Another Title For Rohl; Eastler Wins First

Palo Alto, Cal., June 20-22—Over a three-day period at the 2003 edition of the national track and field championships four racewalking champions were crowned—Michelle Rohl in the women’s 20 Km, Kevin Eastler in the men’s 20, Christine Tagliaferri in the junior women’s 10, and Adam Staier in the junior men’s 10.

The women’s presented an interesting scenario with three veterans battling for the all-time lead in 20 Km titles. Going into the race, Michelle Rohl, Teresa Vaill, and Victoria Herazo had three titles to their credit, and Joanne Dow two. Only Herazo was missing from the field. A win for defending titlist Dow, 39, would create a four-way tie. A win for either Rohl or Vaill would put them on top. The 40-year-old Vaill won her titles in ’84, ’85, and ’87, but has remained competitive through the years. Rohl, the youngster of the trio at 37, won three years in a row from 1999-2001. Last year, only a few months from delivering her fourth child, she was sixth. Dow won in 1998 and last year. (Herazo’s titles came in 1995, 1996, and 1997.)

All were ready for a good race on Stanford’s track, and they quickly left their younger competitors in arrears. At 5 kilometers, the three were together in 23:21, with Jolene Moore and Sam Cohen already more than a minute back in fourth and fifth. The pace quickened slightly over the next five, with Rohl and Dow going through 10 in 46:35. Vaill had to drop off after about 7 Km and hit 10 in 47:12, with Cohen, Moore, and Amber Antonia close together nearly 3 minutes back of the leaders (49:25).

Rohl and Dow continued to walk together, hitting 15 Km in 1:10:14, about 300 meters ahead of Vaill. Then with 8 laps (3200 meters) to go, Rohl scooted away from Dow and steadily increased her margin the rest of the way, finishing in 1:34:31.06, nearly 27 seconds ahead. Vaill was a lonesome third in 1:36:37, with Antonia sneaking under 1:40 in fourth and Cohen just missing that mark in fifth. Armenta (1:40:34), Moore (1:41:10), and Bobbi Jo Chapman (1:41:21) followed, all with great improvement over last year (Chapman 1:45:58, Moore 1:46:57, and Cohen 1:49:52). Of course, Rohl was nearly 10 minutes faster than in 2002, but she didn’t have a pregnancy this year, either. Dow nearly duplicated her winning time from 2002 (1:34:47) and Vaill was about 1:45 slower.

Rohl, who can now go to the World Championships in Paris the end of August, noted, "We were really working together. I thought for sure Joanne was going to pass me back. With three laps to go, I finally realized that she might have dropped behind a bit. Both Rohl and Dow are qualified for the Pan-Am Games in mid August. Rohl puts here family first and notes that such participation in international meets "...depends of if we can get a passport for Gabe (her youngest child." Should she pass on the Pan-Am Game, Vaill would presumably get the spot.

In the men’s 20, Eastler pulled away from defending champion and three-time titlist Tim Seaman to win his first title. The Air Force lieutenant improved on his third place finish from last year and dropped his personal best by more than 2 minutes with a sparkling 1:23:52:20 performance.
The Ohio Racewalker is published monthly in Columbus, Ohio. Subscription rate is $12.00 per year ($15.00 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, OH 43202. E-mail address: jmortland@columbus.rr.com.

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 material received by then may get in.

The results:


**Racewalking Challenge Visits Spain**

LaCoruna, Spain, June 7--In the fifth leg of the IAAF's Racewalking Challenge, Robert Korzeniowski and Yelena Nikolayeva scored convincing wins at 20 Km. Poland's three-time Olympic gold medalist, Korzeniowski, who dropped out of last month's European Cup 50 Km, was apparently feeling more competitive in this race. He took control of the race after 3 Km and was never challenged, finishing in 1:19:56 with a 24 second lead over second place João Vieira, of Portugal. Nikolayeva made her move half way through the race and moved easily away from the field. She finished in 1:27:25.63 seconds ahead of Gillian O'Sullivan.

This was the fifth event in the Challenge, following earlier races in Mexico, Portugal, Germany, and Italy. The May 24-25 Challenge races scheduled for Shanghai were apparently cancelled because of the SARs outbreak.

