Columbus, May 13-14--In the 21 editions of the World Cup of Racewalking contested since 1961, Spain had never won a team title. Apparently a little home cooking was the answer to that drought as the Spanish men swept to victories in both the 20 and 50 Km at this year’s competition. The women’s 20 Km and both men’s and women’s Junior 10 Km titles went to dominant Russian teams.

Spain was led by Francisco Fernandez who left World Champion and defending World Cup 20 Km winner, Jefferson Perez, helpless in his wake. Fernandez won by 37 seconds with a 1:18:31, the second fastest winner in World Cup history—Perez had 1:18:24 in 1997. It was a sweet victory for the Spaniard in front of his countryman and a turn-around from last year’s World Championships when Perez beat him by 61 seconds.

Probably more surprising than Spain’s team victory in this race was the Australian second-place finish. They were just 4 points behind the Spaniards and tied in points with Russia. Second place went to the Aussies on the basis of the higher-placed third finisher. (The team scorer is like cross-country scoring, with each team allowed five entrants, but just the three from each team figuring in the scoring. Teams finishing less than three do not score.)

In the 50, Spain put three walkers in the first 10 and was unchallenged in the team race, finishing 18 points of Poland. Poland, walking without the retired Robert Korzeniowski for the first time in many years, was another surprise. (Robert did make his mystique felt as he is now coaching Fernandez. The individual title went to Russia’s Denis Nizhegorodov in a sparkling 3:38:02, nearly 3 ½ minutes ahead of yet another surprise, Trond Nymark of Norway.

Yuriy Andronov gave the Russians another medal in third, but their hopes for a team title went up in flames the second half of the race. At 30 Km, they seemed to have the team title in the bag, with walkers in first, third, fifth, and seventh places, despite having defending champion Aleksey Vovveddin drop out after 25 Km (in thirteenth place). But then, third-place Vladimir Ruscakovic got his third red card, and World Champion Sergey Kirdyapkin, in seventh at 30 Km, folded up completely and finally struggled home in 49th place, leaving the team out of the medals. Not untypical of the drama that often unfolds at a World Cup 50. Things can change quickly when the real racing begins after 30 Km.

In both Junior races, contested at 10 Km, the Russians were dominant, finishing one-two in the women’s race and one-three in the men’s. (There are just two scorers in the Junior races.) Individual titles went to the defender Vera Sokolava (44:49) and Sergey Morozov (40:26).
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In the women’s 20 Km, World Champion and World record holder, Olomiipa Ivanova, was out to justify her status from the start. But the Belarus ace Ryota Turava brought an impressive challenge in 21:24 and a distant second to Ivanova in last year’s World Championships, was determined to move up another notch this year.

By 5 Km the pair was together in a quick 21:40 and were leaving the field behind. Ivanova’s four Russian teammates were together in 21:56, 9 seconds ahead of China’s Qiyan Jiang, who had another 10 seconds on Romania’s Claudia Stef. The next group of five was already 50 seconds behind the leaders.

But neither leader seemed ready to continue to push the pace over the next 5, allowing Irina Petrova to get back in contact. With Petrova closing in, Turava began to pull away from Ivanova at 7 Km and by the 10 Km mark Petrova was slightly ahead as she and Turava went through in 23:24. Ivanova was 15 seconds back with Jiang now in fourth at 44:00. Next were Russians Olga Kaniskina (44:18) and Tatyana Kozlova (44:19), and Stef (44:19). Elena Ginko, Belarus, was a lonely eight in 44:35, followed by a pack of 10 walkers, led by Austria’s Jane Saville (44:49).

At 11 Km, Turava kicked into another gear and soared away from her Russian antagonists. Her 21:25 over the next 5 took her through 15 km in 64:49 with a 33-second lead on Petrova, who led Ivanova by another 12 seconds. Jiang had 66:26, Kaniskina 66:44, Stef 66:46, and Ginko 66:57. The Saville led pack, now down to five, came through in 67:06.

Turava backed off a bit on the final 5, needing 23:18 to finish in a championship record of 1:26:27. Ivanova had no answer to Turava’s strong race, but she did overtake Petrova to claim the silver, 59 seconds behind Turava. Petrova had no competition for the bronze, finishing more than a minute ahead of China’s Dan He. With Kaniskina in fifth, the Russians easily won the team gold. China was second, although Jiang faded to ninth by the finish. Hong Liu overhauled Saville by the finish for sixth place and assurance of the team silver. Belarus was third as Ginko supported Turava in eighth place.

