Mexican Domination Continues

Poza Rica, Mexico, April 8-9—In the middle 1960's, Poland's Jerzy Hausleber came to Mexico to develop racewalkers in a country that virtually had none previously. The hope was that this was a branch of athletics where an intense program could produce a medalist for Mexico as they hosted the 1968 Olympics. It worked, with Jose Pedrazsa capturing the 20 Km silver medal behind the venerable Vladimir Golubnichiy, albeit with a closing burst that left practically everyone in the world save the judges waving a red flag. Over the next four years, Hausleber developed a deeper pool of talent and since the middle 70's, Mexico has been an untouchable racewalking force in the Americas and always one of the contenders for world supremacy. The Mexican "revolution" quickly changed the face of the sport with a style emphasizing extreme flexibility and lightning-quick turnover.

The country's domination in the Western Hemisphere continues as walkers from 19 other countries found out at the 2000 version of the Pan American Racewalk Cup. Mexico swept the medals in all three races—men's and women's 20 km, men's 50. In the women's 20, they took six of the first seven places, in the men's 20 five of the first six, and in the men's 50 the first four spots, with two-time World Cup gold medalist Carlos Mercenario relegated to that fourth slot despite a 3:50:27 performance. Following, is Al Heppner's take on the weekend's activities.

Throng of eager fans gave boisterous welcome to international competitors from Canada to Chile. Poza Rica, a coastal town in east-central Mexico that prides itself on its oil boom origins, played host to a thrilling weekend of racing. It all started early Saturday morning with the women's 20 km race. The US women were given the heady task of defending their 1998 Pan Am Cup title against a strong Mexican team vying for national pride as well as berths on the Mexican Olympic team bound for Sydney in September.

Under cover of hazy clouds, the field of nearly 35 walkers tried to make the most of the early morning conditions. Before long, though, the humidity had risen sharply as the temperatures climbed into the upper 70s. A pack of three Mexicans quickly took charge, setting a strong early pace. It was quickly evident that the Mexican contingent was going to take full advantage of the racing on their home course.

Americans Michelle Rohl, Susan Armenta, and Danielle Kirk joined a large pack to make up the pursuing peloton. Tough the conditions were challenging, Kirk noted of the Mexicans how unusual it was to see "athletes in an Olympic Trials situation working so well together for such a long time." Late in the race, when the chase pack had broken up and most walkers were strung out over the 2 km course, the top two Mexicans, Guadalupe Sanchez and Mara Ibanez were still working together, with Sanchez capturing the gold in 1:34:39.4, 13 seconds ahead of Ibanez.

A strong individual performance from Cuban Osaidy Cruz Vera kept the Mexicans from sweeping the top six spots. Rohl and Armenta were able to crack the top ten with solid performances under trying conditions. Kirk rounded out the U.S. top three scorers with Jill Zenne in the middle of the pack in 16th place. Sarah Standley met the disfavor of the Pan Am judges late in the race. The U.S. women captured second in the team standings behind the dominant Mexican team.
The great Willie Plant. On page 11, you will find a newspaper account of a 1-mile race won by the great Willie Plant, who won 13 national titles between 1917 and 1927. He once held the world record at 5 km with a 21:50.6. Here is at a 1925 race in the LA Coliseum.


Morgan, Rellinger Grab National Titles

Flushing, Michigan, April 16-Defying his 40 years and the rigors of travel and a tough 50 km in Mexico a week earlier, Gary Morgan strolled to victory in the National USATF 30 Km title race today. Gary's 2:47:22 left him more than 3 minutes ahead of Rod Craig, 2 years his senior. Youthful Cheryl Rellinger (a mere 34) was just 10 seconds slower than Gary in winning the women's race over Jill Zenner (the real youngster in the festivities at 25), in her first attempt at such a distance. In an accompanying 20 km, Iom Froman and Molly Lavacek led the way, with Lavacek finishing in 1:46:51 to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Trials.