Korzeniowski went through the first 10 Km in 39:40 and already had a sizeable lead on the field, with Mexico's Cristian Berdeja his closest pursuer. Berdeja faded to sixth at the finish and no one else was able to move up to challenge the 35-year-old Pole. After the race, Korzeniowski commented: "Yesterday evening, I went to the opera to listen to a Polish concert. And, to my greatest surprise, they actually came here on the circuit today to support me. It motivated me even more." No further report on whether he still plans to forego the World Championships, which are the final leg on the RW Challenge. Francisco Fernandez, who undoubtedly would have made things tougher for Korzeniowski, passed up this race, nursing a small injury.

In the women's 20, O'Sullivan, who has two earlier Challenge victories, was the early leader. But, two warnings made her change her tactics and she had no challenge when Nikolayeva made her move after 10 Km. She did have enough to avoid any serious challenge from third-place finisher Kjersti Platelzer.

The results:


**National 15 Km Titles to Rohl, Clausen**

Evansville, Indiana, June 1 (With thanks to Al Hepner)--With Evansville again proving a good host for the National 15 Km races, impressive performances by Michelle Rohl and Curt Clausen made the day a rousing success. Rohl won her third national title at the distance–she does it every other year, her other titles coming in 1999 and 2001–as she continues another comeback from giving birth. This is her fourth such comeback. Her 1:10:21 indicates she is well on her way, just more than a minute slower than in 2001. Clausen was happy to win his first title at this distance, his 20th overall.
Rohl started quickly and had a substantial lead over Parkside AC walkers Jolene Moore and Sam Cohen as she passed 5 Km in 23:21. Never challenged, she added a 23:31 (46:52 at 10), and a 23:30 for her final time—a very evenly paced effort.

"My training has been on and off. When it's been 'on', I've had some really good workouts, but I've been quite busy with other pursuits as well," said Rohl. In addition to chasing around four little ones, she is also the assistant cross country/track coach at Mansfield U. in Pennsylvania, where husband Mike heads the programs. "Making it to the World Championships is not my goal. My only goal is to get the Olympic "A" standard. From there, I'll decide what I want to do. There are no races this year that I feel I have to do," said the 37-year-old, three-time Olympian.

Jolene Moore held off a late charge from Sam Cohen to take second in 1:12:59, 9 seconds ahead of Cohen. Defending champion Amber Antonia, coming off a stress fracture that sidelined her most of the winter, was a strong fourth in 1:15:56.

Claussen didn't have to do this race either, especially coming off a race in Pennsylvania, where it's so incredibly hot and humid there now," explained McGovern. However, he wasn't alone in the early going. Surprisingly, he was accompanied by 38-year-old Dave McGovern, who finished eighth in 1:13:25. A real on and off. When it's been 'on', I've had some real quality workouts, but I've been quite busy with other pursuits as well," said Rohl. In addition to chasing around four little ones, she is also the assistant cross country/track coach at Mansfield U. in Pennsylvania, where husband Mike heads the programs. "Making it to the World Championships is not my goal. My only goal is to get the Olympic "A" standard. From there, I'll decide what I want to do. There are no races this year that I feel I have to do," said the 37-year-old, three-time Olympian.

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Championships, Pharr, Texas, May 25:
Girls' 8 and under 1500 meters—1. Ashley Zarate 10:34
2002 National Postal 1 Hour

Results of the 2002 National Postal 1 Hour race have been released by the sponsoring Shore AC, and here they are. There were 284 total competitors, 10 fewer than in 2001, but they covered a total of 2,701,592 meters, about 15,000 meters more than in 2001. Event records went to Paul Regul, the Chicago Walkers. He bettered Kevin Ellister's 11-14 year old record of 10,820 with 11,022. Jack Bray, who went 10,281 in the 70-74 age bracket, 82 meters beyond Jack Starr's record. Jack Bray of the Carolina Racewalking Club with 7335 meters to better Harry Drazin's 85-89 total of 2,701,592 meters, about 15000 meters more than in 2001. Event records went to Paul Johnson and Jack Bray were able to show well in two 5-year divisions by having mid-year birthdays and contesting races in both halves of the year. Marin Racewalkers led in total entries (35).

