May the light of love, compassion, and peace from our creator and sustainer fall upon each of you in the new year and in years to come. Let each of us strive to spread the joy and peace that compassionate hearts can bring. Happy New Year.

It's the Annual Rankings!

It was in 1970 that the Ohio Racewalker was spurred to rank the world’s racewalkers based on performances of that year. We have done so ever since, and now it is time for the 37th Annual Rankings. In 1972, we added U.S. rankings and in 1979, as a viable program for women was finally emerging, women’s rankings, both World and U.S. The men’s rankings have always been at 20 and 50 Km. Originally, the women were ranked at 5 and 10 Km. In 1985, we dropped the 5 Km rankings since most international competition was then almost exclusively at the longer distance and there were few races at 5. In 1999, the Women’s Rankings shifted to 20 Km when that became the distance for international competitions. Should there be any significant increase in women’s competition at 50 Km, we will gladly add that event to the rankings.

Our rankings are based strictly on the opinion of your editor; arbitrary, but with close attention to the year’s entire set of performances for each athlete. All comments and disagreements are welcome, but once in type, there is little likelihood of the rankings being altered. So, here we go.

2006 World 20 Km Rankings—Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rytaz Turava, Belarus</td>
<td>1:26:11</td>
<td>Belarus Champ. 4/15</td>
<td>1:26:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oliampida Ivanov, Russia</td>
<td>1:27:16</td>
<td>World Cup 5/13</td>
<td>1:27:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Olga Kaniskina, Russia</td>
<td>1:26:02</td>
<td>Adler 2/19</td>
<td>1:26:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Irina Petrova, Russia</td>
<td>1:26:14</td>
<td>Adler 2/19</td>
<td>1:26:14</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dan He, China</td>
<td>1:32:42</td>
<td>Mexico City 3/25</td>
<td>1:32:42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hong Liu, China</td>
<td>1:36:34</td>
<td>Mexico City 3/25</td>
<td>1:36:34</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1:28:52</td>
<td>Yangzhou 4/22</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1:28:59</td>
<td>World Cup 5/13</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1:28:58</td>
<td>Xian 10/22</td>
<td>1:28:58</td>
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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 Street, Columbus, OH 43202. E-mail address is: jmorton@ columbus.rr.com. Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 24th of each month.

2006 Top 50 Performers

7. Jane Saville, Australia
1:29:19 (1) Aust. Champ. 2/4
1:33:31 (9) Rio Maior 4/1
1:29:25 (10) World Cup 5/13
1:29:05 (7) World Cup 5/13

9. Elisa Rigaudo, Italy
1:32:46 (1) Comon. Games 3/20
1:30:23 (3) Rio Maior 4/1
1:29:11 (1) Leamington 6/17
1:28:37 (3) Euro. Champ. 8/8

Belarus, eighth

1:27:26 Olimpiada Ivanova, Russia
1:26:57 Lyudmila Yefunkina, Russia
1:26:14 Irina Petrova, Russia
1:25:02 Olga Kauiskina, Russia

Turava, second to Ivanova last year, was undefeated in four fast races and had walk-away wins in both the World Cup and European Championships. Ivanova had one race in our knowledge, but that was a second in the World Cup, good enough to rank her ahead of those who raced more. Kaniskina faked a hit in the World Cup, but had a win over Petrova in Adler, a solid second in the European Championships, and the Russian title. The order of finish in the World Cup essentially decided places five through ten. All five have strong supporting races, but nothing that would change the order. Consideration went to Ellen Ginko, Belarus, eighth in the World Cup. But her DQ in the European Championship cost her a ranking. Norway's Kjersti Platzer was fourth in the European race and had a 1:28:23 at the finish in the World Cup essentially decided places five through ten. These five have strong supporting races, but nothing that would change the order. Consideration went to Ellen Ginko, Belarus, eighth in the World Cup. But her DQ in the European Championship cost her a ranking.