The next three finishers in the men's race were all post-50 athletes (and all tough, competitive walkers in that age group), with Ed Fitch in sixth being the youngster in the race at 39. Likewise, in the women's race, the remaining finishers were what we will politely term gently aging folks.

Not to discount Gary's victory—he is still quite competitive at the national level—but we have to note once again the paucity of quality racewalkers and the younger crowd at a National title race. This, of course, is not a new problem (there were some really cheap national titles 40 years ago when we could come to the sport), but a growing one, which we won't dwell on since it has been discussed by me and others in these pages in recent times. Just note it again in passing.

Results:


## Men's 10 Km
- **Joe Nieroski** (50) 50:24.03
- **Poulsen** (49) 25:52
- **Shoja Torabian** (51) 26:11
- **Joe Berend** (44) 26:13

## Chris Dreher (42) 53:46.3
- **Dave Crabb** (52) 57:56
- **Pedro Santoni** (42) 50:51
- **Carlo Acosta** (66) 63:04 (10 finishers)

## Women's 10 Km
- **Jackie Campos** 28:01.0
- **Kimmy Morris** 30:12
- **Sharon Clairmont** (47) 31:10 (12 finishers)

## Women's 3 Km
- **Jackie Campos** 16:18.55
- **Kimmy Morris** 16:32.47

## Women's 15 and 30 Km

## Women's 20 Km and 50 Km

## Other Results
- **3 Km, Milford, Conn., Feb. 13** - 1. **Nick Manuzzi** (40+) 14:27.2 2. **Jim Carmines** (50+) 14:36.3

## New York City, April 9
Sun. May 21  National USATF 15 Km, El Grove, Ill. (S)
5 Km, Littleton, Col., 8:30 am (H)
5, 10, and 20 Km, Point Pleasant, N.J., 9:30 am (A)

Sat. May 27
10 and 20 Km (Track), Broomfield, Col., 8 am (H)

Sun. May 28
3 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)
Sanford Kalt 9 Mile, Lakewood, N.J. (A)
Alongi Classic 5 Km, Kentfield, Cal. (P)

Mon. May 29
10 Km, Boulder, Col., 8 am (H)

Sat. June 3
20 Km, Eisenhower Park, L.I., N.Y., 9 am (F)
5 Km, Miami, 7 pm (Q)
20 Km, Kenosha, Wis. (O)

Sun. June 4
5 Mile, Long Island (F)
20 Km, Charleston, R.I. (N)

Sat. June 10
10 Km, Long Island, 5:30 pm (F)

Sun. June 11
5 Mile, New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y. (F)
3 Km, Cambridge, Mass. (N)
3 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)
Senior Olympics 5 and 1500, Eagle Rock, Cal., 11 am (CC)

Sat. June 17
5 Km, Long Island, 9 am (F)
5 Km, Rio Rancho, N.M. (W)

Sun. June 18
Ohio 8 Km and Novice 3 Km (Track), Franklin, 1 pm (M)

Wed. June 21
5 Km, Denver, 6 pm (H)

Sat. June 24
4 Mile, Long Island, 9 am (F)
15 and 20 Km, Van Nuys, Cal., 5 pm (B)

Sun. June 25
Metropolitan 15 Km, New York City, 9 am (G)
3 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)

Sun. June 26
1 Hour, Sacramento (P)

Sun. July 2
5 Km, Long Island (F)

Mon. July 3
5 Km, Miami, 7 pm (Q)

Tue. July 4
8 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)

Sun. July 9
Eastern Regional 3 Km, Connecticut (N)
3 Km, Cambridge, Mass. (N)
1 Mile, Miami (Q)

