

Clausen Rolls On

Clermont, Florida, Feb. 13—His studies haven't slowed Curt Clausen too much. Following up on his 30 Km title last month, the U. Of Wisconsin law school student powered to his seventh national 50 Km title today with a 4:09:35 effort. He has won every title starting in 1998 except for 2001, when Philip Dunn beat him. Dunn was second today. However, it was only the second time in those seven wins he has failed to better 4 hours.

In the women's race, Dorit Attias also defended her national title and followed up on a second place finish in the 30. Dorit's 5:47:31 effort left her only competitor, Erin Taylor, well back.

The race started in with a definite chill in the air, but the sun warmed things considerably by mid race. However, a refreshing breeze kept things from getting really uncomfortable.

In the early going, Clausen and Dunn were joined by Canadian Tim Berrett as they journeyed along at a 5 min/km pace. However, Dunn was not having a good day and started to drop away at 15 Km. Behind those three, Theron Kissinger and Ray Sharp were together for the first half of the race, with Dave McGovern not far back. The 45-year-old Sharp, who just returned to racing last year after some 13 years away, looked good as the he went through the first 25 in 2:10:38—a pace that eventually proved to be a bit too quick. But, at 25, he was solid third, as Kissinger was forced into repeated pit stops.

Berrett was only a training spin and dropped out at 35 Km as he intended to. That left Clausen on his own, but he maintained his steady pace to the finish. Dunn, never comfortable, still managed to finish only about 6 minutes down. Sharp hung on well through 30 Km, but then slowed to about 58 minutes on the next 10. When he really hit the wall with a nearly 66 minute final 10, McGovern swept by to capture third place. Relative newcomer Ed Parrot found the going rough in the final stages, but hung on to go under 5 hours in fifth, holding off 50-year-old Steve Pecinovsky, who walked his first 50 in 1978. Kissinger struggled with stomach cramps to finish the race, but the judges pulled him at 48 Km as his form deteriorated along with his ailing body.

Attias had complained of illness before the race, but was strong throughout and took nearly 25 minutes off her winning time of last year.

The team title went to the newly formed team of veterans—Varsano's Chocolates Racewalking—composed of McGovern, Sharp, and Pecinovsky. They will be joined by Paul Schwartzburg in shorter races. Steve reports that they consumed tons of chocolates during the race, taken from secret aid stations. Chocolate power is now with us. The results (note the ages; not too beat a dead horse, but we need more involvement, and young involvement in this event):

Men: 1. Curt Clausen (37), NYAC 4:09:35 2. Philip Dunn, un (33) 4:15:52 3. Dave McGovern (39), VCR 4:38:13 4. Ray Sharp (45), VCR 4:40:53 5. Ed Parrot, Florida Athletic

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Club 4:57:52 6. Steve Pecinovsky (50), VCR 5:02:03 7. Mike Bartholomew (24), Walk USA 5:13:13 8. Chris Rael (45), un. 5:15:50 9. Bill Vayo (4), Walk USA 5:21:10 10. Max Walker (58), Indiana RW Club 5:25:48 DNF==Tim Berrett, Ed Fitch, Stephen McCullough, Dave Doherty DQ-Theron Kissinger
Women: 1. Dorit Attias (43), Walk USA 5:47:35 2. Erin Taylor (26), un. 6:11:19

As noted, this was Curt's seventh 50 km title equaling the number won by Carl Schueler from 1980 to 1992. Only Larry Young has more 50 Km titles—eight in eight tries from 1966 through 1977.

Seaman Yet Again; Antonia Surprises Dow

Boston, Feb. 26-27—In the USATF National Indoor T&F Championships, Tim Seaman rolled to his straight win in the Men's 5 Km racewalk and Amber Antonio surprised Joanne Dow, who had won the last three years, in the Women's 3 Km. Seaman had his slowest winning time yet, 19:56.41, but it was far more than enough as he nearly lapped second place Curt Clausen. Seaman had a 19:21.56 meet record two years ago, the closest he has come in his quest for Tim Lewis' national record of 19:18.40, set in 1987. Lewis and Allen James both had strings of three straight titles—a mark Seaman could triple next year.

Antonia, third last year when Dow had her fastest time at 12:36.76, beat the four-time winner (she also won in 1999) by 12 seconds with a personal best of 12:55.69. Dow was 14 seconds back at the finish. Actually, Jolene Moore was even more of a surprise, crossing the line ahead of Antonia, only to be Dq'd. Debbi Lawrence holds the American record at 12:20.79 and Michelle Rohl the meet record at 12:28.32, set in 2001. Results of the two races:

Men's 5 Km—1. Tim Seaman, NYAC 19:56.41 2. Curt Clausen, NYAC 20:41.33 3. Benjamin Shorey, un. 21:48.56 4. Dave McGovern, Varsano's Chocolates 22:07.12 5. Aach Pollinger, N.J. Striders 22:17 6. Michael Tarantino, U.W.-Parkside 22:46.38

Women's 3 Km: 1. Amber Antonia, New York AC 12:55.69 2. Joanne Dow, adidas 13:09.62 3. Deborah Huberty, NYAC 13:26.03 4. Maria Michta, Long Island U. 13:56.03 5. Loretta Schuellein, Walk USA 14:18.67 6. Katy Hays, LC Racewalkers 14:31.64 7. Kate Dickinson, Maine RW 15:47.33 DQ—Jolene Moore, NYAC and Marcia Rutledge, NE Walkers

Seaman, Moore Take National Titles at 3 Km and 1 Mile

Lewisburg, Pa., Jan. 29—Contesting "new" events to the National schedule, Tim Seaman and Jolene Moore walked off with USATF titles on the Bucknell University indoor track. Tim won at 3 Km and Jolene at 1 Mile. Both events returned to the schedule after a long absence. The 3 Km event was on the program in 1984 and 1985, and then disappeared. The Women's 1 Mile was contested from 1973 through 1986 and was replaced by the 3 Km in 1987. The 3 Km remains on the schedule at the USATF Indoor T&F Championships.

Seaman led from the start and scored an easy win in 11:57.89, falling short of Steve Pecinovsky's record of 11:44.0 in 1984, as well as Tom Edwards 11:47.7 the following year.

The victory gives him 21 national titles, beginning with the 5 Km outdoors in 1996. Zach Pollinger, still a junior, battled to stay with Seaman, but gradually dropped away to finish second in 12:29.63. Joe Trapani was more than a minute further back in third.