Turava had Ivanova’s World Record on her mind, but came up 49 seconds short. “I think I made a mistake—I normally take an energy drink from home and I thought water would be OK today, but after the first few kilometers my legs were hurting. I get that sometimes,” she said. “I have still to work on my technique. I am a bit upset from the result, but I could get it today.”

The U.S. finished ninth, ahead of Ukraine and behind Italy. Twelve teams finished three athletes. Teressa Vaill finished 32nd in 1:35:46, just 5 seconds off her Trials time in April. She went through her first 5 in 23:07 in 43rd place and then started to move up in the field, despite gradually slowing. She was in 34th at 10 Km in 46:32, and 31st at 15 in 70:51. Slowing to 24:55, she lost one spot on the final 5. Joanne Dow finished two spots behind Teressa in 1:36:14.

She also moved through the field, even as she gradually slowed. With splits of 23:35, 47:29, and 71:53 she moved from 48th at 5 Km to 34th at the finish. Jolene Moore walked 1:40:08 for 49th place, with splits of 24:09, 46:37, and 74:09. Deb Hubert was 65th in 1:49:23 and Amber Antonia, after a 24:12 for her first 5, had to drop out before the 10 Km mark.

In the men’s 20, Fernandez took command early and soon left the rest of the field in his virtual trail. Actually, China’s Yucheng Han led for the first kilometer, tearing along at sub 1:16 pace. Once Han was hauled in, Fernandez, cheered by the home crowd, blazed the first 5 Km in 19:29 and only Australia’s Nathan Deakes was willing to try and match that pace. Deakes went through in 19:32, but eventually would pay the price for trying to match Fernandez on this day. Already, the Spaniards had 21 seconds on the favorite, Perez, who was walking with Tunisia’s Hatem Ghoula. They were just ahead of Han and a pack of 17 others at 20:00 or better.

Fernandez accelerated the second 5, a 19:23 effort bringing him past 10 Km in 38:32. Deakes had dropped well back, but was still clear of the pack in second with a 39:24. Ten seconds behind him were Perez, Ghoula, and Han. Colombia’s Luis Lopez was next in 39:35, just a second ahead of the Russian pair of Viktor Burayev and Sergey Bakulin. The rest of the field was spreading out behind.

Continuing to push his relentless pace, Fernandez completely discouraged any pursuit as he went by 15 Km in 58:22, now 58 seconds ahead of Ghoula, Han, and Perez. Deakes was just another second back, as these four found themselves locked in a duel for the two remaining medals. The gold was all but conceded to Fernandez. Lopez was another 13 seconds back, with Bakulin and Burayev fortifying the gap. No one else had any shot at a medal, as Mexico’s Daniel Garcia in ninth was at 60:18, 37 seconds behind Burayev.

Fernandez slowed a bit in the final 1, finishing in 1:18:31, with a 20:09 for the final 5. Perez and Han were able to accelerate slightly, to close the gap on Fernandez and take the bronze by a good margin. Perez downed his pace with a kilometer to go and opened a gap on Han, which he held to the finish, which he hit in 1:19:08, 2 seconds ahead of Han. Ghoula overhauled Deakes in the final 50 meters to take fourth in 1:19:36, a second ahead of the Australian. Bakulin and Burayev took the next two spots, but could not break 2:00. For Ghoula, who has been just out of contention in many international races, it was a real breakthrough.

With Juan Manuel Molina in 12th and Benjamin Sanchez in 20th, Spain excited the natives with a gold medal team performance, four points of the surprising Australian team. It was actually Sanchez who won the gold for Spain. While Jose Diaz faded from 20th to 28th over the last 5, Sanchez moved up from 25th to save the day. Russia and Mexico were in contention for the gold at 10 Km, but both suffered disqualifications and collapses that ended their chances. The always strong Mexican were a distant eighth in the team standings. China was also in contention until a late DQ pushed them back to fourth.