Contact:
A-Elliott Denman, 28 N. Locust, West Long Branch, NY 07764
B-Richard Oliver, 11431 Sunshine Terrace, Studio City, CA 91604
C-Deb LaVeck, 6633 N.E. Windermere Road, Seattle, WA 98115
D-Walking Club of Georgia, P.O. Box 190011, Atlanta, GA 30311
E-Sierra Race Walkers, P.O. Box 13203, Sacramento, CA 95813
F-Howard "Jake" Jacobson, P.O. Box 640, Levittown, NY 11756
any of our readers can help: "To all racewalkers and friends, please help me with this if you can. Bill Peck is putting together an all-LA City Schools alumni all-star team. To his credit he has included racewalkers. There was an outstanding distance runner named John Wall who went to LA Lincoln High in 1930 and LA Roosevelt High in 1932. Is that the same John Wall who represented the Baltimore Olympic Club and won at least 10 national championship medals as a racewalker from 1949 to 1957? If the Baltimore John Wall was in the Navy (in San Francisco in the late 1930s) or from California, we can pretty sure it is the same guy. I have corresponded with Elliott Denman who does not know. If anyone has any information that can help, please contact me immediately. Thank you very much. Jim Hanley, 3345 Allegheny Ct., Westlake Village, CA 91362, 805-496-1829, hanley@gte.net... Where's Adam? Further comment on our walks of the country speculation comes from Dan O'Brien, now transplanted from Michigan to Hawaii. "How about Adam Weinacker for the top in the 50? Three-time Olympian, seventh in '56 Olympics, American record holder. Just a thought." And a good thought. I had him in the mix, but didn't quite get him in my top ten. But that doesn't mean he wouldn't be in a consensus top 10 if such a thing ever came about. (Consensus of who?)... Another contender. Yueling Chen, the 1992 Olympic 10KM gold medalist who has been living in the U.S. for the past several years, has finally gotten her U.S. citizenship and plans to compete in the U.S. Olympic Trials in July. She did a 1:38:17 in Saanenmo in Feb. 1999 in her first, and apparently only, race at the distance. The pressure is on. Jay Byers, one of the quality walkers to come out of Wisconsin, included a nice note with his e-mail change of address. First he related his move from Bakersfield, Cal. to Houston. "I transferred back to Texas when my present employer Occidental Oil & Gas chose to relocate to Houston. (I quit my previous employer-Unical—after they transferred me to Houston back in '96... and here I am again... no mountains and lots of humidity.)... I've been walking a bit lately (with Dave Gwyn) and even competed in the Texas Southern Relays after three workouts (7-52 mile)." Then, he goes on to put the pressure on your editor. "As always, I enjoy my monthly Ohio Racewalker and get a kick when I see a few of the guys from my generation (marco, Dan Pierce, Dave Lawrence, etc.) who are still out there pounding the pavement. Jack, The Ohio Racewalker is the only magazine I've subscribed to over the last 25 years and my subscription has been active for all 25. By my thinking, an excellent quality magazine and a testament to the writer/editor. Best of luck over the next 25."... Speaking of curmudgeons. Using that term reminded me of a couple of books in my library by Jon Winkour, The Portable Curmudgeon and A Curmudgeon's Garden of Love. In the former, under quotes on California, which Jay is sorry to leave, we find among several: "It's a scientific fact that if you stay in California you lose one point of your IQ every year." Truman Capote. "Californians invented the concept of life-style. This alone warrants their doom." Dom DeLillo. On Texas, which Jay is sorry to return to: "If I owned Texas and Hell, I would rent out Texas and live in Hell." Philip Sheridan. But who am I to be denigrating these states that many love... Ohio doesn't even make the book. Well, back to the subject of this newsletter. More on Hersey shoes. In the last issue, we mentioned the customized shoes of Bart Hersey in Maine (207-778-3130—not 107 as I had last month). More on Bart and his shoes from Tom Eastler: "...he offered several months ago to make training and racing shoes free for the ARCO Olympic Training Center racewalkers. You may not know that Curt Clausen has been using Hersey shoes for a number of years now, and Bart is hoping to see those shoes on the medal stand at the Olympics. In any case, a number of the ARCO racewalkers (including my son Kevin) have taken Bart up on his generous offer of two pairs of training shoes and one pair of racing shoes, with resoling thrown in so long as they stay at the training center. This may not seem like very great deal to some, but for a small independent shoe maker, who has a very high quality shoe and who has a worldwide clientele, it represents a great deal of time spent away from his already full load of orders to fill, extra work, and added expense, which he has willingly donated to the U.S. national racewalking program. His
World Junior Lists for 1999
(Those born in 1980 and later)
These lists of the top 10 were published in the Canadian journal Athletics, Feb./March 2000 along with lists for all track and field events. The only problem is that for the men, they had a list for 20000 meters walk and only one for 20 km walk with no indication of why. Perhaps one is for road times and one for track, but it doesn't say so. Therefore, I have chosen to combine the two lists into a single top ten. There were also two lists for men at 10 km, but only two names on one of them. I have worked these two into the other list. For the women, there was just one list for each event. The lists were compiled by Lionel Peters, Great Britain; Mirko Jalava, Finland; Hans van Kuijken, Netherlands; Emmerich Gotze, Germany; Peter Mathews, Great Britain; and others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's 10 Km</th>
<th>20 Km</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39:38.0 Roman Rasskazov, Russia</td>
<td>1:19:36.0 Roman Rasskazov, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40:03.0 Aleksandr Strovok, Russia</td>
<td>1:22:49.0 Aleksandr Strovok, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40:15.1 Maris Putenis, Latvia</td>
<td>1:24:28.3 Zhu Hongjun, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40:28.5 Vladimir Potemin, Russia</td>
<td>1:24:28.7 Pei Chuang, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40:34.8 Jose Alejand Dominguez, Spain</td>
<td>1:24:59.0 Aivar Kadaks, Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40:38.4 Yevgeniy Demkov, Russia</td>
<td>1:25:02.0 Troy Sunstrom, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40:53.4 Radovan Elko, Slovaki</td>
<td>1:26:00.0 Stepan Uudin, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41:24.3 Ivan Shuler, Belarus</td>
<td>1:26:04.0 Maris Putenis, Latvia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41:42.2 Alejandro Resendiz, Mexico</td>
<td>1:26:16.0 Vladimir Potemin, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41:49.8 David Christian Berdeja, Mexico</td>
<td>1:26:22.9 Wang Shigang, China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's 10 Km</th>
<th>Women's 20 Km</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43:52.0 Sabine Zimmer, Germany</td>
<td>1:27:35 Natalya Fedoskina, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43:58.0 Natalya Fedoskina, Russia</td>
<td>1:29:09 Olga Polyakova, Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44:10.0 Lyudmila Yefimkina, Russia</td>
<td>1:30:12 Lyudmila Yefimkina, Russia</td>
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Looking Back