The women's was much more hotly contested. Moore, Deb Huberty, and Maria Michta were together for the first half, when Michta, now walking for C.W. Post College, found the pace a little too quick and began to lose ground. Moore managed to open a gap on Huberty over the final 300 meters and crossed the line in a Championship record of 6:51.19, bettering Teresa Vaill's 6:53.58 in 1986. Huberty was just 5 seconds back. The Wisconsin pair of Moore and Huberty are now walking for the NYAC. Michta was a solid third in 7:14.28. The results:

Men's 3 Km: 1. Tim Seaman, NYAC 11:57.89 2. Zach Pollinger, un. 12:29.63 3. Joe Trapani, Mansfield U. 13:38.26 4. Bill Vayo, Walk USA 14:36.60 5. Michael Kazmierczak, Walk USA 15:09.57 6. Ben Israel, Mansfield U. 15:8.68 7. Dave Talcott, Shore AC 15:49.70

Womens 1 Mile: 1. Jolene Moore, NYAC 6:51.19 2. Deb Huberty, NYAC 6:56.28 3. Maria Michta, CW Post College 7:14.28 4. Brittany O'Brian, Walk USA 7:53.81 5. Dana Vered, Walk USA 8:13.16 6. Jenna Monahan, Walk USA 8:25.47 7. Dorit Attias, Walk USA 8:27.64 8. Katie Schubbe, Brockport 8:44.44 9. Angie Aguilar, Walk USA 8:47.37 10. Luisa Lucero, Mansfield U. 9:32.63 11. Jamie Sweitzer, un. 9:45.81

Other Results

3 KM, Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 12—I. Kate Dickinson 15:57.03 2. Helen Pottle (16) 16:53.23 Men—Adam Stair 13:42.59 2. Robert Ullman (56) 16:12.10 3. Padric Gleason (16) 16:47.36 4. Tom Knatt (64) 18:51.23 **1 Mile, same place**—1. Bill Harriman (57) 9:06.24 2. Charles Mansback 9:50 (9 finishers) Women—1. Dot Zullo (45) 10:01.04 (6 finishers)

Collegiate Track Conf. 1500 meters, Conn., Feb. 11—I. Maria Michta, CW Post 6:54.01 (3 finishers, 1 DQ) Men's 3 Km—1. Joe Trapani, Mansfield U. 13:58.28 2. Ben Israel, Mansfield 17:16 (3 finishers, 1 DQ) **Northeast Indoor 3 Km, Boston, Feb. 20**—1. Joanne Dow(40) 13:27.12 2. Marcia Gutsche-Rutledge (43) 14:26.23 4. Kate Dickinson 14:33.70 4. Lauren Fergues 15:13 5. Shea McGuinness (16) 18:06 6. Joanne Harriman (62) 18:46 Men—1. Adam Stair 14:19.09 2. Bob Keating (57) 14:31.49 3. Justin Cornell (17) 14:44.09 4. Matthew Rorgues (14) 16:31 5. Bill Hariman (57) 17:40 6. Charles Mansback (60) 19:00 7. Charles Wilkinson (64) 19:32 **1 Mile, New York City, Jan. 28**—1. Loretta Schuellein 7:10.33 2. Tim Davidson 7:29.38 3. Kate Kannon 7:31. Irie Monte Somers 8:09 5. Shani Brown 8:14 6. Christopher Stuart 8:28 7. Erin Taylor 8:20 8. Ewelina Peszt 8:31.34. Bob Barrett (70) 8:39 (17 finishers, 2 Dqs)

High School 1500 meters, New York City, Jan. 30—1. Raven Pilgrim 8:01.31 2. Denise Jones 8:20.94 (32 finishers, 2 DQs) **Millrose Games and USATF**

National 1 Mile, New York City, Feb. 4—1. Tim Seaman, NYAC 6:00.76 2. Zachary Pollinger, N.J. Striders 6:20.48 3. Dave McGovern, New Balance 6:26.88 4. Mike Tarantino, U. Of Wis.-Parkside 6:31.24 5. Joe Trapani, Mansfield U. 6:31.34 6. Adam Staie, Maine RW 6:54.93 7. Ed Parrot, un. 6:55.91 8. Michael Kazmierczak, Holy Tri nity HS 7:03.84 9. Bill Vayo, Walk USA 7:27.00 (Seaman's time is a new National Championship record. The old record was Dave Romansky's 6:13.4 in 1972. This is the first year the event has been held since 1973. Seaman was well off the Millrose Games record of 5:33.53 in 1988, which still remains as the world's fastest ever indoor Mile. Ron Daniel was the defending National champion—the 1973 winner—but declined on defending that title.) **H.S. 1500 meters, Ithaca, N.Y., Feb. 19**—1. Andrea Patterson 7:59.7 **H.S. 1500 meters, New York City, Feb. 26**—1. Denise Jones 7:52.45 2. Raven Pilgrim 8:10 3. Elisa Lee 8:12 4. Rebecca Cooper 8:13 (11 finishers) **New Jersey Indoor 1500**—1. Michael Kazmierczak 6:33.1 Age 40—1. Bruce Logan 7:39.4 Men 45—1. Larry Schiller 7:58.6 Men 70—1. Bob Barrett 7:59.7 Women—1. Jennifer