Kevin Eastler was the bright spot for the U.S., which finished 14th in the team standings. Kevin walked an evenly paced race through 15 Km to move from 44th at 5 Km to 23rd at the finish, just a hair behind Mexico’s Gabriel Ortiz. Kevin finished in 1:22:47, a time beaten only by Tm Lewis in World Cup competition. His splits were 20:27, 41:01, 61:33. Had he managed to hold on to his pace over the final 5, he would have finished five or six spots higher. Tim Seaman was 69th in 1:31:01 (21:35, 43:10), John Nunn 71st in 1:31:49 (21:02, 43:40), Benjamin Shorey 73rd in 1:32:20 (21:47, 43:52), and Matt Boyles 74th in 1:32:29 (22:20, 45:15).

As noted above, the drama in the 50 was in the team picture. At 30 Km, the Russians at 1,3, and 7 were in great shape, and the Chinese in 5 in the first 22 were a threat if a couple of those moved up. Spain, in 8, 9, 20, and 23, was trailing both. But there are no guarantees in a 50 and the collapse of both the Russian and Chinese teams allowed Spain an easy victory, 18 points ahead of Poland, 19 ahead of China, and 33 ahead of Russia. The Chinese continue to perform better at home than on the road. Of course, after these races perhaps we could say that of the Spaniards as well.

There was no such drama for the individual gold. Denis Nizhegorodov was content
to bide his time for the first 10 Km, led by his countryman Yuriy Andronov in 45:29.

Nizhegorodov lay in fifth, a second back, with Sergey Kirdyapkin, Changliang Zhao, and Chaoqong Yu also ahead of him. Trond Nymark and Alexey Voyevodin were right with him, a few seconds ahead of Mexico's Horacio Nava and Spain's Mikel Ordrozola. There were 19 athletes at 45:56 or better.

On the second 10 Km, Nizhegorodov and Yu stepped up the pace to go through 20 Km in 1:28:54-4:32:25 for 10 Km. Kirdyapkin and Zhao were trying to hang on, 14 seconds back. Nymark and Andronov were 1:30 back, with a pack of eight more within 16 seconds of them. The pace accelerated quickly for the two leaders and they hit 25 Km in 1:49:37 (20:43 for 5). Zhao and Kirdyapkin were nearly a minute-and-a-half back by that time and they were pulling away from the rest. When Nizhegorodov kept the pressure on with another 5 Km in 20:36 (2:10:13 at 30), Yu was broken, better than a minute back at 2:11:29. Vladimir Kanaykin had moved to third in 2:12:45, Zhao was fourth in 2:13:07, Kirdyapkin fifth in 2:13:56, and Nymark sixth in 2:14:32, 6 seconds ahead of Andronov. Kanaykin was shown the red card shortly and Kirdyapkin had given up the chase in a quick fade that lasted the last of the race.

Nizhegorodov was relentless as he did 41:13 to hit 40 Km in 2:51:43. His 1:22:39 from 20 to 40 Km would have given him 22nd place in the 20. Nymark made his own move to take over second in 2:57:40, as Zhao and Yu faded (2:57:33 and 2:58:07). Andronov was fifth in 2:58:32 and Spain's Mikel Ordrozola was sixth in 2:54:53. The great Spanish veteran, Jesus Garcia, was now in eighth. With Jose Cambil in 13th, they trailed China by just 3 points. Tianfeng was in 17th for the Chinese. With Kirdyapkin disappearing in the distance, the Russians were completely out of the picture.

Nizhegorodov, though he slowed considerably, had an insurmountable lead and came home in 3:38:02, needing 46:19 for his final 10. Zhao and Yu both needed well over 50 minutes to get home and their collapse left China out of the team gold. Nymark finished strong (43:50 for the last 10) to easily capture the silver, by 68 seconds over Andronov. Ordrozola and Garcia moved to fourth and sixth, with Poland's Roman Magdziarzyk between them. The Pole had been 11th at 30 Km and his move past the two Chinese (or perhaps their move behind them) brought Poland the silver medal by one point. Kirdyapkin struggled through his final 20 in just under 2:10, but kept going so that his team could place even if only fourth.

