World Cup Comments

With no big events to report this month, we will lead off by revisiting the World Cup, reported in detail last month. Here are some comments from those close to the scene:

From Al Heppner, who trains with most of the U.S. men, but had to pass up his spot on the team due to injury:

American record-holder Curt Clausen was battling an infection and was gone after 20 Kms. Tim Seaman, also had been under the weather and missed some training. Seaman badly wanted to finish, but after taking 35 minutes to walk from 35 to 40 Kms, his body could take no more. The hopes of the red, white, and blue were suddenly pinned on Philip Dunn. Despite uneven footing on the course, a confident Dunn used a more aggressive race strategy to get a personal best at the biggest meet of the year for the second straight time.

"My plan was to go out at 3:53 pace or a little faster and hold it. I really wanted to work with a pack and was able to find one with five or six walkers for the first 35 Kms (at that time 3:53 thought to be the A standard for next year's World Championships; see revised standards later in this issue). I had been walking between 4:36 and 4:40 per km until 34 Kms. I was still on 3:53 pace until 40 Kms and needed a 46:30 for the last 10 to nail it. Unfortunately, I couldn't hold pace and really started to pay the price in the last 4 Kms, slowing to about 5:10 per Kms," said the 31-year-old Dunn.

The course wasn't much of a help in his quest. It was challenging at best, according to Dunn. "It was in the center of downtown Turin. The surface was 2-inch by 2-inch cobblestone or 1-foot by 1-foot flagstone at various parts of the course." There was also the problem of railroad tracks. "They tried to put Mondo (track surface) over the tracks, but you could feel the gaps. Also, the ramps were spring loaded so we bounced up and down walking over them."

From Vince Peters, Jill Cobb's coach, who reports second-hand from the experiences of Jill and Matt Boyles:

Everyone who has reported back has complained about the surface of the course. It was a typical old world street, the surface of which varied wildly. In places, the 2 Kms loop was brick, others a hard, slick granite, others uneven cobblestone. And a small stretch of smooth macadam. But the course also featured a step that had to be "walked down" each lap. But, hey, this is Italy where they've held a grand prix cross country race for years where 250 runners race round a multiple loop course that goes through a barn. Yup! In the wide barn door, down a ramp into the basement, then a door less than 5 1/2 feet high and 30 inches wide.

Anyway, it has been estimated that the surface and late summer heat accounted for the winning time being 2 to 3 minutes slower than the optimal conditions the athletes had at the World Championships in Canada last summer.

From England's Colin Young:

The course in Turin was truly unique. It was like walking up and down London's Regent's Street, Paris's Boulevard (I can't quite read Colin's handwriting here, and am not enough of a Parisophile to interpret), or Madison Avenue/Broadway in New York. How the civic authorities and police were persuaded to absolutely cut off one of the main arteries of a major
city for hours is remarkable. The crowds were large and impressive and I have never seen so many fashionably dressed, elegant women watching a racewalk in my life!!

It is truly amazing how Russia completely dominates the racewalking scene considering the nations they have lost since the end of the Soviet Union (and look how well the likes of Belarus, Latvia, Kazakhstan, etc.) do. And many of the Championship medallists of the past representing the USSR were not Russians.

Many nations had very disappointing performances with Ireland, Great Britain, the U.S., Spain, and Japan prominent among these. The host nation did very well overall even with the odd name being a non-starter and some DNFs. But the country who impressed me was Portugal.

A nation that could not line up with Luxembourg a few decades ago, but all three squads performed magnificently and look at their disciplined approach clearly shown by their 5 km splits.

In conclusion, after the "lottery" of the Men's 20 Km (it is that always now in a "major"), the leading women were admirably disciplined in their close fight in the final stages and the walking of Voyevodin and Skurygin in the final 2:20 was most impressive. They walked throughout in a disciplined manner which Consiglio and Crego have been too often in the past.

Dund and Seaman were walking for the first time following the World Cup as the walkers in the Beat the World Cup racewalks competition of the Arturo Barrios running races. Dunn beat 82 percent of the runners in the 5 and Seaman 83 percent in the 10.