Timely 7:49.6 2. Raven Pilgrim 8:06.7 3. Kristina Bonfiglio 8:25.3 Women 40-1. Janine Stuart 8:36.2 Women 55-Panseluta Geer 8:44.8 **5 Km, Winter Park, Fla., Jan. 15-1.** John Fredericks 28:42 2. Tom Forman (50+) 30:07 3. Juan Mocosco 31:09 4. John Elwarner (60+) 31:43 5. Ray Jenkins 32:52 (10 finishers) Women-1. Sandra DeNoon 29:06 2. Beverly Burijon (40+) 32:57 3. Janice Campbell (40+) 33:37 (12 finishers) **5 Km, Winter Park, Jan. 23-1.** Sandra DeNoon 29:17 (13 finishers) **5 Km, Maitland, Fla., Jan. 29-1.** Sandra DeNoon 29:11 (12 finishers) Men-1. Tom Forman 29:54 2. John Elwarner 30:44 3. Tom Scalise (60+) 30:55 4. Ray Jenkins 32:42 (8 finishers) **15 km, Clermont, Fla., Feb. 13** (in conjunction with National 50 Km)-1. John Fredericks (57) 1:27:54 2. Rod McElwain (54) 1:36:27.3. Steve Renard (43) 1:37:47 4. Ron Salvio (54) 1:41:24 Women: 1. Loretta Schuelein 1:21:20 (reportedly went on to 20 Km in 1:48+, but I have no official time on that.) **5 Km, Palmetto, Fla., Feb. 19-1.** William Zenga 30:48 2. Daniel Koch 31:30 3. Jasper Bell, Jr. 32:34 Women-1. Cynthia Barsha-Gold 32:46 **5 Km, Natchez, Miss., 1.** Debbie Cheney 26:48 **Indoor 3 Km, Findlay, Ohio, Jan. 28-1.** Matt Boyles, Rio Grande U. 12:50.59 2. Ed Fitch (43) 16:00.87 3. Bryon Butts, Lindsey Wilson U. 19:54 4. James Lagger (64) 20:05 5. Josh Montenero, Tiffin U. 21:13 6. Dennis Hange, Rio Grande U. 20:40 Women-1. Tin Peters (16) 15:58.24 2. Ashley Thomas, Malone Col. 16:51 3. Billie Robinson, Rio Grande U. 17:23 4. Anine Stanley 17:56 5. Joyce Prohaska (54) 18:44 6. Lindsey Hipp, Malone Col. 19:12 7. Jane Marshall, Rio Grande 19:23 8. Leanne Crunelle, Cedarville U. 19:25 9. Taluthia, Weekes 19:29 10. Brittani Lyons, Malone Col. 19:46 (1 DQ) **Indoor 1 Mile, Cedarville, Ohio, Feb. 4-1.** Tina Peters 7:57.66 2. Anine Stanley 8:34.18 3. Billie Robinson 8:45 4. Missy Walker 8:54 5. Jana Marshall 8:55 6. Talathia Weeks 9:41 7. Brittani Lyons 9:43 8. Leanne Crunelle 9:44 Men-1. Eric Smith 8:15.82 2. Ed Fitch 8:16.91 3. Justin Herbvert, Cedarville U. 9:27 4. Nathan Hughes, Malone Col. 9:49 5. Bryon Butts, Lindsey Wilson 9:51 (7 finishers, 1 DQ) **Ohio Indoor 3 Km, Ada, Feb. 19-1.** Matt Boyles 12:26.2 2. Jim Robinson 13:27.4 3. Vince Peters 16:20.5 4. Nathan Hughes 17:51 5. Jim Lager (60+) 18:20.7 Women-1. Tina Peters (17, she had a birthday since Jan. 28, apparently. Happy Birthday Tina!) 15:37.9 2. Dana Vered, Walk USA (16) 16:00.4 3. Ashley Thomas 16:16.5 4. Billie Robinson 16:32 5. Anine Stanley 16:56 6. Joyce Prohaska 18:21 7. Lindsey Hipp 18:25 8. Brittani Lyons 19:09 9. Andrea Broehm 19:20 10. Talathia Weeks 19:57 (13 finishers) **Indoor 1 Mile, Kenosha, Wis., Feb. 4 Section 1:** 1. Ali Vavas 7:58.9 2. Judy Myers (50) 8:59.7 3. Ron Winkler (54) 9:36 (9 finishers, 1 DQ) Section 2: 1. Christine Tagliaferri 7:41.1 2. Ali Bahr 7:44.6 3. Jasmine Brooks 7:45.6 4. Le'erin Voss (16) 7:48 5. Laruen Davis 8:00 6. Mike DeWitt (54) 8:02 7. Lynn Tracy (52) 8:32 8. Kristine Ewald (18) 8:50 Section 3: 1. Ben Shorey 6:20.1 2. Mike Stanton 6:40.6 3. Amber Antonia 6:44.4 4. T.C. DeWitt 6:58.8 5. Katy Hays (18) 7:12.1 6. Matt DeWitt 7:22 7. Will Preischel (43) 7:29 **3 Km, Kenosha, Wis., Feb. 13-1.** Amber Antonia 13:26.27 2. Jolene Moore 13:35.53 3. Deborah Huberty 13:37.73 4. Katy Hayes 14:53 5. Le'erin Voss 15:39 6. Lynn Tracy 16:24 7. Judy Myers 17:09 8. Kristine Ewald 17:30 9. Ron Winkler 18:27 10. Aaron Goodman 19:25 11. Alice Winkler 21:54 **3 Km, Kenosha, Feb. 18:** Section 1-1. Jasmine Brooks 14:54.6 2. Mike DeWitt 15:16.4 3. Le'erin Voss 15:33.3 4. Lauren Davis 15:55 6. Christine Tagliaferri 16:14 7. Ron Winkler 18:27 (9 finishers) Section 2-1. Ben Shorey 12:25 2. Mike Tarantino 12:44 3. Mike Stanton 13:10 4. T.C. DeWitt 13:49 **Mid-Missouri Indoor Meet, Marshall, Feb. 13: Women's 1600 meters-1.** Caitlin Ayers, Lindenwood U. 8:52.18 2. Kate Murphy Missouri Baptist 9:33 3. Jen Sproehle, Missouri Baptist 9:33 Women's 3 Km-1. Beth Lewis, Central Methodist 16:18 (But it was later determined that she was one lap short on the 160 meter track, which would have put her at right about 17:00 had she gone the full distance) 2. Gayle Johnson (50+) 17:20 3. Jamie Burmeister, Concordia Col. 19:30 Men's 1600 meters-1.

Kevin Conrey, Missouri Valley 8:53.15 Men's 3 Km-1. Patrick Stroupe, Central Methodist 12:32.14 (also finished fifth in the 800 meter run in 2:01.56) 2. Tim Thurber, Concordia Col. 15:46 3. Lach Lukasz, Lindenwood U. 16:07 4. Jon Ripke, Concordia 17:16 **Indoor 3 Km, Columbia, Mo., Feb. 19-1.** Roger White, Park U. 15:56.43 (2 finishers, 2 DQs) Women-1. Gayle Johnson 17:36.3 (3 finishers) **Indoor 1600 meters, same place-1.** Beth Lewis 8:28.38 2. Caitlin Ayers 8:36 Men-1. Patrick Stroupe 7:41.99 2. Lukasz Lach 8:06 3. Kevin Conrey 8:32 (2 Dqs) **5 KM, Boulder, Col., Nov. 14-1.** Dan Pierce (48) 27:37 2. Marianne Martino (54) 30:06 3. Sherrie Gossert (52) 31:21 4. Barb Amador (55) 31:38 **5 Km, Brighton, Col., Nov. 19-1.** Dan Pierce 27:34 2. Daryl Meyers (62) 29:47 3. Barb Amador 31:05 4. Sherrie Gossert 31:10 **5 Km, Aurora, Col., Nov. 25-1.** Marianne Martino 30:07 **5 Km, Aurora, Col., Jan. 15-1.** Mike Blanchard (43) 28:15 2. Mike Heymans (57) 32:25 3. Rita Sinkovec (65) 32:38 **5 Km, Denver, Jan. 23-1.** Mike Blanchard 27:33 2. Marianne Martino 30:02 3. Mike Heymans 33:03 4. Jill Ozaki (57) 33:11 5. Rita Sinkovec 33:17 **5 Km, Denver, Feb. 5-1.** Mike Blanchard 28:25 2. Marianne Martino 30:18 3. Daryl Meyers (61) 31:28 4. Mike Heymans 32:55 **10 Miles, Pasadena, Cal., Jan. 16-1.** Joe Nieroski (42) 1:25:30 2. Bill Vayo (40) 1:27:19 3. Murray Day (40) 1:29:57 4. David Ciccone (50) 1:28:57 5. Pedro Santoni (47) 1:34:09 6. Mario Lopez (47) 1:39:54 (12 finishers, 1 DQ) Women-1. Jolene Steigerwalt (61) 1:48:27 2. Carol Bertino (57) 1:51:58 (5 finishers) **5 Km, same place-1.** Donna Cunningham (58) 29:49 2. Janet Robinson (63) 32:15 (12 finishers) Men-1. Alan Ede (65) 29:49 2. Carl Acosta (70) 32:27 (5 finishers) **2.8 Miles, Seattle, Jan. 8-1.** Bob Novak (55) 26:49 2. Stan Chraminski (57) 26:49 3. Bart Kale (48) 28:29 4. Jocelyn Slaughter (45) 30:02 (6 finishers) **2.8 Miles, Seattle, Feb. 12-1.** Bob Novak 25:30 2. Stan Chraminski 25:42 3. Ann Tuberg 27:42 4. Coco Beuchet 28:02 (6 finishers)