Nizhegorodov walked a 3:35:29 in 2004, a time that has never been ratified as a World Record, but was soundly beaten by Robert Korzeniowski in the Olympics that year. He had to drag himself to the finish in that one. Though he slowed some today, his only real danger was a second card at 30 Km, so he was walking a fine line to the finish. "I remember Athens very well but also knew I needed to take risks. I was afraid I might damage the team chances with a third card, but I did not change my tactics. I wanted to win and I was not going to hide from the judges," he said after the race.

Nymark in second betters his personal record by nearly three minutes to win his unexpected spot. Fourth in last year's World Championships, which was unexpected at that time, he started conservatively today and then moved forward. "I knew I could make the top three, but the first 20 was difficult. I took a chance and accelerated. By 25 Km I was on edge. I knew I would either tip over or find my flow and I found my flow. I knew I could do well as the times I've achieved during my training have spoken for themselves. This race tells me I can win major events in the future."


Mark Green, at 30, was 59th in 4:36:52 and Dave Moveren, fighting injuries, dropped out after going through 20 in 1:58:09. The U.S. finished 10th of the 11 teams that got three walkers to the finish.

Vera Sokolova repeated her 2004 win in the Junior 10K in record time, but it wasn't easy. She finished in 44:49, just 3 seconds ahead of her 15-year-old teammate Aleksandra Kudyashova, who had beaten her in the Russian Winter Championships. Their only opposition came from China's Xue Chai, who took third in 45:02. At the finish, fourth place Volha Mazuronak was nearly 3 minutes behind and she was well clear of fifth place.

The three medalists went hard from the gun as the Russian duo went through the first kilometer in 4:25 along with a third Russian, Elena Ladonova, 5 seconds ahead of Chai.

At 5 Km, the three Russians were at 22:13, 20 seconds ahead of Chai. The pace began to slow slightly and Chai narrowed the gap to 14 seconds at 6 Km. At this point, Sokolova was only the one on top of the five with no warnings. "My main problem was to be selected for the World Junior Championships, and I have my place."

For the U.S., rapidly improving Heather Buelit went through the first 5 in 25:11 and held the pace to finish 24th in 51:25. Katy Hayes was 32nd in 52:54 and L'erin Voss 41st in 58:06. The team finished 11th.

Gaobo Li, the 16-year-old Chinese athlete, appeared to be a strong favorite for the men's Junior race, considering his win at 20 Km in the Chinese IAAF Challenge 20 Km. After all, he did 1:18:17 there and beat Ilya Markov, Francisco Fernandez, and Nathan Deakes. How could not win a Junior race. Well, one way was to have the judges take him out, which is what happened here. As a result, Russia's Sergey Morozov strode to an easy win in 40:26 (okay, not exactly strolling). The two were together when Li was pulled and who can say Morozov might not have won anyway.

Marazov, Li, and China's Yong Shi set a very fast early pace, hitting 2 Km in 7:48. Jose Sanchez and Rafael Avendano of Mexico were the only others close, 11 seconds back. After that quick start settled into a 4:05 km pace and Morozov reached 5 Km in 19:52, with Li 2 seconds back and Shi 12 seconds back. Sanchez was a distant fourth in 20:43, floowed by the second Russian Aleksy Grigoryev and Juan Cano of Argentina at 20:49. Spain's Miguel Lopez was next at 20:57.

Shortly after the 5 Km mark, Shi was ushered off by the judges and a kilometer later Li suffered the same fate, leaving Morozov all by himself. He eased through a 40:26 with Lopez 75 seconds back in second. Grigoryev was another 11 seconds back, beating Sanchez by 5 seconds for the bronze medal.

Morozov, like Li just 16 has been competing at racwalking for three years, having been a runner before that. "I was pretty sure of the victory when the second Chinese was disqualified. I could see a big gap behind me. I wanted to get under 40 minutes, but it was difficult on my own."

Roberto Vergara finished 50th in 49:15 with Michael Kasmierczak next in 49:45 and Ricardo Vergara 53rd in 50:15. The team finished 16th. Results follow:
Other Results


Canada Qualifying 1:38:27.

Challenge Titles to Fernandez and Stef

The races at the World Cup closed the season on the 2006 IAAF Challenge. The earlier Challenge races were in Mexico, Portugal, China, and Italy. Final positions were based on the best total of points achieved by an athlete in any three of the Challenge competitions, with 10 points scored for a win, nine for second, eight for third, and so on, down to 10th position.