100 Miles, San Diego, Nov. 9--no finishers in 24 hours--

12 hours, same place--

Take a walk in the park (or on the track, or down a road, or wherever these races might lead you)

Sat. Dec. 7 5 Km, Evans, Georgia, 9 am (E)
Sun. Dec. 8 5 Km, Denver, 10 am (H)
Sat. Dec. 14 South Regional 5 Km, Houston (L)
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
Indoor 3 Km, Waltham, Mass., 10 am (X)
Sun. Dec. 15 1 Hour, Red Bank, N.J., 10 am (A)
Sat. Dec. 21 5 and 10 Km, Alexandria, Virginia, 8 am (O)
1500 meters and 5 Km, Pharr, Texas, 8 am (I)
Sun. Dec. 22 1 Hour, Red Bank, N.J., 10 am (A)
Marathon and Half-Marathon, Mobile, Alabama (T)
Sun., Jan. 5 South Region 50 Km, Houston (L)
South Region 10 Km, Mobile, Alabama (V)
Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Virginia, 7:45 am (O)
Indoor 1 Mile or 3 Km, Providence, Rhode Island (X)
Sun. Jan. 19 10 Miles and 5 Km, Los Angeles (Y)
5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
Indoor 3 Km, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 11:30 am (X)
Sun. Jan. 26 5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Virginia, 7:45 am (O)
Sun. Feb. 9 Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Virginia, 7:45 am (O)
Sun. Feb. 23 New England Indoor 3 Km, Cambridge, Massachusetts (O)

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B--Laura Cribbins, 2937 El Sobrante Street, Santa Clara, CA 95051
C--Bev La Veck, 511 Lost River Road, Mazama, WA 98833
D--Daniel Koch, 3331 N.W. 22nd Street, Coconut Creek, FL 33066
E--Sierra Race Walkers, P.O. Box 5221, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
F--Keith Luoma, 2741 Taillroad Way, Martinez, GA 30907
G--Stella Cashman, 320 East 83rd St., New York, NY 10028
H--Bob Carlson, 2261 Glennco St., Denver, CO 80207
I--A.C. Jaime, 621 North 10th Street, Suite C, McAllen, TX 78501
J--Lon Wilson, 1020 Grand Concourse, Apt. 15X, Bronx, NY 10451
K--Gary Westerfield, 350 Old Willets Path, Smithtown, NY 11787
L--Dave Gwyn, 6502 Briar Bayou, Houston, TX 77072
M--Vincent Peters, 607 Osmer Circle, Yellow Springs, OH 45387, 937-767-7424
N--Merrill Barney, 1-800-562-1268, hwsg@infowest.com
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R--Ron Daniel, 1289 Balboa Court, Apt. 149, Sunnyvale, CA 94086
S--Frank Soby, 4157 Colonial Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48073
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Y--Walkers Club of Los Angeles, 233 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201
AA--Justin Kuo, 30 Oakland Road, Brookline, MA 02146

More on "Biomechanics for the Racewalking Judge"

(In our March and April 2002 issues, we ran an article on this topic by long-time competitor, coach, and international judge Gary Westerfield. The article received some positive response at the time, particularly from Paula Kash Mendell, also a long-time competitor, exercise physiologist, and a chiropractor. Last month we published a critical review of Gary's article by international judge and long-time IAAF Racewalking Committee member -- including several years as chair -- Bob Bowman. In response to that critique, Gary writes: "I have chosen not to directly respond to Bob Bowman's critique of my April paper. I stand by everything I wrote. I take objection to his nitpicking and the words that I did not write, which he says I did, to discredit me."

As a responsible editor, I imagine I should go back to both articles and determine what words Gary is referring to as a really responsible editor I should have noticed any such discrepancies before publishing Bob's critique. But I'll let the individual readers make such judgments. As a not particularly technical minded person when it comes to race walking -- such judgments. As a not particularly technical minded person when it comes to race walking -- these matters, I generally leave such analysis to the reader and always welcome comments, pros and cons. I was not entirely in agreement with everything Gary said when I published his paper, but thought it was a very worthwhile paper that deserved an audience. Likewise, I could see some "nitpicking" in Bob's response, but thought he was a responsible and qualified reviewer.

In the meantime, I have received further commentary on Gary's article, also from a very well-qualified and fair-minded critic, Canada's racewalking guru, Roger Burrows. I'm not taking sides myself, but trying to present differing views for you to chew on. I would publish Gary's article again tomorrow, and continue to welcome any comments. I consider both Gary and Bob friends and qualified observers of the technical aspects of our sport. And here is what Mr. Burrows has to say:

Once I saw Bob Bowman's thoughts, I felt more comfortable with my own. I just don't want Gary to feel attacked (nor, does the editor) but I think there is a better argument to make than "more biomechanics". Here goes.

