Belarus Teams Surprise At European Cup

Leamington, England, May 19-20—There were a few surprises in the European Cup racewalks contested here—five races over two days. First, were the team titles by Belarus in both men’s and women’s 20 Km races. And, in the men’s 20, France’s Yohan Diniz, heretofore a 50 Km specialist who surprised at that distance by winning last year’s European Championship, pulled off another with a decisive win over 2004 Olympic gold medalist Ivano Brugnetti in 1:18:58.

In other races, Ryta Turava scored an expected victory in the women’s 20, Russia’s Vladimir Kanyatkin beat Norway’s Trond Nymark at 50, and Russian Juniors won both the men’s and women’s 10 Km races. Russia took team titles in the 50 and both junior races.

The races were conducted on a 1 Km circuit that provided spectators a view of the entire race. In the men’s 20, with Spain’s Francisco Fernandez not present, the race became a dual between Diniz and Brugnetti, who has struggled with consistency since his Olympic win. He was on for this race with a personal best, but so was Diniz, who had never been under 1:21 for 20 before today.

Feeling the benefits of a recent altitude training camp in South Africa, Diniz took the pace right from the start and held a four-second lead over Brugnetti at 5 Km in 19:53. At that point, there was a pack of eight at under 20 minutes, but that soon changed as Diniz stepped up the pace.

At 10 Km, Brugnetti had caught up to the Frenchman as they went through together in 39:35, three seconds ahead of Russia’s Valeriy Borchin. Ireland’s Robert Heffernan was third in 39:49 and Russia’s Igor Yerokhin fourth in 40:00. The rest of the field was stringing out.

As the pace accelerated further, Diniz tested out the Italian with feints at an attack, but any lead was short lived and at 14 Km, the two were still together. Then, Diniz made another move and opened a 3 second gap as he passed 15 Km in 59:11. For the first time, Brugnetti’s expression showed stress at the quickened pace (19:36 for third 5 Km for Diniz) and the gap started to widen. Borchin was a lonely third in 59:45, and Heffernan was fourth in 90:00, just ahead of Belarusian Ivan Trotski (60:03) and Yerokhin (60:04).

From there, Diniz pulled steadily away from Brugnetti, who struggled home in 1:19:36 and lost ground to the others, but was never in danger of losing the silver. Yerokhin, Trotski, and Heffernan staged a tight race the rest of the way, finally finishing in that order. Borchin needed nearly 21 ½ minutes for this final 5 Km and faded all the way to ninth.

After the race, Diniz stated, “I knew I could beat 1:20 today—but had no idea I could beat 1:19. I’m a little bit surprised. I kept seeing if Brugnetti would react to little sprints—and I felt great throughout.” Brugnetti was pleased with a personal best after dropping out of his the Sesto san Giovanni Challenge race three weeks earlier. (See below.)
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: jmortlan@columbus.rr.com. Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 24th of each month.

In the team race, the third finishers for each team were decisive. Off the first two finishers, Belarus, Italy, and Russia were even at 12 apiece. But Andri Talashka finished 17th for Belarus, three spots ahead of Italy’s Fortunato D’Onofrio to seal the title. With Viktor Burayev dropping out early, Russia’s third man was way back in 34th and Spain packed their team together in 12th, 13th, and 14th to take third place from Russia.

Turava was willing to play a waiting game in the women’s 20, eschewing her usual go for broke tactics. A dawdling first 5 km in 23:21 saw a pack of 28 women within 5 seconds of one another. Turava turned the screws considerably on the next 5, stepping up to 22:15 for a 45:26 clocking. This narrowed the pack of immediate pursuers to 13.