The 2003 race is in full swing. Submit your results (on a properly surveyed track with at least three certified judges) to Elliot Denman, 28 North Locust Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764.

And the results:

Boys 11-14: Paul Regul, Chicago Walkers 11,022 2. Jared Swenosky, Salem (Ore.) TC 10,600
Boys 15-19: 1. Joseph Trapani, Walk USA 11,892 2. Terran Swenosky, Salem TC 10,815 3. Jake Dalebout, Utah Walkers; Jerry Dalebout, Utah Walkers; Zach Pollinger, NJ Striders; Jonathan Chasse, Maranacook; Mark Dennett, Main RW; Adam Stier, Maine RW; and Mike Tarantino, un., all 10,000 (11 finishers)


Roadrunners. Bonne Dillon really rings a bell. She was one of our top walkers from 1980-82, Arbelbide rings a bell and my quick search shows her finishing 4th in the 1973 National AAU 5
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AA-Justin Kuo. 30 Oakland Road, Brookline, MA 02146
FROM HEEL TO TOE
Do these names ring a bell. Hal Bateman, a leading track and field statistician (he compiled a
volume entitled America's Best: A Compilation of U.S. Olympic and International Track and
Field Stars 1896-1987, which may have been updated since), is an important cog in the
information office at USATF for many years, now based in Texas, has contacted me asking if the
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Km at 28:47.4 walking unattached and 13th the following year, representing the Rio
Roadrunners. Bonnie Dillon really rings a bell. She was one of our top walkers from 1980-82,
representing the Cupertino Yearlings. I had her ranked 3rd in the country at both 5 and 10 Km in
1980, when she had bests of 24:40.3 and 50:54 and finished third in the National 5; ranked 3rd at
5 and 2nd at 10 in 1981 with bests of 25:40 and 52:36 and a second in the National 5; and 4th at
both distances in 1982 with best of 24:44 and 51:25, second place in the National 5 and 3rd in
the national 10." I forgot to note that she was on the 1981 World Cup team. I also volunteered to
put out a request for further information and here it is. Hal feels that the ladies were pioneers in
U.S. women's racewalking and would like to know if they attended college and their married
names, if any. (I think Bonnie Dillon was a married name). Anyone who can offer further
information can get back to Hal at hbateman@sixrr.com. I would appreciate a copy of any you
send to Hal. The great William Perkins. "Mr. Vanasse quoted me the following paragraph, which
accompanied a print he found for sale on eBay. It is from an 1875 publication. The
illustration is of William Perkins, titled "Perkins against time at Lillie Bridge." It came from the
Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News. The copy reads (with some corrections of typos or
apparent omissions by the seller): "Though several of our best walking men have tried from time to
time to cover 8 miles in an hour, the feat has never yet been accomplished, and, after the failure of
William Perkins, unquestionably the finest walker of this or any time, some will begin to doubt if
the performance is possible. Perkins, just 22 years of age, and, like many of the best exponents of
'fair heel and toe' is very short, standing only 5 ft 5 in.; but he is unusually muscular and
powerful, and when fully stretched, covers a surprising amount of ground in his stride. His career
has been very brilliant, and his successive defeats of such men as Hurley and Stockwell soon
placed him firmly at the top of the tree. We are not inclined to accept his present performance race
against time as altogether correct. His appearance on the stage of a music hall shortly before the
race did not look like business, and December 21 is scarcely the date that we should select to
attempt a wonderful performance of this kind, as the hard frost that has prevailed of late must have
sadly interfered with his training; indeed, he looked far more flabby than when he walked
Stockwell in the spring. He went off at a ratting pace, and covered the first mile in 6:55. Then,
however, he began to tire, and, as he occupied 30:33 in doing the first 4 miles, his chance of
success became hopeless. We believe, however, that he will make a fresh attempt about May next,
and, as if eight miles can be walked in an hour, Perkins is undoubtedly the man to do it. We shall
watch his attempt with great interest." No report at these quarters on whether Mr. Perkins
accomplished his goal the following May. Egalit! More errata. Norm Brand writes: "I'm glad to see
ORW confirm a long time though of mine that the Boston Marathon was short. On p. 11 of
the May issue you reported that Erik Litt walked both Boston and N.J. marathons, a total distance
of 51 miles 770 yds. Since, the N.J. race is the full distance, this obviously means that Boston is a
mile short. Despite the claims of the BAA. Thanks for the confirmation." I'm not sure if that was
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LOOKING BACK