****

I was relieved to read Bob Bowman's sincere and informed appraisal of Gary Westerfield's judging article. I had wondered whether I should reply, lest the intent be misinterpreted. So at the outset, let it be clear that Gary's article stimulated and challenged me. I stretched out on the sofa one night, the phone turned off and a glass of an excellent sherry at hand, the better to give due attention to his work. Candidates at an intermediate coaching certification course up here also considered the article carefully. I assigned it as required reading, if they chose, they could analyze it as a take-home exam question.

Like Bob, I struggled with Gary's concept of "the three rules" of Racewalking, and wondered how muscle action suddenly became a judging criterion. At times, my biomechanical understanding (reasonably sound in the coaching principles, I would claim) did not coincide with Gary's.
True. I have no claim to being a technical biomechanist. But I can claim considerable training in language science. So when Gary introduced a linguistic argument, I was in more familiar territory. I considered his "straight vs straightened" distinction from several sides. After doing so, I just can't share his conviction that the two words convey a semantic difference significant enough to support a biomechanical argument.

After all, there is no semantic debate in the rule. Only one word ("straightened") appears, followed immediately and clearly by its definition (i.e., not bent at the knee). I have no reason to suppose that the definition would change if the word "straight" were used.

After the article was finished, and the glass of sherry empty ("emptied"?), I concluded that my concern was not with the details of Gary's logic, but with his premise. Start from a different vision, and a different logic opens up.

I don't think that we need judges to have a deep theoretical knowledge of biomechanics. We need them to be fair-minded, with a track person's slow-motion eyeballs. Above all, we need them to read the rules, and to apply what they read; nothing less, and especially, nothing more.

In the rules, they will see that their sole responsibility lies in the few words of Section 4(a) of our famous IAAF Rule 230. "Competitors shall be given warnings when..." They fail to comply (with the definition of Racewalking) by exhibiting visible loss of contact or a bent knee...

So judges can leave their biomechanical texts at home. Their much-less-esoteric job is to look at feet (for loss of contact) and knees (to see that they are not bent when they must not be). The sport would be best served by welcoming new judges and demystifying their role. Their task, while important, is well within the intellectual grasp of many who already show up at track and road events to help, or out of interest. Let's put a paddle in their hands!

In my view, for example, every track umpire should have a quick introduction to Race Walk judging at the same early stage of training when they learn all the other rules. In your average track meet, umpires routinely monitor relay exchange zones, lane lines, hurdle clearances, and lightning-quick race incidents. Infrctions happen much more instantaneously than a repeated, cyclic racewalk. Umpires simply report what they have seen to a senior official who, alone, applies the rules. Sounds a lot like a racewalk judge's job to me.

For some time now, I have promised our National Officials Chairman a brief "WR judging module for the introductory umpire's course. In my neck of the woods, the contribution of Gary's interesting article has been to nudge that project a couple of sherry-glasses nearer to fruition.

FROM HEEL TO TOE

More identification. Our September issue included a picture taken during the 1932 Olympics 50 Km in Los Angeles. We sought identification of the athletes in this picture from a set of tobacco cards. Roger Burrows helped us out last month. Now, we hear from England's Colin Young with some further identification. The man in dark glasses over Tommy Green's right shoulder (Green is No. 98 at the front) is Arthur Tell Schwab of Switzerland, who did not finish, but who went on to a silver medal finish in Berlin four years later. His son Fritz took bronze in 1936, silver in 1952 in Olympic 10 km races. Others in the photo not identified last month are Henri Quintric, France (No. 153), who finished seventh; Joannis Moralis, Greece (269), who did not finish; and Francesco Pretti, Italy (262), who also competed in London 16 years later, but didn't finish either race. So, we have now identified all those whose numbers can be seen, plus Schwab and Latvia's Janis Dalins (over Green's left shoulder). Meanwhile, Shau Laday has sent me copies of 13 cigarette cards of racewalkers from his collection, including three of Mr. Green. One of these, complete with it German caption, can be seen on page 15 of this issue. .McGovern Clinics.

Dave McGovern will conduct one of his Worldclass Racewalking Clinics in the San Francisco Bay area from March 14 to 16, 2003. Dave's clinics have received thumbs up from participants for several years. Besides being a member of the U.S. National Team, Dave has won 13 national titles, written two books, and is Racewalk Coach for Fiji and Ghana. The clinic fee is $125, which includes video taped technique analysis, group lectures, use of Polar Heart Rate Monitors and handouts. For more information on this clinic contact Daniel Coupal, 540 Mansion Park Drive #308, Sanit Clara, CA 95054, 408-718-3433 or visit Dave's website at www.racewalking.org.

