Herazo, Morgan Win In Albany

Albany, N.Y., May 5--After a night of wind and heavy rain, a field of 15 women and 25 men toed the line for the start of the 1996 USATF National Championship 20 and 25 Km races, respectively. The road course (2 1/2 Km loop) winds throughout the campus of SUNY with two slight hills and one area with a number of potholes on the road, washed out by the earlier rains.

At the sound of the starter's pistol, Gary Morgan, John Souchek, and Victoria Herazo set a blistering pace for the first 2 Km as Morgan started to lengthen his lead over the field and Herazo, trying to maintain her rapid pace, but having to dodge the potholes. With a 22:24 split for 5 Km, Victoria felt she could accomplish her goal of breaking 1:35 today. Her 1:35:40, and American record, was set last year on this same course. But the conditions didn't allow it on this day, and she settled for a 1:40:31 to retain her title. With no other National Class walkers on hand, Herazo was completely unchallenged.

Morgan had a dream, too--of breaking 1:30 for 20 Km on his way to the 25 Km. It was close as he came through in 1:30:07 and finished in a personal best 1:54:58.5. Souchek was a distant second. There were other walkers on hand that might have challenged Morgan for the title (Dave McGovern, Joan Froman, the Szela brothers), but none of them finished. No details on where they went out or what sort of splits they were walking.

Results

The Ohio Racewalker is published monthly in Columbus, Ohio. Subscription rate is 10.00 per year ($12.00 outside the U.S.). Editor and Publisher: John E. (Jack) Mortland. Address all correspondence regarding both editorial and subscription matters to: Ohio Racewalker, 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202. No FAX number or e-mail address at this time. Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 20th of the month, but it is usually the 25th or later before we go to the printer, so later material will probably get in.

OTHER RESULTS

Olympic Trials as they went under 1:28. (Dunn and Cole were already on the top 15 list and Alejandro Lopez right behind him in fifth and sixth.

earlier this year with a great win over a classy field in 41:47. Always near the top of the lists on time, but often a disappointment in the big races, this veteran once again stamps himself as a strong contender in Atlanta. In today's race, she left last year's numbers 1, 2, and 3 ranked walkers in seventh, fourth, and third places, respectively.

Victoria Herazo led the U.S. contingent with a PR 45:02 to finish 24th in the race. Sara Standley Gonzales and Dana Yarbrough also had very strong races to go under their personal bests. On the downside, Deborah Van Orden and Michelle Rohi were disqualified.

The results:


Hot Competition In Eissenhuttendstadt; Good Times for U.S. Team

Eissenhuttendstadt, Germany, May 11--The world's walking elite invaded this steel town near the Polish border and the result was two of the best races ever seen outside of the Olympics, World Cup, and World Championships. In the Men's 20 Km, eight walkers cracked the 2:00 mark and in the Women's 10, there were ten under 43 minutes. In the 20, Yevgeny Misyulya, of Belarus, upset Russia's Mikhail Schennikov, covering the distance in 1:18:18 for a 19 second win. Schennikov was only 4 seconds ahead of surprising Slovakian athlete, Igor Kollar, a consistently fast walker, but never quite a contender with the top guns.

In this race, he was nearly a minute-and-a-half under his PR. Daniel Garcia led a strong Mexican contingent, finishing fourth in 1:18:30, with teammates Bernardo Segura and Alejandro Lopez right behind him in fifth and sixth. Tim Seaman led a five-man U.S. crew with his brilliant 1:24:14, a 5 minute personal improvement that makes second only to Tim Lewis on the all-time U.S. list. In the process, he left former number two Allen James nearly a minute back. Allen, however, was not far off his personal best of 1:24:27. Continuing a great day for the U.S. walkers, Andrezje Chylinski, Phil Dunn, and Rob Cole also moved into the list of automatic qualifiers for the Olympic Trials as they went under 1:28. (Dunn and Cole were already on the top 15 list and were probably qualifiers anyway. Now, they don't have to worry about anyone bumping them.)

In the Women's 10, Australia's Kerry Saxby-Junna followed up her World Record at 5 Km earlier this year with a great win over a classy field in 41:47. Always near the top of the lists on time, but often a disappointment in the big races, this veteran once again stamps...
FROM HEEL TO TOE

From Ingrid (and Andrew) Crane in Westhampton Beach, N.Y.: "Seeing Maryanne Torrellas qualifying for the Olympic Trials warms my heart. It was the summer of '86 and I knew of Maryanne's successes and great times in the 5 and 10 Km. I had become quite active in the Central Park racewalks myself. And then it came time for the Empire State Games qualifier—and there I was facing off with Maryanne for the first time. I gave it my all . . . and I beat her at last! And qualified for the Games. Did I mention that she was 8 months pregnant at the time? We wish her love and continued success and we'll be watching out for her . . . ."

Another gem culled from an ancient copy of the Long Distance Log and provided by Steve Vaitones: Following results of a 10 miler in Boston on Feb. 6, 1965 (123 laps on an indoor track), won by Ron Zinn in 1:24:25 , 10th place finisher Fred Brown was quoted as follows: "Zinn said he had done well considering that he had been married for 2 weeks. Now I know why I am so slow. I have been married for over 41 years. Why didn't someone wise me up years ago." Ken Uecker in El Paso sent the following letter to the Senior Olympic Committee: "As both a participant and certified judge for racewalking in the Senior Olympics, I would like to offer the following suggestion. In the last two national senior games there have been some misqualifications, in some cases almost half the entrants. This I believe is due in part to the people at the local and state levels not understanding the rules and allowing the people to win races at a local level although they are not close to, or in many cases, not able to follow racewalking rules.