The winners were Spain’s Francisco Fernandez and Romania’s Claudia Stef, both with 28 points. Each collected $30,000. The top eight men and women shared in prize money—$20,000 for second, $15,000 for third, $10,000 for fourth, $8000 for fifth, $7000 for sixth, $6000 for seventh, and $5000 for eighth.

Fernandez, who finished only 11th in the World Cup (but in her season’s best time), took advantage of competing in three other races—one of the few athletes to do so. So, she virtually sewed up before La Coruna with her win in Mexico and second place finishes in Portugal and Italy. The defending challenge winner, Ryta Turava, did not finish the opening race in Mexico, but her wins in Italy and at the World Championships were enough to garner sixth, $6000 for seventh, and $5000 for eighth.

Stef, who finished only 11th in the World Cup (but in her season’s best time), took advantage of competing in three other races—one of the few athletes to do so. So, she virtually had the Challenge win sewed up before La Coruna with her win in Mexico and second place finishes in Portugal and Italy. The defending challenge winner, Ryta Turava, did not finish the opening race in Mexico, but her wins in Italy and at the World Championships were enough to garner second place with 20 points. Australia’s Jane Saville moved into third with 18 points with her performance in La Coruna. Melanie Seeger, Germany, and Dan He, China, followed with 17 points.

Fernandez retained the title he won last year when he scored a perfect 30 points with wins in Portugal, Italy, and Spain, but came second at the World Championships. This year, he had a win in Portugal, a third in China, and the World Cup win. Illya Markov, like Fernandez coached by Robert Korzeniowski, also had 28 points, but was second because he had only one win to the two for Fernandez. Markov won in Italy and was second in China and Portugal. He lost a shot at the title when he was not included on the Russian team for the World Cup. I have seen no explanation of why.

Following these two was Tunisia’s Hatem Ghoula with 20 point, China’s Yucheng Han with 18, and Norway’s Erik Tysse with 17.
From Heel To Toe

National 15 Km. Race Director Bruce Leasure has offered 10 reasons you should make the National 15 Km in Minneapolis on Aug. 20 (originally scheduled for Aug. 6): 10. The snow will be melted by August. 9. No motor vehicles on the course. 8. Minnesota's largest indoor water park is near the event hotel. 7. The course is flat, smooth, straight. 6. You can be green and take the light rail instead of renting a car. 5. The mosquitoes will make you walk faster. 4. One overpass every 100 meters provide good views for spectators. 3. T-shirt with a cool design. 2. The largest indoor shopping mall is across the street from the event hotel. 1. It's a National Championship! 