Dave will also be in Cleveland in July for a clinic. For more information contact Joyce Prohaska at 1479 Rockway Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107, 216-521-7966. Seminar. Racewalking International is hosting a racewalking seminar in Scottsdale, Ariz. on Dec. 14, from 1-4 pm featuring Norway's International star Kjersti Platerz and her brother Erik Tysse. The seminar will include sessions for youth, senior, and master walking levels. Platerz has been using the Flagstaff, Ariz. area for altitude training for several years. For more information contact RWI at rwinternational@compuserve.com, 775-833-2121...Eileen Ward, president of the North American Racewalking Foundation in Pasadena, and Jolene Steigerwalt, long-time racewalk competitor, registered nurse, and certified massage therapist, have published a book, video, and DVD entitled Dynamic Self-Massage for Fit and Fast Walking. For more information: NARF, PO Box 50312, Pasadena, CA 91115, 800-898-5117, NARF@compuserve.com. .Staier honored. Adam Staier, now a freshman at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, received the first "Presidents Award" at the 12th Induction Ceremony of the Maine Running Hall of Fame in early November. Staier set a National High School indoor 1600 meter records last winter and is a national junior champion. The award is new to the Hall of Fame and is designed to honor a promising elite young athletes of national significance...Kansas Relays Walk. Wayne Armstrong reports that there will be a 5 km racewalk in the 2003 Kansas Relays on April 19, assuming sufficient interest from the racewalk community. The event was first scheduled in 2002, but was cancelled when a severe lightning storm halted the meet. A large contingent of top walkers was on hand, including the U.W. Parkside team...Tongue in cheek (I hope)-As many of you might have noticed, my renewal notices are rather informal (surprise), beginning with "Hey! Your subscription expires..." on the initial notice. (Those of you who have been slow in responding know that the second notice gets a tongue in cheek note). Anyway, long-time subscriber Ben Ottmer sent the following note with his recent renewal: "Never mind the Hey! stuff. If you expect walkers to subscribe, you've got to do it your way, hey, I'll renew cause I like your style and content." Well, I hope others do to. Incidentally, regarding the gifts with renewals, several years ago I noticed Sports Illustrated ads promising great premiums to new subscribers. I popped off a letter asking what about loyal, long-time subscribers, what are you doing for us? I have been a subscriber practically since the magazine started. Well, with my next renewal notice, there was the promise of a gift and they have continued to come. Probably coincidental, but I prefer to take credit for starting this trend.

Perez Can't Stay Away

(IAAF Release) This was an acrual year for Jefferey Perez, the 1996 Olympic 20 Km Racewalking champion. The Ecuadorian's victory over that distance on the streets of Turin at the 20th IAAF World Racewalking Cup in October capped his first full year of competition since retransitioning from 9 months of premature retirement—between the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the 2001 World Championships in Edmonton—and established Perez on top of the world of Racewalking. (Ed. Well, perhaps a rung below Robert Korzeniowski.)

Perez, who had been a World Junior champion for the 10 Km walk in 1992, won the 1996 Olympic 20 Km gold medal to become the youngest ever Olympic Racewalking champion and Ecuador's first Olympic medalist at any sport. The following year, he took the IAAF World Racewalking Cup 20 Km title and in 1999 the silver medal at the World Championships.
However, after a brave attempt to defend his Olympic title in Sydney, where he finished fourth, he retired from the sport, going home to Cunio with the goal of finishing his university studies in Business Administration. This he duly did, completing his degree in June 2001, but then immediately began to reflect on his retirement from racewalking, and decided to reverse his decision shortly afterwards. A semi race-fit Perez quickly returned to take eighth place at the 2001 World Championships.

"In 2000, I had decided to finish my career, but by June of the next year, I saw that Ecuador was still lacking a good representative in the walks. That's what motivated me to return. It has taken me a full year to get back to the level where I want to be at."

"At the beginning of this season, the idea was to compete in a limited number of events, basically to avoid saturation, both physically and mentally. The main goal of 2002 was the World Cup, and that triumph was something very special for me."