The person must follow the rules of racewalking to be eligible for awards in this category . A simple solution, I believe, is to add another race to the Games called simply walking, mall walking, or speed walking. This event could still be judged to prevent or disqualify people who can't clear them so they too can compete in that event? But, something does need to be done to prevent people traveling to the competition who have no idea that they are not walking and are destined to be unceremoniously tossed from the race. And that has to do with getting racewalking people involved at the local qualifiers, which may be conducted by those who have never heard of the sport.)

LOOKING BACK

30 Years Ago (From the May 1966 ORW)—Ron Laird captured the National 35 Km in 2:55:50, leaving Goetz Klopfer nearly 15 minutes back. . . . Bob Bowman and Larry Young were just behind Klopfer . . . . Ron Daniel and Canadian Karl Menzchen walked a dead heat in a 20 Km in Ontario. The time was 1:32:48 . . . Larry Walker covered 2 miles in 13:54, with fast-improving Larry Young just 7 seconds back and Laird a distant third.

20 Years Ago (From the May 1976 ORW)—Approaching the age of 40, Ron Laird was still in the news. He won the National 20 in New York in 1:33:53, the National 10 in Boulder in 45:07, and the National 15 in Champaign, Illinois on the track in 1:08:49. In the 20, Dan O'Connor was second in 1:35:41, followed by Larry Young, Wayne Glusker, Jim Heiring, and Bob Kitchen. In the 10, Jerry Brown stayed close for 3 miles (21:20 to 21:45) but was DQ'd at 4 miles. Greg McGuire came second in 48:36 and Floyd Godwin was third. John Knifin was second in the 15, with Brown, Godwin, Alan Price, and Jerry Young next. . . . Larry also got fourth, walking as a guest in the 20 Km of a Mexico-Canada dual meet with a 1:29:51. Daniel Baustia had a 1:25:13 and Raul Gonzales a 1:25:53. In the 10 Km, Laird finished third in 45:23, with Domingo Colin returning 43:49. . . . In East Germany, Peter Frenkel and Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller both did 1:25:40 ahead of Hans-Georg Reiman, 1:25:19 . . . In the USSR, it was Anatoliy Solomin in 1:26:32, Yevgeniy Yesyuykov 1:26:41, and Pyotr Potschenchuk 1:26:45. . . . Jim Heiring won the NAIA 10 Km in 47:55. . . . In Bergen, Norway, Mexico's Daniel Baustia did a world's best of 40:51.6 for 10 Km. The U.S. beat Canada in a dual meet as Dan O'Connor won the 20 in 1:35:31 (Todd Scully had a 1:34:05 as a non-scorer) and Jerry Lanning the 35 Km (really just 32.66 Km as it turned out) in 2:46:20, just 8 seconds ahead of Augie Hirt.

10 Years Ago (From the May 1986 ORW)—Again, a lot of National titles. In Overland Park, Kansas, Debbi Lawrence won the women's 20 Km title in 1:46:07 and Carl Schueler the 25 Km in 1:53:28. Teresa Vaill was 33 seconds behind Debbi, with Canada's Michelle Danae and Susan Liars fourth. Jim Heiring led Schueler through 15 Km, but finished 3 seconds back in second. Dave McGovern and Gary Morgan were third and fourth . . . . The National 15 Km in Long Beach went to Tim Lewis in 1:06:47. Paul Wick was 1:20 behind in second and Steve Pecinovsky nearly 3 minutes back in third. McGovern, Larry Walker, and Morgan followed. . . . The National 50 was held in Seattle, with Marco Ekonen winning easily in 4:13:22. Dan O'Connor was just under 4:20 in second and Eugene Kitts had 4:23:56 in third. Randy Mimm, John Slavonic, and Mark Fenton rounded out the top six . . . . Teresa Vaill and Tim Lewis won Rockport 5 Km walks in Denver in 23:54 and 20:51, respectively. Debbi Lawrence and Gwen Robertson were second and third in the women's race, and Carl Schueler and Dave Cummings second and third in the men's race. . . . In the John Ljunggren Sweden Cup, East Germany's Hartwig Gauder won the 20 Km in 1:21:15, ahead of Victor Ivanenko, USSR 1:22:18. The Women's 20 sent to Vera Ossipova, USSR, in 1:35:52, ahead of Ann Jansson, Sweden, 1:36:18.
Olympic Walking History

(Repeated and updated from several 1982 issues. We covered 1908 through 1936 last month.)

1948 Olympics, London

10 Km


1952 Olympic Games, Helsinki

10 Km


1956 Olympics, Melbourne

20 Km


50 Km, July 21


1956 Olympics, Melbourne

20 Km


50 Km, November 24

1960 Olympics, Rome

20 Km, September 2


10. Gennadiy Solodov, USSR 1:37:27.6 (23:32, 47:13, 1:11:02)


1964 Olympics, Tokyo

20 Km, October 15


50 Km, October 17


1972 Olympics, Munich

20 Km, August 31


1976 Olympics, Montreal

20 Km, July 23


No 50 Km