2006 World 20 Km Rankings—Men

1. Francisco Fernandez, Spain
1:20:36 (1) Rio Maior 4/1
1:18:33 (3) Yangzhou 4/22
1:18:31 (1) World Cup 5/13
1:19:09 (1) Euro. Champ. 8/9

2. Ilya Markov, Russia
1:20:28 (1) Sesto San. G. 5/2
1:20:41 (1) Rio Maior 4/1

3. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador
1:23:17 (1) Mexico City 3/25
1:26:27 (1) So. Amer. Champ. 4/10
1:19:08 (2) World Cup 5/13

4. Yucheng Han, China
1:16:28 (8) Mexico City 3/25
1:18:35 (4) Yangzhou 4/22
1:19:10 (3) World Cup 5/13
1:19:35 (1) Xian 10/20

5. Hatem Ghoulia, Tunisia
1:21:34 (5) Rio Maior 4/1
1:22:54 (4) Sesto San. G. 5/2
1:19:36 (4) World Cup 5/13
1:25:02 (2) So. Africa Champ.

Fernandez and Perez have dominated the rankings in recent years, and this was the Spaniard's year with his convincing wins in both the World Cup and European Championships. He was also ranked first in 2002, second in 2003 and 2005 (to Perez both times) and third in 2004. Markov also gets the nod over Perez despite not competing in the two major races. But he beat Fernandez, as well as Deakes, in Yangzhou, gave the Spaniard a very close race in Rio Maior, and beat Ghoulia and Vieira convincingly in two races. Ranked number one in 1998 and 1999, his highest ranking so far was third in 2001... Perez was disappointed with his loss
at the World Cup but was still an easy pick for the third spot. Ecuador's hero has been out of the top five only once since 1996, with three number ones (1996, 2003, 2005), four number twos, and a fifth. (He didn't compete in 2001. ...The next three are ranked as they finished in the World Cup, although one could make an argument for moving Deakes ahead of Ghoula, who beat him by just one second. ...Li walked only in China, but beat Fernandez, twos, a third, and a fifth. (He didn't compete in 2001. ...Burayev moves ahead of Borchin, having beaten him in two of three races with decisive margins. ...Vieira earns the final spot with his solid races in both the World Cup and European Championships.

Near misses were Erik Tyse, Norway, with a ninth in the World Cup and sevenths in the European Championships and a sub-1:20 effort and Russia's Valeriy Borchin, second in the European Championships and winner of the Russian Championships (where none of the other top Russians competed.

2006 Top 50 Performers

1. 1:18:57 Guofo Li, China
2. 1:19:12 Andrey Talaschko, Russia
3. 1:19:07 Nathan Deakes, Australia
4. 1:18:45 Ji-min Dong, China
5. 1:18:44 Yafei Chu, China
6. 1:18:35 Yucheng Han, China
7. 1:18:31 Francisco Fernandez, Spain
8. 1:18:17 Gaobo Li, China
9. 1:20:05 Zhiping Wang, China
10. 1:20:59 Zhi.de Cui, China

2006 World 50 Km Rankings—Men

1. Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia
2. Nathan Deakes, Australia
3. 3:38:02 (1) World Cup 5/14
4. 3:42:53 (1) Commonwealth Games 3/24
5. 3:47:32 (1) European Champ. 8/10

2006 Top 50 Performers

1. 3:35:47 Nathan Deakes, Australia
2. 3:35:47 (1) Commonwealth Games 3/24
3. 3:42:53 (1) Commonwealth Games 3/24
4. 3:47:32 (1) European Champ. 8/10
2006 U.S. 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Joanne Dow
1:34:47 (1) Hauppauge 4/9
1:35:41 (2) Hauppauge 4/9
1:35:46 (32) World Cup 5/13
1:39:25 (2) USATF 6/24
1:40:30 (3) USATF 6/24

2. Teresa Vaill
1:35:41 (2) Hauppauge 4/9
1:35:46 (32) World Cup 5/13
1:39:25 (2) USATF 6/24
1:40:30 (3) USATF 6/24

3. Jolene Moore
1:37:23 (1) Chula Vista 1/15
1:37:07 (3) Hauppauge 4/9
1:40:08 (49) World Cup 5/13
1:40:32 (4) USATF 6/24