"This year, I started without a coach. I basically trained myself, even though I'm not a coach or a person with a degree in physical education. That's a very odd situation for someone who wants to be a top athlete, but I wanted to try in anyway. I wanted to be at a top level and with the assistance of Enrique Pena, my former coach, and a great friend, took up that challenge."

"After all these titles and medals I have won, I still have goals to reach and to find excellence. That's what I'm working for. I'm just focusing on training well and not specifically trying to win a title or to improve a record. Now my next two goals are the 2003 World Championships and the 2004 Olympic Games, and I intend to get there at the top of my form."

"Many people ask me where I find my inspiration, who has been my role model. That person is and has been my mother. She is totally blind, but in spite of that, she has been able to raise five children, and I'm very proud to be her son."

"I haven't had all resources to be at the top, but I have never quit dreaming. It doesn't matter if you come from a 'poor' country. Sometimes people in general have to stop complaining, and give their best effort to get to the places where each one wants to be. That's my advice."

"My competitive 2002 season started in Mexico, at the International Racewalk Week. Mexico has always been a very special place for me, ever since I 1996. Every time I compete there I feel at home and I have lots of supporters. With the Mexican walkers, I also have a great rivalry. That event in Zapopan was basically a test for me, and went well, so it gave me a whole lot of confidence for the rest of the season."

"Then I competed in Guatemala in May, and won the Ibero-American title, and after that, I went to Europe. At the 20 Km in Eisenhuttenstadt, I was ready for a better time, but the weather wasn't perfect for that. My time was 1:19:08, which is a good time, but honestly, I was expecting something faster, even though it was only the fourth time I have been able to go below the 1:20 barrier."

"At the World Cup, some people said that some of the best walkers were not present. Among them was "Paquillo" (Francisco Javier) Fernandez, who in April set the World Best at 20 Km with 1:17:22, and then won the European title in Munich. I respect him very much. He is a good friend and a great athlete, but to me, the World Cup was the most important event of the year, and I was set to perform there."

"At this point in my career, I share Korzeniowski's thought, who just said that he only has 100 Km of competition left in his career at 50 Km walking. In terms of (20 Km walk) at the Paris World Championships, and the Athens Olympics, I approach these competitions in a similar manner. I want to concentrate on these main events, and that's what I also did in 2002."

"For 2003, my priorities are very specific. It's going to be a very tough year, but I don't want to take any chances. Unfortunately, we have the Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, only 13 days before the World Championships, and my priority for 2003 is Paris.

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If everything goes well, I can see myself going for another 2 or 3 years after Athens, which is obviously the next goal after Paris. If I'm emotionally in good shape, I know that my body will allow me to keep going."

Current World Racewalking Records
(Courtesy of Birger Falt, Sweden)
(Note: World Records are recognized only at these distances and must be achieved in races on the track.)

Men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 km</td>
<td>1:17:22</td>
<td>Bernardo Segura</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>2:55:54</td>
<td>Frederic Marie</td>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 km</td>
<td>2:01:44.1</td>
<td>Maruizio Damilano</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 km</td>
<td>3:40:57.9</td>
<td>Thibault Tothen</td>
<td>France</td>
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Women

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<td>18:07.08</td>
<td>Mikhail Schednikov</td>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 km</td>
<td>21:26.52</td>
<td>Mikael O'Sullivan</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 km</td>
<td>1:26:52.3</td>
<td>Nadezhda Ryzhkina</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Olga Ivanova</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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Indoor

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<td>Gillian O'Sullivan</td>
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<td>10 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 km</td>
<td>1:26:52.3</td>
<td>Olga Ivanova</td>
<td>Russia</td>
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World Bests (Either at other distances, or at the same distances on road courses.)

Men

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<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1500m</td>
<td>5:12:0</td>
<td>Antanas Grigalunas</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mile</td>
<td>5:36:9</td>
<td>Antanas Grigalunas</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
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<td>3 km</td>
<td>10:47:11</td>
<td>Giovanni De Benedetti</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>2 miles</td>
<td>11:47:02</td>
<td>Giovanni De Benedetti</td>
<td>Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 km</td>
<td>18:05:49</td>
<td>Hatem Ghoulia</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 km</td>
<td>38:02:60</td>
<td>Josef Prhlinec</td>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
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<td>15 km</td>
<td>37:47:0</td>
<td>Bernardo Segura</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>1:57:37</td>
<td>Bernardo Segura</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>25 km</td>
<td>1:41:10.3</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2:55:54</td>
<td>Raul Gonzalez</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 km</td>
<td>9:16:32.2</td>
<td>Frederick Marie</td>
<td>France</td>
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Indoor

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<td>Tim Lewis</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mile</td>
<td>5:33:53</td>
<td>Tim Lewis</td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 km</td>
<td>10:31:42</td>
<td>Andreas Erni</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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</table>
Hey, ladies! There are some soft records there from 1 Hour on, ready for the picking, except for 3:53:06, Kjersti Tyse-Platzer, Norway, Knarvik, Sept. 1, 2002.