From other lands

German Indoor 5 Km Championship, Sindelfingen, Feb. 20-1. Jan Albrecht 19:09.60 2. Andre Hohne 19:32.19 3. Michael Krause 20:07 Women's 3 Km-1. Sabine Zimmer 12:04.06 2. Melanie Seeger 12:28 3. Maja Landmann 13:21 **French Indoor 5 Km, Lievin, Feb. 20-1.** Denis Langlois 19:55.95 Women's 3 Km-1. Fatiha Ouali 12:47 **Italian Indoor Championships, Feb. 19:** Women's 3 Km-1. Elisa Rigauda 12:09.57 2. Cristiana Pellino 12:47 3. Sibilla DiVincenzo 12:50 4. Emanuella Perilli 13:10 5. Gisella Orsini 13:13 6. Agnese Ragonesi 13:20 (9 under 14:00) Men's 5 Km-1. Alessandro Gandellini 19:03.38 2. Michele Didoni 19:20 3. Giorgio Rubino 19:27 4. Lorenzo Civallero 19:29 5. Andres Manfredini 19:32 6. Gian Luca Trombetti 19:39 7. Enrico Lang 19:42 (16 under 21) **Women's Jr. 3 Km (Indoor), Myllypuro, Finland, Jan. 30-1.** Mia Hove I (18) 14:37 2. Iina-Mari Laine (15) 14:44 3. Anna Karrila (17) 15:06 **Women's Indoor 3 Km, Turku, Fin., Feb. 5-1.** Outi Sillanpaa 13:19.37 **Finnish Indoor Championships, Turku, Feb. 19:** Men's 5 Km-1. Jani Lehtinen 20:40.01 2. Antti Kempas 21:12 Women's 3 Km-1. Outi Sillanpaa 13:13.92 2. Marja Penttinen 13:47.11 **Finnish Veterans Indoor 3 Km Championships-Age 75-59-1.** Toivo Tuomela 17:41.60 (European age-group record) **Indoor 3 Km, Turku, Feb. 13-1.** Karoliina Kaasalained (16) 14:47.87 2. Outi Sillanpaa 14:55 3. Helene Salonen 14:55 (daughter of Reima Salonen, Finnish international, who won the European 50 Km Championship in 1982 and was ranked number two in the world that year.) **Lithuanian Junior Indoor Championships, Kaunas, Feb. 4:** Women's 3 km-1. Sandra Simkute 14:29.11 2. Snieguole Sabutyte 14:56 Men's 5 Km-1. Pavel Velicko 23:09.94 2. Kiril Griazev 23:21 3. Tautvydas Zekas 23:26 **50 Km, Augusta, Italy-1.** Alex Schwarzer 3:56:59 **20 Km, Badalona, Spain-1.** Maria Jose Poves Novella 1:33:17 **Spanish 50 Km Championship-1.** Mikel Odriozola 3:41:47 2. Santiago Perez 3:48:15 3. Jesus Angel Garcia 3:48:53 4. Jose Antonio Gonzalez 3:49:20 5. Jose Ignacio Diaz 3:51:09 6. Francisco Pinardo 3:51:40 7. Mario

Avellaneda 3:56:15 **Spanish Women's 20 Km**—1. Maria Poves 1:31:55 2. Maria Vasco 1:32:18 3. Beatriz Pascual 1:32:49 4. Maria Gargallo 1:33:32 5. Rocio Florido 1:35:54 6. Teresa Linares 1:36:16 **Indoor 3 Km, Nenagh, Ireland, Feb.** —1. Robert Heffernan 11:15.19 2. Colin Griffin 11:45.69 **20 Km, Canberra, Australia, Feb.** 6—1. Jane Saville 1:33:07 2. Cheryl Webb 1:33:14 3. Natalie Saville 1:36:19 4. Simone Wolowiec 1:37:14 5. Claire Woods 1:39:05 **Men**—1. Nathan Deakes 1:19:23 2. Jared Tallent 1:25:53 3. Adam Rutter 1:26:14 4. Duane Cousins 1:27:51 5. Michael McCagh 1:29:44 6. Christopher Erickson 1:31:35 7. Thomas Barnes 1:32:59 **10 Km, Adelaide, Australia, Feb.** 19—1. Luke Adams 40:04.88 2. Darren Brown 41:01 3. Adam Rutter 41:48. . .5. Jane Saville 45:28 6. Cheryl Webb 46:04. . .8. Natalie Saville 46:32 **Victorian State Championships, Feb. 13:** Men's 5 Km—1. Christopher Erickson 20:59 Men's 40+ 3 Km—1. Paul Kennedy 13:51 Men's 50+ 3 Km—1. Nadrew Jamieson 13:56 2. Ross Reid 14:05 **New South Wales State Championships, Feb. 13:** Women's 5 Km—1. Jane Saville 22:14.52 2. Cheryl Webb 22:17.48 Women's 10 Km—1. Natalie Saville 46:10.99 2. Jane Saville 46:41 3. Cheryl Webb 47:04

Looking For A Race? Well, Here's the Place.

Fri., March 4 Metro 3 Km, New York City, 7:25 pm (G)
NAIA Collegiate Indoor 3 Km, Johnson City, Tenn.
Indoor 1 Mile, Kenosha, Wis., 6 pm (F)

Sun. March 6 Los Angeles Marathon (Y)
Youth 1500 meters, Open 3 Km, Indoor, Louisville, 11 am (R)
10 Mile, Yellow Springs, Ohio (M)
5 Km, Denver 9am (H)

Sat. March 12 2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)

Sun. March 13 5 and 20 Km, Huntington Beach, Cal. (Y)
USATF National Indoor Masters 3 Km, Nampa, Idaho (D)
7 Km, Denver, 10 am (H)
5 Km, Palo Alto, Cal. (P)

Sun. March 20 5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)

Fri. March 25 Indoor 3 Km, Cedarville, Ohio (M)

Sun. March 27 5 Km, New York City, 9 am (G)

Sun. April 3 **Pan-Am Cup 20 Km Trials, 10 Km Junior, Men and Women, Hauppauge, N.Y. (DD)**
4 Mile, Denver, 9 am (H)
Mt. SAC Relays 10 Km, Pasadena, Cal. (Y)
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)

Sat. April 9 North Region 10 Km, Columbia, Mo. (T)

Sun. April 16 10 Km, Seattle (C)

Sun. April 17 5, 10, and 20 Km, Kenosha, Wis.(F)

Sun. April 24 Ron Zinn Memorial 10 Km, Wall Twp., N.J. (A)
Ohio 15 Km, Middletown (M)
North Region 8 Km, Wisconsin (F)

Fri. May 6 Howard Wood Dakota Relays 5 Km, Sioux Falls, S.D., 2 pm (K)

Sat. May 7 Western Regional 5 Km, California (J)

Sun. May 8 South Region 20 Km, Raleigh, N.C.(B)

Sun. May 15 **USATF National Masters 15 Km, Riverside, Cal. (Y)**
North Region and Jack Mortland 20 Km, Yellow Springs, Ohio (M)

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Future National Championships and International Qualifiers

2006

Feb. 3 Men's Indoor 1 Mile, New York City
Feb. 12 50 Km Open and Masters, Clermont, Florida
April 9 World Cup Trials, Men, Women, and Juniors, Hauppauge, N.Y.
June 3 10 Km and junior 3 Km, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Aug. 6 15 Km open and junior, Watertown, Mass.
Sept. 10 40 Km Open and Masters, Ocean Twp., N.J.
Nov. 12 Masters 20 Km, Clermont, Fla.
Oct. 6 5 Km, Kingsport, Tenn.
TBD 15 Km Masters, 20 Km Open, Junior 10 Km, and 30 Km Open and Masters

2007

Feb. 2 Men's Indoor 1 Mile, New York City
Feb. 11 50 Km Open and Masters, Clermont, Fla.
April 3 Pan Am Cup Trials, Men, Women, and juniors, Hauppauge, N.Y.
April 5-6 Pan Am Cup, site to be determined
June 2 10 Km and junior 3 Km, Niagara Falls, N.Y.