4. Sam Cohen
1:42:56 (6) Hauppauge 4/9
1:36:59 (1) Kenosha 5/21
1:40:30 (3) USATF 6/24

5. Amber Antonia
1:38:05 (4) Hauppauge 4/9
DNF World Cup 5/13

6. Deborah Huberty
1:41:34 (5) Hauppauge 4/9
1:49:23 (65) World Cup 5/13
1:50:08 (5) USATF 6/24

7. Maria Michta
1:43:42 (8) Hauppauge 4/9
1:47:53 (5) USATF 6/24
1:50:38 (2) Hauppauge 10/22

8. Solomiya Login
1:46:28 (9) Hauppauge 4/9
1:50:05 (6) USATF 6/24

9. Margaret Ditchburn
1:50:00 (10) Hauppauge 4/9
1:50:08 (5) USATF 6/24

10. Margaret Ditchburn
1:50:00 (10) Hauppauge 4/9

The two masters ladies continue to prevail over youth, Dow getting the nod with her National title and 2-1 record versus Vaill...Cohen edged Moore at the National title race, and had the faster time, but Moore beat her decisively in the World Cup qualifier and had the better overall record...Antonia had a short season, but her good performance in the World Cup trial earns her the fifth spot...The remaining placings seem obvious, Ditchburn earning the tenth spot by beating Laura Feller by 8 seconds in her only race.

2006 Top 15 Performers

1:34:47 Joanne Dow
1:35:41 Teresa Vaill
1:36:59 Sam Cohen
1:37:07 Jolene Moore
1:38:05 Amber Antonia
1:41:34 Deborah Huberty
1:43:42 Maria Michta
1:44:34 Loretta Schuellein
From Other Continents

Dublin, Ireland Grand Prix, June 16: Men's 50 Km-1. Mike Trautman, Germany 3:51:38
Coast site to be announced. (D)

Sun. Jan. 20
National USATF Indoor Women's 1 Mile and Men's 3 Km, East Coast site to be announced. (D)

Sun. Jan. 21
Rose Bowl 10 Mile and Richard Oliver Memorial 5 Km, Pasadena, Cal. (Y)

Sun. Jan. 27
Indoor 3 Km, Marshall, Missouri (AA)

Sun. Jan. 28
5 Km, Denver, 10 am (H)

National USATF 50 Km, Chula Vista, Cal., 8 am (D) (also 10 and 20 Km races)

Sun. Feb. 4
5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)

Sun. Feb. 11
5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)

Sun. Feb. 17
Indoor 3 Km, Columbia, Missouri (AA)

Sun. Feb. 18
5 and 10 Km, Los Angeles (R)

5 Km, Los Angeles Marathon (R)

Sun. March 5
Indoor 3 Km, Colorado Springs (H)

Sat. March 3
Henry Laskau 5 Km, Coconut Creek, FL (M)

Sun. March 4
Los Angeles Marathon (R)

Sun. March 11
5 Km, Palo Alto, Cal., 8:30 am (J)

Sun. March 18
5 and 20 Km, Huntington Beach, Cal., 7 am (R)

Indoor 3 Km Mall Walk, Milford, Conn., 9:30 am (B)

Contacts:

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H-Steve DiBernardo, 47 N. Locust, West Long Branch, NJ 07764
I-Bruce Leasure 651-330-9355
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K-L-Dave Gwyn, 6502 Briar Bayou, Houston, TX 77072
L-D-www.usa-tf.org.
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Lace Your Walking Boots; Put On Those Racing Suits

Sun. Jan. 7
50, 20, and 5 Km, Houston (L)

10 Km, Paramount, Cal., 8 am (Y)

Sun. Jan. 14
Marathon, Mobile, Ala., 7:30 am (K)

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O-A.C. Jaime, acjaime@sbcglobal.net
P-Jack Bray, Marin Racewalkers, P.O. Box 21, Kentfield, CA 94914
From Heel To Toe

Awards. Racewalking awards made through the USATF Racewalking Committee for 2006 were: Ron Zinn Awards to the outstanding U.S. racewalkers for the year went to Kevin Eastler and Joanne Dow. The awards are given in honor of Captain Ron Zinn who won 15 U.S. titles in the early ‘60s and finished sixth in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. He was killed in action in Vietnam in the summer of 1965.

Mike Riban Award for the Outstanding U.S. titles in the early ‘60s and finished sixth in the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo. He was killed in action in Vietnam in the summer of 1965.