40 Years Ago (From the June 1963 Race Walker, published by Chris McCarthy)--Chris himself won the National 50 Km in Detroit with a 4:44:55, nearly 10 minutes ahead of Ron Laird. Jack Blackburn was a distant third. Heat slowed the competitors as the temperature soared to 87 F during the race....In the US-USSR dual meet in Moscow, Gennady Solodov ignored temperatures in the mist 80s to win in 1:33:45 for 20 Km, with Vladimir Sorin in second. Ron Zinn and Ron Laird went through 15 Km in about 1:12, but then faded badly to finish in 1:41:34 and 1:42:24, respectively. Jack Blackburn continued his sprint mastery over Jack Mortland, winning the Ohio 1 Mile in 6:55.5. Blackburn also has a 39:13 for 5 miles and a 31:11 for 4 miles, winning races while Mortland was off honeymoon.

35 Years Ago (From the June 1968 ORW)--Paul Nihill held the challenge of two Americans to win the British 20 mile in 2:37:04. Larry Young was second in 2:37:04 and Don DeNeon just behind Shaun Lightman in fourth with 2:39:50. DeNeon recorded a fast 3 Km 2 weeks later in capturing the National AAU title in 12:37.9. Ron Laird was second in 12:40.6, Larry Young third in 12:49.4, and Tom Dooley fourth in 12:57.4. In a Philadelphia 30 Km race, Dave Romansky recorded 2:28:46 to easily beat Bob Kitchen (2:33:32).


25 Years Ago (From the June 1978 ORW)--Augie Hirt moved through 100 Km in 10:19:00 to win the National title in Lafayette, Col. Allen Price was second in 10:51:46. There were four races at the National T&F Meet that year. Susan Lips won the Women's 5 Km in 25:46, well clear of Sue Brodock and Chris Shea. Brodock came back to win the 10 in 52:18, with Paula Kashi-Mori, fourth at 5, beating Lips 53:01 to 53:29. Joe Berendt won the men's 5 Km in 22:31.6, just ahead of Carl Schueler and Wayne Gruender. Marco Evoniuk was fourth. In the 20, Todd Seulley moved well clear over the second half to win in 1:34:46. Larry Walker had 1:35:27, Dan O'Connor 1:36:20, Tom Dooley 1:37:08, and Evoniuk 1:38:38. The Mexicans cleaned up in Europe. Raul Gonzales set a world record on the track in Norway with 3:24:22.4 for 50, and Daniel Bautista had 20 Km wins in Norway (1:25:10), Madrid (1:28:03), and Sweden (1:25:54), beating most of the best Europeans in the process. England's Derek Harrison broke the world mark for 24 hours, going 219.5 Km.

20 Years Ago (From the June 1983 ORW)--At the National Outdoor Championships, Jim Heining and Susan Liers-Westerfield both won their third straight title. Susan controlled the 10 Km race all the way to win in 30:58. Debbi Lawrence was 42 seconds back, with Sam Miller third in 30:22. Surprising newcomer Marianne Torrellas was just 2 seconds behind Miller at the finish. Heining was also in full control in the men's 20 (both races were on the track), as he won in 1:26:55. Marco Evoniuk trailed by 50 seconds and Dan O'Connor took third in 1:29:38. Tim Lewis started the final 400 meters 11 seconds back of Todd Scully, but stormed through that final lap to overhaul the veteran (1:30:18 to 1:30:23) for the final spot on the U.S. World Cup team. The annual races in Nauenberg, Germany went to Soviet Nikola Polozov (1:22:37) and Ronald Weigel (3:41:31) of the host East Germans. Raul Gonzales walked two 50 Km races in just 3 weeks--3:51:50 in Mexico and 3:51:37 in Czechoslovakia. Susan Liers-Westerfield also won the National 5 Km on Long Island in 24:41.6.