TBD 15 Km Open and Junior, Watertown, Mass.
 Sept. 9 40 Km Open and Masters, Ocean Twp., N.J.
 Oct. 6 Open 5 Km, Kingsport, Tenn.
 Nov. 11 Masters 20 Km, Clermont, Fla.
 TBD As in 2006

FROM HEEL TO TOE

Top 100 Lists. In the January issue, I ran tables ranking nations by the number of walkers in the top 100 for 2004 at 20 and 50 Km for men and 10 and 20 for women. I noted that I had forgotten the source of the tables. Wayne Armbrust has reminded me that the tables were compiled by Roger Ruth. He does these lists for all track and field events. The question now is where does he get his top 100 lists to compile the tables. Bob Bowman notes some errors in the tables based on the racewalking lists compiled by Emmerich Gotze, probably the world's leading RW stat guy (and the source of the top 40 lists I published in the December issue). Bob notes that China had only 16 in the top 100 at 20 Km for men, not 20, while Russia has 23 not 19. The 100th performer is at 1:23:27, not 1:23:44. For the men's 50, China has 27, not 26, in the top 100, with the 100th performer at 4:06:26, not 4:04:18. In the women's 20, China has 22 in the top 100, not 20, and Russia 18, not 19. The 100th performer is 1:34:35, not 1:35:02. So, while not particularly accurate, the tables still provide a picture of the power centers of racewalking across the world. Thanks to Wayne and Bob for keeping me straight. . . **Clinic.** The Indiana Racewalkers Club, in conjunction with the National Institute for Fitness and Sport, is sponsoring a racewalk clinic conducted by Jeff Salvage on March 19 and 20 in Indianapolis. Jeff will analyze technique through observation, digital photos, and video, and provide immediate feedback on strengths and weaknesses. The clinic is a mix of on-track training, warm-up drills, classroom instruction, and individual analysis. The clinic will run from 9 to 4 each day at a cost of \$145 per person. For more information contact Jeff at Walking Productions, 79 North Lakeside Drive, Medford, NJ 08055 or David Harriman at david_harriman@sbcglobal.net. . . **Racewalking marriage.** Belatedly, we bring you news (or perhaps it isn't news to you) of a marriage made in racewalking heaven. It comes belatedly because the grapevine only recently spread to the Ohio Racewalker. Anyway, not to keep you in suspense any longer, international walkers of years past and long-time contributors to the sport in many ways Maryanne Torrellas and Ron Daniel were married last July on Mt. Shasta. Maryanne says the event was in July because that's the best time to climb Mt. Shasta. She notes parenthetically that the Mt. Shasta site is another story—perhaps one she can be persuaded to tell us at some time. Anyway, Ron had closed out his work at Lockheed in California and is in the process of moving to Connecticut to join his lovely wife. Our congratulations to a pair who have found a lot of space in these pages through the years. . . So, when you see Maryanne Daniel mentioned in future issues, be it known, she is not a newcomer to the sport. . . **Korzeniowski retirement official.** In a recent letter from the Polish Athletics Association, the IAAF has been informed of the official declaration of retirement by the world's greatest ever race walker (*Ed. The IAAF's words, not ours, but we might be hard put to argue the point*), Robert Korzeniowski. The 36-year-old Pole, who is the reigning World, Olympic, and European champion and World record holder for the 50 Km racewalk wrote to his national federation on Jan. 14 to confirm that his sports career officially ended on December 31, 2004. When Korzeniowski won his third Olympic 50 Km gold (he also has one at 20 Km) in Athens last summer, it was understood that marked his international retirement from the sport. However, when he competed in a couple of minor races in the fall—a 5 Km

win (19:14.74) in Krakow on Sept. 11 and a 10 Km win (39:36) in Piacenza on Sept. 26—questions were raised about how official his retirement was. His statement would seem to end such speculation. . . **Shoes for Ghana.** This from Dave McGovern: "It's time again for another shoe and fund drive to support racewalking in Ghana. If you have any racewalking shoes or racewalking flats in reasonable condition that you are not using, they will be gladly worn by the Ghanaian racewalkers for training and racing. Vincent "ace Walker" Asumang is coming for a training camp at the end of the month. He will collect shoes, and will also be bringing new "Let's Walk" Ghana t-shirts. I've requested that he include the "Elephant Ointment" logo on the back. The grapevine says some have been upset that some of the World Cup shirts had the EE logo while others wound up with Energizer or Parlay's biscuits. Seems like everybody wanted to show their support for the Elephant Ointment." Well, now that I've typed that, I realize that he was referring to the end of February, which will have passed by the time you read this. However, I'm sure shoes would still be accepted and t-shirts available (\$20 each). Send shoes to Dave McGovern, 96 Maiden Lane, Kingston, NY 12401, or check Dave's web site at www.racewalking.com, or contact Dave at Rayzwocker@aol.com. . . **Another Ladany connection.** Robert Reedy in Los Alamos, N.M., a long-time subscriber referenced our article about the Shaul Ladany-Kevin Eastler connection when he wrote: "I knew Tom Eastler while I was graduate student at Columbia from 1964 to 1969. Like Tom, it was Shaul who got me into walking. Tom and I did several racewalks together. I saw Tom in the DC area a few years after we left New York City, but I have not corresponded with him in about three decades. While in New York, I did many racewalks with Shaul. We often rode with John Kelly in John's VW Beetle. Shaul always sat in the Beetle's tiny rear seat. I once asked Shaul if he wanted to switch and ride in front, but he did not want to do so. He later told me that John's habit of turning his head for long periods of time to talk to us while driving got him very nervous, and he felt safer in the rear seat!" **Speaking of John Kelly.** And since John Kelly's name has come up, I may as well betray a confidence at the risk of breaking up a marriage and a friendship. Kati Kelly, John's wife of a few years and my high school classmate when she was Kati Rhoads, sent me some clippings a few days ago with a note: "John would be embarrassed to send these, but I'm so proud for him that I will. It's just for your information. . ." Well, I had intended to honor that admonishment, but now that John's name has innocently come up, I feel our tight-knit racewalking community should know of honors within the group. So, please forgive me John and Kati, but I announce to the world: Back in his native Ireland, the Annual Tipperary United Sports Panel Cidona Awards are a cherished annual event. One of the great highlights of this year's evening of awards in early February was that of the Knocknagow Cidona Awards to a noted sportsperson of the past, the same John Kelly we are talking about, originally from Loughmore, Ireland. The award came for his many accomplishments in many athletic endeavors. And while we are embarrassing John and betraying Kati, just a bit about our hero. He represented Ireland in the 1968 Olympics in the 50 Km racewalk, represented the U.S. in both long-distance running and racewalking, won Golden Gloves boxing titles in Australia in 1953, narrowly missed making the Australian Olympic team as a hammer thrower in 1956, has won many US Masters titles in racewalking, won the Philadelphia Marathon (running) in 1964, and in 1973 walked the 120 miles across Death Valley in blistering temperature in a record 34:09:09. So let us extend our congratulations and all celebrate with the red-faced Mr. Kelly. I hope I am forgiven. . . **The Byrd outcome.** Sometime ago we had an item about the unfortunate suspension of Junior racewalker Dominic Byrd on a doping violation. Here is the happy outcome. On Feb. 17, the 18-year old was found by the US Anti-Coping Agency not to be in violation of doping rules, and was released from his provisional suspension. The case stemmed from a prescription medication containing a small amount of an amphetamine.