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25 Years Ago (From the December 1981 ORW)-In the annual ORW World Rankings, Ernesto Canto, Mexico; Roland Weiser, East Germany; and Maurizio Damilano, Italy were ranked 1-2-3 at 20. The 50 saw Raul Gonzales, Mexico, and Hartwig Gauder and Uwe Dunkel, East Germany, in the top three spots. Women's rankings were led by Siv Gustavsson, Sweden at 5 Km and Ann Jansson, Sweden, at 10. Alexandra Deverenskaya, USSR; Sue Cook, Australia, were second at 5 and 10 respectively. Susan Liers-Westerfield led U.S. rankings at both distances and was ranked third in the world at 10. Vicki Jones and Bonnie Dillon were second and third in the U.S. at 5, and Dillon and Jennie Bocci second and third at 10. The U.S. men's rankings saw Todd Scully, Jim Heiring, and Marco Evoniuk leading at 20, and Evoniuk, Vincent O'Sullivan, and Heiring at 50. There were 11 U.S. walkers under 4:40 at 50.

20 Years Ago (From the December 1986 ORW)-The ORW Rankings saw Josef Prbilinec, Czechoslovakia; Damilano, and Gauder on top at 20, and Gauder, Vyatschav Ivanenko and Valeir Suntsov, both USSR, ranked 1-2-3 at 50. The women's 10 was topped by Kerry Saxby, Australia; Ping Guan, China; and Yougjiu Xu, China. Teresa Vaill, Debbi Lawrence, and Lynn Weik topped the U.S. Rankings at 10; Tim Lewis, Carl Schueler, and Ray Shapr at 20; and Evoniuk, Dan O'Connor, and Eugene Kitts at 50. In the 20, 24 U.S. men were under 1:35.

15 Years Ago (From the December 1991 ORW)-Alina Ivanova, USSR; Irina Stankova, USSR; and Graciela Mendoza, Mexico were atop our Women's World Rankings at 10 Km. Lawrence, Weik, and Victoria Herazo led the U.S. women. At 20, the World Rankings saw Mikhail Schennikov, USSR; Damilano, and Yevgeniy Misyula, USSR, and at 50 it was Carlos Mercenario, Mexico, Andrei Perlov, USSR; and Aleksandr Potashhev, USSR. In U.S. Rankings, Tim Lewis, Allen James, and Gary Morgan were 1-2-3 at 20, and Schueler, Evoniuk, and Herm Nelson at 50. Evoniuk topped his season with a 4:04:46 on Dec. 15 in San Francisco, beating both Nelson (4:05:33) and Schueler (4:06:21) ... Canada's Tim Barrett did a 3:21:30 in the New York City Marathon.

10 Years Ago (From the December 1996 ORW)-A late-arriving result had France’s Thierry Toutain breaking the World Record for 50 Km back in September with a 3:40:57.9 on the track in Haricourt. He was 40.5 seconds under Raul Gonzales’ old record. The first three in our World rankings were: Women's 10 Km—Yelena Nikolayeva, Russia; Elisabetta Perrone, Italy; and Yan Wang, China. Men's 20—Jefferson Perez, Ecuador; Ilya Markov, Russia; and Bernardo Segura, Mexico. 50 Km—Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; Mikhail Schennikov, Russia; and Valentin Massana, Spain. U.S. rankings were: 10 Km—Michelle Rohl, Debbi Lawrence, and Gary Morgan were 1-2-3 at 20, and Schueler, Evoniuk, and Herm Nelson at 50. Evoniuk topped his season with a 4:04:46 on Dec. 15 in San Francisco, beating both Nelson (4:05:33) and Schueler (4:06:21) ... Canada’s Tim Barrett did a 3:21:30 in the New York City Marathon.

5 Years Ago (From the December 2001 ORW)—Russia’s Oliampiada Ivanova took the number spot in the ORW's World rankings at 20, followed by Elisabetta Perrone of Italy and Valenitaya Tsymbulskaya of Belarus. The men's World rankings: 20 Km—Roman Raasakazov, Viktor Byravey, and Ilya Markov, all Russia. 50 Km—Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; Jesus Garcia, Spain; and Engrag Hernandez, Mexico. U.S. rankings: Women's 20—Michelle Rohli, Debbi Lawrence, and Erica Hunt, U.S. team 1956; Men's 20—Curt Clausen, Tim Seaman, and Sean Albert. Men's 50—Clausen, Philip, and Seaman.