Taking into account that in the past not all qualifiers enter and compete for one reason or another, past participation percentages indicate that the estimated number of starters based on the old standards for the three above events are 21, 24, and 14 respectively. Even if it is closer to the maximum number of qualifiers, an adjustment to the standards was in order. The new standards are (with the standards earlier in parentheses):

- 50Km Women, 23Bs and 9As = 32 qualifiers
- 20Km Men, A-1:22:30, B-1:24:00 (1:21:20 and 1:24:00)
- 50Km Men, A-3:57:00, B-4:03:00 (3:53:00 and 3:58:00)

(Ed. Which will still make it tough for the U.S. to qualify three athletes. The best bet is the 50, where Curt Clausen and Philip Dunn are no strangers to sub-3:57. Al Heppner has been close, and Tim Seaman and Sean Albert certainly have that potential. But at 20Km, only one man and one woman all-time have met the A standard, and the one man, Tim Lewis, no longer competes. Curt Clausen and Tim Seaman have been close to 1:22:30 (well, less than a minute off), but both are presently committed to the 50. Anyone else needs to improve by several minutes to reach that level, not impossible of course, and we would hope that those who are closest will not be discouraged by the size of the task. Michelle Rohl is the only U.S. woman to better the 1:33A standard, but both Teresa Vaill and Joanne Dow have been within less than a half-minute. However, all three, at ages 37, 40, and 38, respectively, may have their best performances behind them. So, there is a strong challenge for the U.S. to send full teams to the 2003 World Championships and the 2004 Olympics.)


The IAAF Council has approved the composition of the new IAAF Level III Panel of International Race Walking Judges following the three examinations which took place simultaneously. Seventy-two candidates took the examinations at three sites on October 19-20,
2002. The members of the new Panel, consisting of 28 judges, will have two or three assignments at the highest level, between 2003 and 2006. Ron Daniel is included in this Panel, which consists of 16 judges from Europe, 5 from Asia, 4 from North America, and 3 from Oceania. Ron has been selected to judge the 2003 World Youth Championships, 2004 Olympic Games, and 2006 World RW Cup.

Race Walking Challenge

The IAAF Council approved the Technical Rules and the calendar of the IAAF Race Walking Challenge which will start in 2003. The 2003 scoring opportunities will be (all dates to be confirmed):

Tijuana, Mexico—March 8/9
Rio Major—Portugal April 5
Naumburg, Germany—April 13
Sesto San Giovanni, Italy—May 1
Shanghai, China—May 24/25
La Coruna, Spain—June 7
IAAF World Championships, Paris, France—August 23-31

The events may take place on the road or track, but must be over standard distances: Men: 20Km or 50Km; Women: 10Km or 20Km. Points will be awarded according to the finish places: 10 for the race winner, 9 for 2nd place, 8 for 3rd place, etc. Final rankings will be based on the addition of the three best results achieved by one athlete in any of the above competitions. Prize money will be awarded as follows: $30,000 for 1st place; $20,000 for 2nd place; $15,000 for 3rd; $10,000 for the race winner; $8,000 for 4th; $6,000 for 5th; $4,000 for 6th; $3,000 for 7th; and $2,000 for 8th place.

2004 IAAF World Race Walking Cup - Naumburg, Germany

The IAAF Council approved the dates of competition as May 1 and 2, 2004.

Out of Utah

(Twintwinsthird year's Junior National 10 Km Championship were twin brothers from Utah—not a hot bed of racewalking. An article from the August 19 edition of the Salt Lake City Tribune, written by Chad Nielsen, tells us a bit about the Dalebout brothers and the man behind their success. Unfortunately, the article was headlined 'Twins Just Waddle Along'. Waddle? Not a term dear to the hearts of racewalkers. But, we'll forgive a headline writer trying to be clever.)

Taylorsville twins Jake and Luke Dalebout finished fifth and twelfth, respectively—second and third among American juniors—Sunday in the USA vs. Canada race track match in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. And they have Floyd the Barber to thank for it.