Dominic has been at Virginia Intermount University on a racewalking scholarship since January, but has yet to establish his academic eligibility. Look for him to compete sparingly until the school declares him ready. He's aware of the major junior competitions on the calendar. Thanks to Dave Gwyn for this information. . **Racewalk retreat.** The 10th Annual NW Regional Racewalk Retreat will be held in Beavertown, Oregon May 20-22. The Regretreat is presented by Erofit and Associates and is conducted by coaches Judy Heller, John Hanan II, and Kelly Murphey-Glenn. This year, two-time Olympian Philip Dun is returning to Oregon as a guest coach. The staff welcome walkers of all levels of experience as they cover technique, rule, flexibility and mobility drill, stretching, injury prevention, nutrition and proper footwear, and offer hands-on, one-on-one coaching. Visit www.erofit.com for further information, testimonials, and the registration form.

Would You Believe? 40 Years!

After a run of almost 3 ½ years, Chris McCarthy's Racewalker newsletter (originally the Midwest Walker) had disappeared with the "Early Summer 1964" issue. Chris had started in February 1961. So, Jack Blackburn says to Jack Mortland, "We should start a newsletter on our sport", or some such words. Mortland reluctantly says "OK." Thus, in March 1965, we launched the Ohio Racewalker. Mortland had an MA in Journalism, though he wasn't a practicing journalist, so he became Editor and Blackburn took on the Publisher title. He had access to a ditto machine as Supervisor in the Columbus Recreation Department. (Marty Mortland-nee Wright-had been one of his recreation leaders and that's how Marty and Jack got together, but that was earlier, and as Maryanne Daniel would say, another story.) The ditto machine meant Jack B got to take care of the reproduction and mailing along with contributing some material.

A few elderly readers may remember ditto machines—a ditto master produced perhaps 100 copies in a bluish-purple shade. But the first issue went to perhaps 20 or 25 walkers across the country for who we had an address. The first page of my copy of that first issue is now partly illegible, but the other pages can be read rather easily. It was five pages of local news and upcoming local races, except for the Editor's reflections on his 1964 Olympic experiences. And, there was a statement of policy, which read:

"With the thought that too little is written about the sport of racewalking, we bring you the first issue of the Ohio Racewalker. On these pages each month you will find complete news coverage of walking in this state, plus any results we receive from elsewhere, together with features and commentary on racewalking in general. In short, any information on the sport that we come across, and that is of sufficient significance, will be passed on to you, the reader. (And one comes across so little on racewalking it is hard to imagine anything of too little significance.)

Our purpose is mainly to present information and news on the sport (and to keep our own names in print) and we are not planning any crusading-type journalism. However, when controversy arises in any way regarding our sport, we will not hesitate to take a strong editorial stand. At the same time, we will make our pages available for the opinions of others, though they may disagree with our own.

Any news, comments, criticisms, or general features on walking from our readers will be more than welcome. We are sending this first issue to your for free. Future issues will sell for ten cents a copy or \$1.20 a year. . . .Needless to say, editorial preference will be given to material that come in envelopes also containing \$1.20.)"

Except for a 1000 percent increase in price, I think we have kept fairly close to that

policy over 40 years, although your editor had completely forgotten what we printed at that time.

The second issue was still mostly local news, although the schedule of races now included races in New York and even Canada. The only national news was labeled, surprisingly "National News" and read as follows: "It may not be news to anyone else, but we just learned while reading *Long Distance Log* that Ron Zinn is now a married man. Congratulations to Ron, and we selfishly hope that he is one of those who cannot mix athletics and marriage." We had received our first letter from a reader, Arne Richards in Chicago, primarily a runner who dabbled in racewalking. Arne wrote:

"Since I am enclosing \$1.20, I assume you will print any nonsense I should write. . . You are following in the noble footsteps of one Christopher McCarthy (the Fearless one), and I trust you will present the news (while keeping your own names before your admiring public) and do your bit to promote a grand sport—cheers!

Personally, I use racewalking to (1) get to class quickly, especially right after meals, (2) get up long hills in the last part of marathon runs, when the other plodders are just walking (you know what I mean), (3) get the soreness out of my legs the day after a long race, (4) disconcert people (especially cops) who see me gaily racewalking along the local sidewalks late at night! More darn fun."

Our comment on Arne's letter: "As you see, we will print any nonsense when accompanied by cash. Even when not accompanied by cash. Our publisher, who opens the mail, failed to find the above mentioned \$1.20, but we are generous with our space (also desperate to fill it). And maybe Blackburn was smoking one of his foul cigars at the time he opened Arne's letter and inadvertently burned up the \$1.20, or maybe he is just holding out on me. Anyway, Arne, thanks for the moral support, but please don't compare us to the lecherous Chris McCarthy, noted for his yellow journalism, and the man who folded up his rag just after receiving generous contributions from Ohio Track Club members. And a man we have yet to hear from on our new venture, after years of faithful support for his sheet. And we will continue to send him a free copy and say nasty things about him until we at least get a postcard. Thanks for reminding us of that fink."

Actually, we liked Chris and we did eventually hear from him and get a subscription, but we were a bit irreverent in those days. Not sure if we ever got the \$1.20 from Arne.

By the May issue, news from around the country and even from England was making our pages and we were off and running. It remained as a ditto publication through the September 1968 issue, when Blackburn left Columbus. It thus became a one-man operation, and we turned to mimeograph reproduction for lack of a ditto machine (and perhaps because our circulation had risen to a point beyond the capabilities of a single ditto master.) The subscription rate was up to \$2.00. That first issue in the new format covered the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

We went to our printed format with the January 1972 issue, though we goofed on setting margins and had to reduce it to a nearly unreadable type size to get it to fit the format. That was ironed out the next month and we apologized and provided a capsule review. We also received a record number of letters, all commenting on the new format. . . not favorably but for one, which must have been tongue in cheek, but no one dropped their subscription. Our little publisher's blurb that month read:

"The Ohio Racewalker is a monthly collection of unedited news, opinion, and miscellany on the world of racewalking hastily prepared at the last moment by Jack Mortland. Subscription rate is 2 ½ bucks per annum. Address all correspondence to 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202. My wife tells me that this copy is replete with errors and omitted words,

perhaps more so than usual. I will now scan through it and try and pencil in a few things here and there to help the struggling reader. That's why you have seen all those things penciled in."

Well, that's a brief history and, by some miracle, we are still around. We started using a computer rather than an Underwood sometime in the late '80s and motor on. Circulation peaked at about 700 at that same time and has been on a steady decline since, down to about 300. A decline matched in the same period by the depth of elite walkers in the country. I don't know if there is any correlation.