15 Years Ago (From the June 1988 ORW)--In Tampa, Florida, Marianne Torrellas defeated her National 10 Km title, winning in 48:25.3. Teresa Vaill pushed her all the way and just 7 seconds back at the finish. Wendy Sharp (50:50.3) and Victoria Heiring followed. In the men's 20, Tim Lewis was never challenged and his 1:29:34 left him 2:40 ahead of second place Ray Sharp. Times were slowed considerably in the sweltering conditions. Andy Kastner beat Marco Evoniuk for third and Curt Clasen was fifth. Ray Sharp won the National 5 Km in 20:56.50 with Doug Fourrier 7 seconds back in second. Australia's Kerry Saxby won a women's 20 Km race in Sweden in 1:29:40. The Nauenberg 20 Km went to Alex Noack in 1:29:05, one second ahead of Ralf Kowalsky. Noack also had a 1:22:27 in Sweden and a 1:22:39, behind Ronald Weigel's 1:22:03 in Potsdam. Herman Andrade did 3:49:38 for 50 in Mexico City's altitude and Hartwig Gauder had a 3:46:50 in Berlin.

10 Years Ago (From the June 1993 ORW)--Debby Lawrence and Allen James were winners at the National Outdoor T&F Championships in Eugene, Oregon. Teresa Vaill led Lawrence for all but the last 800 meters of the women's 10, but couldn't match Debby's pace at the finish. Lawrence's strong finish brought her a 45:55 win, 9 seconds ahead of Vaill. Sara Standlee was more than 2 minutes farther back in third, but well clear of Deborah Van Orden and Lyn Brubaker. The first 9 broke 50 minutes. James had control of the race throughout the men's 20. He went through 5 Km in 21:12 and 10 in 43:06 with a 78 second lead on Jonathan Matthews. He slowed considerably the second half, but still stretched the lead slightly to win in 1:29:09. Matthews was second in 1:30:45 with Doug Fourrier (1:31:25) and Herr Nelson (1:31:42) following. The first 10 broke 1:35.

5 Years Ago (From the June 1998 ORW)--Overcoming steamy conditions in New Orleans, Joanne Dow beat favorite and American record holder Michelle Rohl to win the Women's National 10 Km race. Her 47:06.50 was excellent in the conditions and left her 26 seconds of Rohl. Debbi Lawrence was third in 48:34.40 and Victoria Heiring fourth in 50:04.50. The men's 20 went to Tim Seaman, who upset two-time defending titlist Curt Clasen with a 1:35:07. Clasen was 3 seconds back and just 17 seconds ahead of third-place Jonathan Matthews. Gary Morgan was fourth, Al Heppner fifth, and Michael Rohl sixth, the only others to go under 1:40, thanks to the heat and humidity. Matthews, only a few days short of his 42nd birthday, and the 38-year-old Morgan showed the toughness of their years in the testy conditions... Twelve days earlier, Michelle Rohl had shattered the American record with her 43:30.4 in a track race in the cool air of Wisconsin. In the European Cup, team titles went to Russia in the Women's 10, Belarus in the Men's 20, and Spain in the Men's 50. Individual winners were Russia's Nadezhda Ryashkina in 43:06, Spain's Francisco Fernandez in 1:20:31, and Poland's Tomasz Lipiec in 3:42:57. Silver medals to Hungary's Maria Rosza (43:08), Poland's Robert Korzeniowski (1:20:40), and Spain's Jesus Garcia (3:43:17). In the Coruna Grand Prix in Spain Ecuador's Jefferson Perez prevailed in 1:19:40, just 2 seconds ahead of Guatemala's Julio Martinez, 5 ahead of Mexico's Joel Sanchez, and 6 ahead of Korzeniowski. Andi Piotrowski walked 3:41:14 to win the Russian 50. Perez also won in Nauenberg, Germany with a 1:19:19, ahead Mexicans Daniel Garcia (1:19:41) and Bernardo Segura 1:19:46, with Ivan Trotskiy, Belarus, Alejandro Lopez, Mexico, and Artur Meleshkevich, Belarus also under 1:20, and Martinez right on it.