35 Years Ago (From the April 1985 ORW)--Our second issue was still quite parochial in nature, as we had yet to develop our vast national and international network of sources. However, we did show races in New York City, Kings Point, N.Y., and Toronto on our schedule of events (called just that at the time). The big news was Jack Mortland's decimation of Jack Blackburn on the famous Doc Blackburn side-yard track (9.3 laps to the mile). Blackburn held on for 5 3/4 miles of the 8 mile race and then had to stagger in as Mortland's 61:18 left him nearly 2 minutes behind. The 52-year-old Dr. John Blackburn recorded a 75:56. Mortland also won a 12-mile affair in 1:36:43, but fell apart himself in that one, requiring nearly 18 minutes for the final 2 miles.

20 Years Ago (From the April 1980 ORW)--Walking the second fastest 50 km ever by an American, Carl Schueler won the National title in New York City with his 4:06:07. Dan O'Connor was 13 minutes behind as Schueler botted his personal record by 18 minutes. A week later, O'Connor won the National 20 km in Seattle in 1:26:21, a U.S. best ever and 7 minutes ahead of John VanDenBrandt. In Mexico, Daniel Bautista went through 15,121 meters in an hour, and 4 days later did 20 km in 1:20:59 (at 7400 feet altitude). Soviets were second in both races--Anatoly Solomin with 3:43:35 and Jorge Llompart 3:45:55. In a swift Spanish National 50, Jose Marin did 3:43:35 and Jorge Llompart 3:45:55. Sue Brodock had the fastest ever 20 km by an American with her 1:45:20.