LOOKING BACK

35 Years Ago (From the February 1970 ORW)—Dave Romansky topped Ron Laird in the National Indoor 1 Mile title race, 6:14 to 6:19.7. Ron Kulik was third in 6:20.5, Steve Hayden fourth in 6:22.5, Larry Walker fifth in 6:23.7, and Floyd Godwin sixth in 6:29, just 0.1 ahead of Ron Daniel. . .Laird and Godwin flew into Columbus the next morning and hooked up in a hot Indoor 3 Mile at the OSU Invitational. Laird just won in an American record 20:48, a second ahead of Godwin. Our old editor, a spry 35, managed 22:05, but couldn't avoid being lapped on the 22-yard track. The next day, the traveling duo contested a 15 Km race in Denver. I guess there was a craving to race in those days. . .Romansky also had a 6:16 mile in Baltimore and an American record of 5:50.2 for 1500 meters in New York. . .Laird was named recipient of the 1969 Ron Zinn Award as the outstanding walker in the U.S., the fifth time he had won it in its 9 years of existence.

30 Years Ago (From the February 1975 ORW)—Ron Daniel walked off with the National Indoor 2 Mile (which had replaced the 1 Mile and eventually stretched to today's 5 Km) in 13:36.8, with Ron Laird and Larry Walker both less than a second behind in a blanket finish. Ron Kulik, Todd Scully, and Dave Romansky followed closely (13:43 for Romansky). . .The women's 1 Mile title went to Sue Brodock in 7:22.5, 3 seconds ahead of her sister Linda and Ester Marquez. . .Bob Henderson captured the OSU Invitational 3 Mile in 21:52. In the 5-year interval, your editor had slowed to 23:17, but took second, although still lapped. . .Henderson posted a 45:24 for 10 Km in Champaign, Illinois (indoors) the next afternoon after riding all night in the Mortland car (and also competing in the National 2 Mile in New York the night before the Columbus race, as he apparently tried to match the Laird-Godwin odyssey. Young Jim Heiring showed his potential in Champaign with a 47:35 and your editor came third in 50:07. . .Sue Brodock had a world's best of 7:15.2 for 1 Mile in Los Angeles and then bettered that with a 7:13.9. . .Vladimir Golubnichiy, nearing age 40, won the 3 Mile in the US-USSR indoor dual in a world's best 19:46.2. Venimain Soldatenko edged out Ron Laird for second, 20:24.8 to 20:27.6.

25 Years Ago (From the February 1980 ORW)—Marcel Jobin of Canada won a 1 Mile race in the Houston Astrodome in a blazing 5:54.6, a North American best. . .Two weeks earlier, Jim Heiring had done 5:57.5 in L.A. In that same L.A. meet, Sue Brodock recorded a women's world best of 6:58.1. . .Jeff Ellis, U. Of Wisconsin Stevens Point, won the NAIA 2 Mile in 13:53.4, with Mel McGinnis second. . .Chris Hansen did 5 Km indoors in 21:28 in Racine, Wis. . .The day after his fast mile, Jobin won a 50 Km in 4:01:34, also in Houston.

20 Years Ago (From the February 1985 ORW)—U.S. Indoor titles went to Jim Heiring at 2 Miles in 12:07.5 and Teresa Vaill at 1 Mile in 6:58.6. Tim Lewis was nearly 20 seconds back of Heiring with Gary Morgan third and Tom Edwards fourth. Maryanne Torrellas trailed Vaill by 5 seconds with Ester Lopez on her heels. Carol Brown and Susan Liers were fourth and fifth. . .France's Gerard Lelievre won the World Indoor 5 Km title in 19:06.22. Maurizio Damilano, Italy, was second in 19:11.41, Australia's Dave Smith third in 19:16.04, and Czechoslovakia's Roman Mrazek fourth in 19:39.73. Jim Heiring set an American record on

20:11.69 in sixth. . .Italy's Giuliana Salce won the Women's 3Km World Title in 12:53.42 with Canada's Ann Peel third in 13:06.97. . .Tom Edwards won the TAC National Indoor 3 Km in 11:47.7, beating Gary Morgan (11:55.9), Tim Lewis (11:56.7), and Ray Funkhouser (11:59.3).

15 Years Ago (From the February 1990 ORW)—Teresa Vaill won the Women's National Indoor 3 Km for the second year in a row with a 12:53.17 effort. Ann Peel, Canada, was 17 seconds back in second, and Victoria Herazo (13:37) and Maryanne Torrellas (13:50.12) followed. . .In the Men's 5 Km, Canada's Tim Berrett walked away from the field with a 19:42.90. Doug Fournier won the U.S. title in 20:08.40, seven seconds ahead of Gary Morgan. Dave McGovern took fourth in 20:40.90, just ahead of Allen James. . .Tim Lewis, only seventh in the National 5 Km, had won the Millrose Games 1 Mile earlier in 5:50.33, with Berrett trailing Steve Pecinovsky in third. A week later, he still had Berrett's number in a 1500 meter race in New York, winning 5:15.1, 4 seconds ahead of the Canadian. . .Vaill had a 6:06 to win the women's 1500 in that meet, 14 seconds ahead of Herazo. Maryanne Torrellas (6:48.63) won a sparkling mile race of Lynn Weik (6:50.65) and Herazo (6:56.01) in Fairfax, Virginia.

10 Years Ago (From the February 1995 ORW)—After a race-long battle with Victoria Herazo, Michelle Rohl won the World Cup Trial 10 Km race, 45:12 to 45:26. Lyn Brubaker was distant third in 46:52, 10 seconds ahead of Teresa Vaill. Debora Van Orden took the final spot on the team in 47:22. . .In the men's 20 Km Trial, Allen James led Dave McGovern by 12 seconds in 1:28:21. Andrew Hermann (1:28:47), Philip Dunn (1:29:29), and Rob Cole (1:29:21) filled out the top five. Will Van Axen (1:29:41) just missed the team. . .In an open 10 Km in conjunction with the women's trail at Disney World, Rob Cole did 44:16.

5 Years Ago (From the February 2000 ORW)—It was cold (sub 50 F), rainy, and very windy in Sacramento for the Olympic 50 Km Trial race, but the conditions couldn't deter Curt Clausen, Andrew Hermann, and Philip Dunn who captured spots on the team. Clausen was dooged by Hermann for 45 Km, but broke free to win in a brilliant 3:56:16 with Hermann second in 3:57:56. Dunn came home third in 4:07:00 and was on the team, having gone under the 4 hour qualifying standard in an earlier race. Jonathan Matthews was fourth in 4:21:39. . .The day before the Trial race, both Tim Seaman and Danielle Kirk broke American 20 Km records on the track in Sacramento. Kirk had 1:38:19 and Seaman 1:24:25.4. In the women's race, Susan Armenta was second in 1:38:54. Denmark's Claus Jorgenson followed Seaman in 1:25:51.4, with Kevin Eastler third in 1:26:08.8

Bucharesti '81

A racewalking odyssey by Ray Sharp

World University Games, 1981 in Bucharest, Romania (Bucharesti) was a highlight of my athletic career, not for the quality of the performance but for the quirky memories that I treasure as the true ribbons and medals of my racewalking years.