Jeff Salvage Clinic. Jeff Salvage will be in Cincinnati (actually the suburb of Blue Ash) for a clinic on July 15. The clinic runs from 9 am to 4 pm and is a mix of on-track training, warm-up drills, classroom instruction, and individual analysis. Jeff analyzes each participant's technique by observation with the help of video and digital photography. Cost is $150. Contact Jeff at Walking Promotions, 79 North Lakeside Drive, Medford, NJ 08055. See the Russians in action. Valerie Silver is offering a DVD of the February 2006 Russian Winter Racewalk Championships. She is making it available for $15 with free shipping in the continental U.S. via USPS Media Mail. She describes it thus: "This is home video, with some unofficial audio commentary, but in Russian. Races are Senior men's and women's 20 Km, Senior men's 35 Km, junior men's and women's 10 Km, boys' 10 Km and girls' 5 Km. The video is clips, not the whole of the races. Total time about 3½ hours. NTSC format (converted from PAL). Includes written results 10 to 15 places, which were also published in the Ohio Racewalker (Feb. Issue). It's interesting for seeing their styles, the number of competitors, new faces, etc. Ask me about a video of the June 2005 Russian Racewalk Championships, complete with cheerleaders." You can contact Valerie at vas2@earthlink.net. Her address if you want to send a check is 443 Giraldo Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134. She will accept PayPal bank transfers at the e-mail address. Valerie also notes that in the results I published, I had a question mark for the winners of Boys' 10 Km. The winner was Edict Khaibulin. NAIA Championships. This from Vince Peters: "After years of recognizing the lack of racewalking opportunities at collegiate T &F meets, the NAIA has made a move to toughen up the qualifying standards. In doing so, the NAIA has pulled the plug on allowing racers to qualify for the NAIA nationals on the generally slower USAIF certified Road Courses. Collegiate racewalkers may now qualify for the NAIA outdoor championships only via races conducted on the track during track meets. Of course, the loss of this option is not a big deal if we can get more colleges to add the racewalking to their meets. Meet directors can make the walks even more attractive—competitively and financially (and also make it easier to get racewalk judge) if they also invite those high school and adult walkers in the community who can walk faster than the NAIA provisional times to enter and compete right alongside the college athletes." College choices. Vince also reports on scholarship activity. As reported earlier, Vince's daughter Tina (Goshen) and Kentucky's Amanda Johnson (Lindsey Wilson) have been given track and field scholarships to continue their walking at the college level. Now, Lauren Forges of Maine and Kate Cannon of New York have announced their college choices, both at Division I schools. Forges will attend Maine and Cannon the U.S. Naval Academy. Junior World Cup team member Heather Builetti is looking at the U. Of Rochester and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, both NAAC Division III schools. Le'erin Voss, also on the World Cup team will be attending racewalk powerhouse Wissconsin-Parkside, also NAAC Division III. Coach Mike DeWitt reports that she has signed a National Letter of Intent and will major in biology at Parkside. The UW roster will include three other girls with racewalking experience—Lauren Davis, Susie Potthast, and Mandy Murray. With Ben Shorey and Mike Tarantino graduating this spring, there will be no racewalkers on the men's roster, which must be the first time in many years that this has been the case. Christine Taglifienri, a former USP walker, has returned from a school year in Costa Rica and will rejoin the Parksiders AC when she begins, she graduates at UW Milwaukee this fall... Aussie history. Australian racewalker Tim Erickson has finished a book—Once Were Walkers— that traces the sport in that country, particularly in the state of Victoria. "From William Murray in 1912 to Nathan Deakes in 2005, Victoria continues to be the walking powerhouse in Australia. Over 40 Victorian based walkers have represented Australia in the Olympics, the Commonwealth Games, and other major international competitions. This is the story of these elite sportswomen and sportswomen. It is also the story of Australian racewalking which is, at the time of writing, our most successful track and field event. It contains 196 pages, 80 photographs, 43 biographies, enough statistics to dizzy even the most devoted statistician, controversies, and little known facts. Available from Tim Erickson, 1 Avoca Cres., Pascoe Vale, Victoria, 3044, Australia. Phone 03 9379 2065, e-mail terick@melbpc.org.au. . .

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From Chris McCarthy's May 1961 Midwest Walker). John Allen won the National 50 Km on Long Island in 4:38:19, beating Ron Laird (4:40:16) and Ron Zimm (4:43:39). Carl Kurr was fourth in 4:46:33, with Bruce MacDonald, Elliott Danman, and Bob Mimm also under 5 hours. There were 22 finishers... Your editor won a 25 Km in Chicago in 2:05:57, better than 6 minutes ahead of Rimas Vacaitis and 7 ahead of Jack Blackburn. However, the course, which had long been in question because the lap around the park just happened to be exactly 1 mile, was actually measured shortly after and proved to be somewhat less than a mile. Based on a comparison of the winner's splits in this race and in the NAIA on the same course a month later, the performance was worth about 2:11:30. I wasn't fit for 25 K. The first 13 laps averaged 7:52; the last two were 9:30 and 9:40 and the final 954 yards took 5:27.

40 Years Ago (From the April 1966 ORW). The National 35 Km went to Ron Laird in 2:55:20, more than 15 minutes ahead of Goetz Klopfer. Bob Bowman and newcomer Larry Young finished third and fourth... Ron Daniel and Canadian Karl-Merschenz walked a dead heat in a fast 20 Km in Ontario, finishing in 1:32:48... Young was improving fast, finishing just 7 seconds behind Larry Walker's 13:54 in a 2 mile race.