Not Floyd the Barber from Mayberry, N.C., but 75-year-old Floyd Ormsby, a New Zealand native and descendant of a Maori princess who has owned and operated Floyd's Barbershop in Holladay for 45 years. That would be the same Ormsby who helped establish Salt Lake's first rugby club and was known as "the Bowling Barber" when he finished third in the 65-69 age group at the ABC Bud Light Masters Championship, held in Salt Lake City in 1996.

These days, Ormsby is on a crusade to bring health and enjoyment to Utah's through racewalking. The Dalebouts are his protégés. When the boys were 12, they attended a track meet where Ormsby gave a racewalking demonstration. Jake found he had a natural ability for the sport, so when Floyd invited him to join the local racewalking club, Jake jumped at the opportunity.

Luke was more cautious. He struggles to explain his reluctance. "I kind of thought...it was kind of...I don't know...nerdy looking?" But after two years of watching his brother rack up victories in an underpopulated sport, Luke came to his senses. After all, he said, "I always try the same things that he does." The rest is hip-shaking history. Under Ormsby's tutelage, the Dalebouts have developed into dominating walkers. In June, Jake and Luke waddled (Ed. There's that word again!) their way onto the national racewalking team, finishing second and third, at the junior nationals held at Palo Alto, Cal. In Sunday's race, Jake set a personal record on a road course with a time of 47:45, second among juniors and fifth overall, counting a few Olympic racewalkers. Luke was 12th overall in 51:38.

Racewalking is one of the least popular track and field events in the U.S. The awkward motion used by racewalkers is part of it, but in the land of extreme sports, walking seems pretty...well, pedestrian.

The Dalebouts times show otherwise. Jake's 46:54 finish in the race at the junior national was just 13:31 off the winning pace in his age category at the recent "Bolder Boulder" 10 km running race in Boulder, Col. Luke finished 30 seconds behind.

The Dalebouts walk so fast that many first-time spectators think they must be running. It's not a stroll, but as long as they keep one foot on the ground at all times, and keep their front leg straight as their lead foot lands, the rules say they are walking.

These requirements cause the funny-chicken movements associated with racewalking. "We move our hips a lot," Jake said. "People that don't know us..." They think it's nerdy-looking," Luke said. "When we're working out, there's always people driving by saying "Shake it, baby!"

Ormsby first discovered racewalking in 1990 when he was looking for an effective low-impact aerobic exercise to help him in his 28-year fight against heart disease. That same year, he was named racewalking chairman for the Utah Association of USA Track & Field.

A true convert to the sport, Ormsby preaches what he practices. Targets of his proselytism include the Westlake Junior High track coach and a woman he met while she was running. Both won medals at recent racewalking events.

Ormsby's favorite audience is children. "Get the kids involved and it becomes a lifetime event," he said. "Once they start driving, that's about the end of their interest in walking."

Ormsby visits schools to teach racewalking and scout for talent. He already is working with the Dalebouts' seventh grade brother, Nate. He even recruits at work.

"I got a little guy who comes into the barber shop," Ormsby said. "He's 8 now. I started him just walking back and forth in the shop while he was waiting to get his hair cut. Now, he's a pretty good little racewalker."

Ormsby wants to see racewalking accepted as a high school sport in Utah. "The coaches are trying to block it because they want to get the triple jump, 4 x 800 relay and pole vaulting approved first," Ormsby said. But, racewalking would be much cheaper to implement. "It costs practically nothing," he said. (Ed. So maybe Utah will become a hot bed of racewalking.)

LOOKING BACK

35 Years Ago (From the November 1967 ORW)—Ron Laird swept to victory in the National 30 Km in Columbia, Missouri, clocking 2:29:06. The Ohio TC's own Jack Blackburn was some 22 minutes back and won the name Big Red Duck from Bill Clark because the cold weather had him walking in his bulky red OTC sweats. Howie (now Jake) Jacobson beat Ron Kolik for third...

Shaul Ladany won a 50 Km race in Long Branch, N.J., his 4:35:02 leaving Dave Romansky,
walking his first 50, 7 minutes in areas. Promising Steve Hayden, an Olympian 5 years later, turned in a 1:16:28 for 10 miles in New York. In the Canadian 50, Karl Merschenz beat Ladany by 9 1/2 minutes with a 4:33:03. And on the track in Walnut, Calif., Laird casually strolled to a 1:31:40 American record 20 Km, with Larry Walker second in 1:37:10.

