Km, Spokane, Wash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. June 25</td>
<td>4 Miles, Kansas City (S)</td>
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OLYMPICS DETERMINE MEN'S RANKINGS; SOVIET WOMEN DOMINATE

The ORW's annual rankings of the world’s walkers (and the top U.S. walkers) is usually a rather exciting task. But in 1988, the men's ranking are determined almost entirely by the finishing order at the Seoul Olympics. Everyone concentrated on those two races and the top men had little other competition against one another. On the women’s side, there were no significant International races. As a result, the Soviet women completely dominate the rankings based on their multiple fast races. The U.S. rankings are little less cut and dried.

The ORW launched its World Rankings for men at 20 and 50 Km in 1971 and added U.S. rankings at the same two distances 2 years later. This marks the tenth year we have ranked the women at 10 Km, both world and U.S. We weren’t omitting women before that time because of sexism—the ORW has always covered women’s results—but simply because there wasn’t enough activity to justify rankings.

These rankings are strictly a subjective judgment on the part of your editor as to who were the top 10 walkers in each event for 1988. For each distance, a list of the fastest performers for the year follows the rankings. The fastest isn’t necessarily the best. For the rankings, we consider performance in major competitions and records in head-to-head competition against other top performers, as well as times. No awards to the top rankers other than the plaudits of hundreds of ORW readers. So, on to the rankings.

1988 WORLD 20 KM RANKINGS

1. Josef Pribilin, Czech
   DQ
   1:21:34 (1) Cze C 7/17
   1:19:57 (1) Oly Games 9/23

2. Ronald Weigel, GDR
   1:22:05 (1) Potsdam 6/19
   1:22:42 (2) La Coruna 6/24
   1:22:47 (1) Barcelona 6/19
   1:22:47 (1) Oly Games 9/23

3. Maurizio Damiano, Italy
   1:22:07 (1) Senigallia 6/26
   1:20:04 (3) Oly Games 9/23

4. Jose Marin, Spain
   1:25:50 (1) Villadecans 7/17
   1:22:41 (4) La Coruna 6/24
   1:22:47 (1) Barcelona 6/19
   1:28:34 (4) Oly Games 9/23

5. Roman Mrazek, Czech
   1:27:19 (4) Monterey 3/27
   1:24:38 (3) Naumburg 5/1
   1:22:53 (1) Trnava 5/6
   1:25:36 (1) Banska Bys. 5/28
   1:21:41 (2) Czech. Ch 7/17
   1:20:43 (5) Oly Games 9/23

(Continued on page 4)
AAIF Judge, and the author of the sport's best selling, now in its third edition. He also has a videotape on training. For further information on the seminar contact Paul Geyer, Ski & Travel International, Inc., P.O. Box 630096, Miami, Fl. 33163. Phone 305-935-6063.

Useless, but perhaps interesting, information department: Last month's Ohio Racewalker was circulated to 666 enthusiasts; 634 in the U.S., distributed as follows—California 68, New York 66, Pennsylvania 40, Ohio 39, Florida 37, New Jersey 36, Texas 31, Michigan 26, Colorado 23, Illinois 19, Virginia 18, Massachusetts 17, Connecticut 15, Washington 14, Indiana 13, Maryland 12, Louisiana 10, Missouri 10, Wisconsin 10, Georgia 9, Kentucky 9, Minnesota 9, Utah 9, North Carolina 8, Oklahoma 8, Oregon 8, South Carolina 8, Iowa 7, Arizona 6, New Mexico 6, Tennessee 6, Arkansas 5, Kansas 5, Delaware 3, Rhode Island 3, Alaska 3, District of Columbia 2, Hawaii 2, Nevada 2, Maine 2, Alabama 1, Idaho 1, Mississippi 1, Nebraska 1, Puerto Rico 1, North Dakota 1, South Dakota 1, West Virginia 1, Wyoming 1; and 32 in other lands—Canada 19; Australia 4; England 2; Israel 2; Bermuda 1; Denmark 1; Hong Kong 1; Japan 1; and New Zealand 1.

LOOKING BACK

30 Years Ago (From the May 1963 Race Walker, edited by Chris McCarthy)—Ron Zinn won the National 10 Km on the track in Chicago with an American record of 46:35.4. The other famous Ron—Laird—was a distant second in 47:46. However, he led the New York AC to a one-point team victory over the Ohio Track Club, who had Jack Blackburn (48:00) and Jack Mortland (48:07) in third and fourth. Mortland was more concerned about his marriage just a few weeks hence... Zinn also won the National 2 Mile in St. Louis with a 14:03.2 ahead of Akos Szekely and a honeymooning Mortland. (Yes, a 30th anniversary in June). Laird edged Matt Rutyna for fourth... The British 50 Km went to Ray Middleton in 4:16:43.

20 Years Ago (From the May 1973 ORW)—Mr. Consistency we called him. Bill Weigle won the National 50 Km in Des Moines with a 4:22:37. That marked his fourth 50 in 11 months with times ranging from 4:20:09 to 4:22:53. John Knifton was second in 4:30:20 and Ron Laird third in 4:37:51... England's Roger Mills captured our 1 Hour title, covering 8 miles 252 yards, some 72 yards ahead of John Knifton. Tod Scully and Ron Daniel followed, with the first seven bettering 7 1/2 miles.

10 Years Ago (From the May 1983 ORW)—Mexico invaded the U.S. and Martin Bermudez led the field home in the National 50 Km in Monterey, Cal. His 3:50:43 was nearly 10 minutes ahead of countryman Felix Gomez. Marco Evonluk won the U.S. title in 4:01:43, with Jim Heiring second in 4:07:28, just behind a third Mexican, Marcelino Colín. Dan O'Connor and Tom Edwards followed, with 8 under 4:30... Two weeks earlier, Colín came home first in the National 15 Km in Santa Monica, his 1:02:58 edging Canada's Marcel Jobin (1:03:07). Heiring was the National Champion in 1:03:26, a minute ahead of Sam Shick. Larry Walker, Pete Timmons, and Dave Cummings followed... Also at Santa Monica, Susan Liers-Westerfield won the women's national 15 Km in 1:17:17, 50 seconds ahead of Teresa Vaill. Carol Brown and Vicki Jones were third and fourth.

National Invitational Walks. Top photo: Tim Berrett (left) and Mikhail Khmelnitsky duke it out in 20 Km. They finished one-two. Master's walker Norm Frable has been lapped. Bottom left: Teresa Vaill moves toward her decisive 10 Km win. Bottom right: Allen James (in front) and Jonathan Matthews on their way to third and fourth place finishes in the 20. (Tracy Briggs photos.)