35 Years Ago (From the April 1971 ORW). The National 20 Km went to Tom Dooley, who edged Athens AC teammate Goetz Klopfer in San Francisco. Tom had 1:32:18 with Goetz returning 1:32:38 in second and Larry Young 1:33:54 in third. Aging Ron Laird could manage only fourth ahead of John Knifton, Floyd Godwin, and Bill Ranney. Ranney finished in 1:35:40 and Bob Henderson, way back in 14th, broke 1:40 in the fastest mass finish in U.S. history to that date... Young did better at 35 Km, beating Laird on his home ground in Pomona with a 3:02:22. Ranney, Bob Bowman, John Kelly, and Mike Ryan followed... And Laird did better in the National 10 in Chicago, building an early lead and then hanging on to beat Floyd Godwin 47:10 to 47:18. Greg Diebold, Bob Henderson, some old dude named Morland, and Jerry Brown followed... Host Elliott Danman edged George Braceland in a Monmouth, N.J. 50 miler. Elliott had an 8:55:56 to George's 8:58:05. Some 50 minutes further back, our own Jack Blackburn hung on the beat Larry O'Neil for third... John Kaufin
were second and third in the women’s race, and Carl Schueler and Dave Cummings second and third in the men’s race. In the 15, John Ljuungren Sweden Cup, East Germany’s Hartvig Gauder won the 20 in 1:21:15 ahead of Victor Ivanenko, USSR, 1:22:18. The women’s race went to Vera Ospiova, USSR, in 1:35:52, ahead of Ann Jansson, Sweden 1:36:18, probably one of the first elite international 20 Km races for women.

15 Years Ago (From the April 1991 ORW) — Victoria Herazo retained her National 20 Km title in Albany, N.Y., in 1:40:31.8, but fell well short of the record she set on the same course a year earlier — 1:35:40. She went after it, going through the first 25 in under 23 minutes, but wasn’t helped by weather conditions. Debbie Benton was a distant second in 1:54:32. In the men’s National 25 held concurrently, Gary Morgan was aiming for a sub 1:30 at 20 km and missed it by just 7 seconds and went on to a personal best 1:54:48.5. John Soucheck was second in 2:11:02. In the Mortland 20 Km in Yellow Springs, Ohio, Cedarville College’s Chad Eder blitzed a 1:29:56. An international 20 Km in Eindhovenstaden, Germany saw eight men under 1:20, led by Yevgeniy Misulya, Belarus, in 1:18:18. Mikhail Shemchikov, Russia, Igor Koller, Slovak Rep., and Daniel Barcia, Mexico, followed, all under 1:19. For the U.S. Tim Seaman had a brilliant 1:24:14 in 34th with Allen James two places back in 1:25:05. Andrej Chylinski had 1:26:48, Philip Dunn 1:27:05, and Rob Cole 1:27:50, probably the best ever performance by a U.S. team. Kerry Saxby-Junna, Australia, won the women’s 10 at the same meet in 41:47, with 10 women under 43:00. Victoria Herazo led the U.S. contingent in 24th with 45:02, Sara Standlee had 45:56 and Dana Yorkovna 46:09 in another stellar performance. Russian titles went to Yelena Nikolayeva in 41:04 (world record), Mikhail Shemchikov in 1:18:36, and Andrei Plotnikov in 3:40:58. Italy’s Antonia Sidoti won the European Cup 10 Km in 43:25. The men’s 20 went to Poland’s Robert Korzeniowski in 1:21:46, and the 50 to Spain’s Jesus Garcia in 3:51:00.

10 Years Ago (From the April 1996 ORW) — Curt Clausen walked 41:29.15 to beat Al Heppner by 6 seconds in the Penn Relays 10 Km. In the junior race, Ben Shorey did 44:16.68 to beat Matt Boyles by more than 4½ minutes. Sara Stevenson (22:16.34) beat Jill Zemner by half a second in the women’s 5 Km. Amber Antonia was nearly a minute back in third...

20 Years Ago (From the April 1986 ORW) — Many more national titles were contested. Debbi Lawrence won the women’s 20 Km in Overland Park, Kan., finishing in 1:45:07 and Carl Schueler took the men’s 20 Km at the same site with his 1:53:28. Teresa Vaill was 33 seconds behind Debbi, with Canada’s Micheline Daneau third and Susan Liers fourth. Jim Heiring led Schueler through 15 Km and finished just 3 seconds back in second. Dave McGovern and Gary Morgan were third and fourth...