It was the apex of the Cold War, seven months after Reagan's first inaugural, when Peter Timmons and I were selected for the 20 Km race in the Soviet-bloc capital once known as the Paris of the Balkans for its wide, tree-lined boulevards and immaculate rose gardens. By 1981, Bucharest had lost some of her fin du siecle splendour and had taken on the grim Soviet concrete-and-rebar architecture of crowded one-bedroom flats and monstrous warehouses of State bureaucracy.

Pete was an up-and-coming young walker, full of promise, vigor and intelligence. He was Maryanne Daniel's (Torrellas at that time) first cousin, by the way. Maryanne was

probably running the 400 and 800 in those days, before the years she blazed bright across the American walking firmament.

Pete had that tough-guy East Coast accent, like Dan O'Conner, Ron Kulik, Bob Mimm and most of the other great characters from the days when American racewalking centered around Madison Square Garden, Coney Island and Long Branch. Pete, like Dan, loved good conspiracy theories and the intrigue of the era, and spent much of the next three weeks reading Le Carre and Follet and imagining KGB agents behind every bush and across the aisles of the trolleys and buses we rode on our daily excursions around the city. Pete and I roomed with a javelin thrower. I forgot his name, but it was not Petranoff.

We flew in on a USOC-chartered 707 full of runners and jumpers and throwers, swimmers and divers and gymnasts, fencers and weightlifters and wrestlers and coaches and managers and us, two 21-year-olds bound for glory and adventure. This was the only way in and the only way out, which many athletes discovered as they tried to leave after their races and join the European track circuit. As for me, every day in the athletes village with thousands of young and beautiful people and \$20 per diem was another day well spent. WUG took over a university campus about 5 km from the city center where the stadium was located. The campus was bounded on three sides by high wire fences and on one side by a large creek or small river that had been turned into a straight canal between two steep banks.

I was feeling fit and confident. My 3-times-a-mile tuneup at a track near JFK was quick and smooth, something like 6:30, 6:20, 6:10. I was hoping to atone for a miserable April-May and a seventh place at the national 20 k by pulling out a sub-1:29 race and maybe even a medal. In February I had beaten Heiring and Scully in the Indoor 2-Mile, and in March I won the 30 k over O'Conner and Evoniuk, but in May I was suffering from acute overtraining syndrome. By June I had finished third in the 50 k in Seattle and won the 5 k in Sacramento the next week, so I was ready for a breakthrough 20 k performance.

We walked in the opening ceremonies on a hot afternoon after several hours of standing in the sun lining up. Too bad they hadn't invented water bottles yet. The ceremony was awe-inspiring. By evening I was flat on my back on a cot in a miserable cement-block dorm room with a 103-degree (39.4 C) fever, reading a poorly-written, predictable spy novel about a Massad agent and his beautiful but dangerous true love. Two days until the race.

The race was a struggle, to say the least. I was up against a field of 10, and at least seven could probably kick my butt even if I was healthy. Chief among the "university students" was Olympic champion Maurizio Damilano. I warmed up well and stood grimly on the line, ready to accept my fate manfully.

The race left the stadium for 10 laps around a nearby neighborhood. The trees were large and the shade was ample. The conditions were pretty favorable for a good time, despite the mid-summer, mid-afternoon heat. I stayed with the pack through 5 km in about 21:30 and could still see the leaders at 10 km. I gradually slowed from there on as I succumbed to the effects of a 48-hour flu, but was still on pace for about 1:33, firmly in sixth place and gaining on fifth as I completed my tenth lap and approached the turn for the stadium in about 1:27 or 1:28. I can still see in my mind's eye the little Mexican walker head for the stadium and as I followed, two soldiers armed with rifles stepped in my path and pointed me to do another lap. I gestured wildly and spoke a bit of broken Romanian (their language is derived from Latin roots, not Slavic, and so I was able to get by a little) but they were firm in their insistence that the American was going to walk another lap. I was completely spent by then, and although the additional lap was only 1600 or 1700 meters, I stumbled around and finally reached the track and the finish line in 1:45. To my surprise, Pete came in a few minutes after me. We were the only two walkers "mistakenly" sent on an extra lap. The coaches protested to no avail.

What ensued after I recovered my strength and good spirits was a couple glorious weeks marooned in Bucharest with free sports events to watch and nowhere to spend my per diem. One night we were guests at the American Consulate and enjoyed a great cookout in the back yard with lots of fancy, delicious food and cold beer, courtesy of the ambassador and the State Department. I went to lots of basketball and diving. I remember a Russian player who was at least 7 feet, 4 inches tall (224 cm) and had the grotesquely jutting chin and brow ridges of Frankenstein's monster (or someone who had taken a whole lot of HGH). I loved diving, both for the graceful perfection of the Chinese men and women, who were emerging as the world's best team, and for the sexy women divers who tossed their wet hair seductively and tugged at skin-tight lycra suits and walked so beautifully with their strong legs and butts.

One morning after working out we were out in the sun by the riverbank tossing a frisbee, chatting idly about how to pass another day, without a care in the world. The river was slow and murky and foul-smelling. In Eastern Europe at that time, factory farming and industrial production were definitely a higher policy priority than environmental regulation. Who knows what agricultural run-off or chemicals coursed through that putrid stew. The frisbee floated lazily on currents of warm air. I followed its path down the steep grassy bank and pulled in the frisbee like the say Hey Kid in cenetr field at the Polo Grounds. I planted my two feet securely in bounds, swung my arms wildly, and tumbled head first into the river. It was deep, way over my head. I clung to the frisbee and swam wildly to shore, spitting and snorting all the way out onto the grass, sure I had been infected with cholera or radiation that would make me shrink to a height of one centimeter and I would have to battle the hairy spider with a straight-pin lance, or else my future child would grow to be 30 meters tall and terrorize small Oklahoma towns. I ran upstairs and jumped in the shower and scrubbed my skin and every bodily orifice, my clothes and my adidas marathon racing flats (the dark blue ones like Grete Waitz wore in the NY Marathon).

We spent the afternoons downtown, trying to have as much fun as possible without getting arrested. Basically, this entailed nervously changing twenty dollars for the local currency on the street and getting 10 times the official rate. Then we would head to the Western-style hotel tower, go to the top floor, and spend the rest of the day eating the most expensive dishes on the menu and drinking Pilsner Urquell beer, imported from Prague. Yummy. A great grandmother (my father's mother's mother) was Romanian, and she handed down a spicy eggplant recipe, a favorite of mine to this day. Communism had done little to diminish Romanian farming, and the food was excellent.

One night back at the dorm, things were getting a little desperate. The throwers, prodigious smokers all, were down to their last cigarettes and cans of snuff. They broke out the vodka and a bunch of us got more than a little tipsy. I tried chewing tobacco for the first time. I didn't fully understand how important it was not to swallow even a little bit of the juice, and I got suddenly and violently sick. I threw up all over those same adidas marathons. Ah, youth.

As Bernd Kammenberg once said, all good things must come to an end. I went back to Waukesha to my parent's house for a month of training, and then to Valencia, Spain for the World Cup. I finished 28th out of 60 (only 15 teams and 4 walkers each) in about 1:32:30, second American and about two minutes behind Jimmy. Ernesto Canto, only a year my senior, won the race in about 1:24. My enduring memory of that trip was Vince O'Sullivan tossing a tiny Australian woman walker up and down in his long, red-haired arms on a third-floor balcony overlooking the pool, but that's another story from another trip.