30 Years Ago (From the November 1972 ORW) - Bill Weigle walked off with the National 50 Km title in San Francisco, covering the distance in 4:22:00. He continued a pattern of very consistent times, having done 4:20:09 in the Olympic Trials and 4:22:52 in the Olympics themselves. Bob Kitchen was well back in second with a 4:35:43 and Bill Ranney came third. The U.S. sent a team to the Airolo-Chico road relay in Switzerland. Bob Kitchen, Todd Scully, Bob Bowman, Bill Ranney, and Larry Young came second behind Italy. A few days later, Shaul Ladany won the Lugano 100 Km, also in Switzerland, in 9:38:57. A great result for Shaul, considering he had gone through the trauma of the Arab attack on the Israeli Olympic dorm just a few months earlier. Sweden won the women's International 5 Km title with Margareta Simu first in 24:54.

25 Years Ago (From the November 1977 ORW) - Not much exciting to report that month, although we did run an interesting profile on Great Britain's 20 Km great, Ken Matthews. Jack Blackburn beat Chris Knotts in a 3 miler on the Ohio scene. In England, Derek Harrison had 17:43:00 for 100 miles, as 56 finished the race under the 24-hour limit.

20 Years Ago (From the November 1982 ORW) - In the Can-Am walks in Niagara Falls, N.Y., Jim Heiring beat Tim Lewis at 20 Km, 1:29:50 to 1:31:43, with Canada's Francois Lapointe a distant third. Ann Peel was an easy winner at 10 Km in 49:50, leading a Canadian sweep of the first five places. Her stiffest competition, Susan Liers and Teresa Vaill, were stuck at the airport in New York City... Peel also won the Canadian Championship in 48:04. Guillaume Leblanc won the 20 in 1:28:36 and Lapointe took the 50 with a brilliant 3:51:38. In Italy, Olympic 20 Km champion Maurizio Damilano turned in a very fast time at an unusual distance—5 miles. He had 31:24. Bob Keating won the National 100 mile in 19:19:31, beating three-time champion Alan Price, who had 19:35:44. John Kelly was also well under 20 hours and 46-year-old Bevereen LaVeve established a U.S. women's record in fourth with her 21:42:14.

15 Years Ago (From the November 1987 ORW) - A three-race international series was wrapped up with races in Mezidon, France and San Giovanni, Italy. In France, Sweden's Bo Gustavsson won the 15 Km in 62:15, ahead of Roman Mracek, Czech, and Querebin Moreno, Columbia. Australia's Kerry Saxby took the women's 5 Km in 21:58 with Sweden's Ann Janssen 48 seconds back. Finland's Reini Solonen won at 30 Km in San Giovanni with a 2:13:39, better than a minute ahead of Italy's Rafael Duceschi and Giovanni Minelli. Moreno was fourth. Saxby was a winner here, too, taking the 10 Km race in 46:35, ahead of Janssen's 47:17 and Sue Cook's 48:25. Moreno was the men's series winner with 55 points, 1 ahead of Mracek and 5 ahead Duceschi. Saxby swept the women's series with 18 points to 15 for Janssen. Alan Price won the Columbia, Missouri 100 mile for the ninth time in 20:53:42. Chuck Hunter was the only other finisher, doing 22:42:04. Hunter went the distance for the eighth time, and the first since 1979, having been laid up with the loss of a kidney and gimpy knees. In England, John Cannell won a 100 miler in 17:55:10 with five others under 20 hours and 38 under 24 hours.

10 Years Ago (From the November 1992 ORW) - In an unusual race, Don Bredle won an outdoor-indoor 2 mile in Cleveland, finishing in 17:08. The race started outdoors in the snow and finished with the final half-mile on an indoor track. Veteran Olympian Ron Laird was third in 17:40. Jonathan Matthews had a 44:46 for 10 Km in Seaside, Calif. The Paris-to-Colmar 518.5 Km race went to Poland's Zbigniew Klapa in 62:38. The women's Chaloms-to-Colmar 333.5 Km was won by France's Edith Couthe in 47:38. In the World Junior Championships in September, Ecuador's Jefferson Perez won the 10 Km walk in 40:42:66 over Poland's Jakub Muller (40:51). Four year's later Perez was the Olympic 20 Km champion and has continued on a championship path since. Hongmiao Gao of China won the women's 5 Km in 21:20.3, 38 seconds ahead of Australia's Jane Saville.