15 Years Ago (From the April 1985 ORW)--Overtaking Tim Lewis in the final 10 km, Carl Schueler won the National 30 km in 2:26:17, 2 minutes ahead of Lewis. Two weeks later, Lewis won the National 25 in Washington, D.C., in 1:52:55, nearly 6 1/2 minutes ahead of Dave Cummings. At the same site, Teresa Vail won the Women's National 20 in 1:44:29 with Sue Liers second.
10 Years Ago (From the April 1990 ORW)—Tim Lewis, dominant at 20 km, was a surprise winner of the National 50 in 4:10:46, nearly 6 minutes ahead of Marco Evonik. Mark Manning, Mark Fenton, Eugene Kitts, and Dan O’Connor followed. The Mortland Invitational 20 km in Columbus went to Gary Morgan in 1:32:07 with Steve Pecinovsky second in 1:34:12, but the big news was 56-year-old Max Green in seventh with 1:43:41, a world best for those over 55. Zofia Wolan won the women’s 10 km in 49:30. In the National Invitational walks, Teresa Valli and Tim Lewis walked to victory. Valli did 46:21 for 10 km, leaving Sue Liers more than 4 minutes back. Lewis covered the 20 in 1:28:05 with Richard Quinn (1:29:47) and Curt Clausen (1:30:17) following.

5 Years Ago (From the April 1995 ORW)—Dave McGovern and Victoria Herazo were winners at the National Invitational in 1:28:02 and 46:26, respectively. Philip Dunn finished just 18 seconds after McGovern and Ian Whatley also snuck under 1:30. Relative newcomer, Joanne Dow was second to Herazo in 47:43, just 5 seconds ahead of Canada’s Pascal Grand. In the Pan-Am Games in Argentina, Mexico’s Graciela Mendoza won the women’s 10 km in 46:32, just 5 seconds ahead of Michelle Rohl. The 50 went to Carlos Mercenario, Mexico, in 3:47:55 with his teammate Miguel Rodriguez second in 3:48:22 and Guatemala’s Julio Urias third in 3:49:37. Allen James did 3:59:27 in sixth. Ecuador’s Jefferson Perez won the 20 when Mexico’s Bernardo Segura, who just stayed ahead of him at the finish, was DQ’d. Daniel Garcia, Mexico was second, but we didn’t have times for the race.

The Master In Action

Although his best times may pale in comparison to performances today, Vladimir Golubnichiy must still rank as the top 20 km walker of all time. Consider the amazing competitive record and longevity of this Soviet ace, who also ranked as a true sportsman in every sense of the word. He first came on the scene in 1955, when, at the age of 19, he had the world’s second fastest time for the year—1:30:02.8. Three years later, he really made his mark when he broke the world’s record on the track with a 1:27:05 on September 23. A year later (Sept. 15, 1958) he bettered that mark with a 1:25:13.2 in Odessa. Then began his amazing Olympic odyssey: 1960, Rome—1st 1:34:07.2; 1964, Tokyo—3rd 1:31:59.4; 1968, Mexico City—1st 1:33:58.4; 1972, Munich—2nd, 1:26:55.2; 1976, Montreal—7th, 1:29:24.6. The latter race was his swan song at age 40. In 1974, at 38, he won the European title and was ranked No. 1 in the world. He was a frequent and popular competitor in the US-USSR meets of that era, winning six times. He competed in only two Lugano Cups (the Soviets did not enter until 1967) and finished second both times (1967 and 1970). The following sequence, taken from the British book Race Walking by Julian Hopkins (1976), showcases Vladimir’s flawless style.