At that point, Turava decided the race was on and when she took nearly another minute off over the third 5, 21:28 for a 66:54 at 15 Km, only Russia’s 22-year-old Olga Kaniskina was able to stay with her, one second back. Turava’s teammate, Elena Ginko was third at 67.04, 10 seconds ahead of Spain’s Maria Vasco. When Turava accelerated even more on the final 5 (20:58), Kaniskina also had to let go, although she too, continued to increase her pace, and Turava had a 21 second margin as she finished in 1:27:52. Ginko came third, 16 seconds behind Kaniskina. Turava had walked her second 10 in 42:26, exactly 3 minutes faster than her first 10. Italy’s Elisa Rijaudo edged Vasco for fourth, nearly a minute ahead of Russia’s Tatyana Sibileva. Belarus took the team title by two points over Russia.

Kanaykin, just 22 and a World Junior Championship winner, has an enviable international record beyond the first 50, edged Voyevodin by one second for the bronze medal. Voyevodin, the 2002 and 2004 World Cup and 2005 Euro Cup winner, has an enviable international record beyond those golds—second in the 2002 European Championships, second in the 2003 European Cup, fourth in the 2003 World Championships, third in the 2004 Olympics, and second in the 2005 World Championships.

“For me, the race started at 40 Km and I felt good,” said Kanaykin. “I feel I can definitely improve.” A rueful Nymark said, “I should have been able to go below 3:40, but not off such a slow initial pace.

In fifteenth place, Irishman Jamie Costin set a new personal best of 3:53:30 to complete his recovery from a serious car injury sustained in Athens, one week prior to the 2004 Olympic Games. In the team race, the Spanish, led by great veteran Jesus Garcia, took sixth, seventh, and tenth to nail down the silver medals ahead of France.

In Junior 10 Km races, Russia’s Sergey Morozov was never in doubt for the men’s title leading by 22 seconds at the half-way point and going on to a 24 second win over Spain’s Miguel Lopez in 40:25. With Dmitry Shorin in third the Russians beat Spain, who had Manel Torta in fourth, for the team title. Morozov had won the World Cup Junior title last year. Aniya Kornikova was an even easier winner in the women’s race, her 43:17 leaving teammate Yelena Shumkina 72 seconds back. Irina Yusanova was third, completing a Russian sweep.

The results:

**Women’s 20 KM**


**Men’s 20 KM**


MAY 2003

Tuysse-Turava Score In Sesto San Giovanni Challenge

Sesto San Giovanni, Italy, May 1–Three weeks earlier, Tuysse, who is proving indomitable, made it two for two in IAAF Challenge races. For the second time this year, she bested Norway’s Kjersti Platzer in a 20 Km IAAF Challenge race. In April she beat Platzer by 53 seconds in Portugal. Today, Platzer cut the margin to 31 seconds and set a new Norwegian record, but was still no match for the Belarussian ace. Platzer’s younger brother, Erik Tuysse, fared better as he won easily won the Men’s 20 over Australian Luke Adams.

In the women’s race, five Chinese women set the early pace along with Tuysse as they covered the first 5 in 21:59. Platzer was in a chase group with Germans Melanie Seeger and Sabine Zimmer, Australia’s Jane Saville, and Tuysse’s teammate, Elena Ginko. At 10 Km, four Chinese women were still with Tuysse at 43:59 and Platzer was closing the gap on the leaders.

Stepping up the pace, Tuysse took a solid lead by 15 Km, which she passed in 1:05:43. Platzer moved up to third, with only Hongjoung Song between her and Tuysse. Tuysse sealed the win with a solid 2:12:27 for the final 5 and Platzer doing 13:14 herself, easily outdistanced the Chinese. Tuysse commented: “In the first 5 Km I did not feel well, I had some breathing problems. Only after 5 Km did I begin feeling better. I am very pleased with the strong support from the Italian crowd who supported me along the course. I want to continue competing on the IAAF circuit in La Coruna and Krakow.”

Tuysse was pleased with her National record of 1:27:41 as she returns to form after maternity leave. She now has a first and two seconds in this year’s Challenge races. “I was focused on walking my own race and being patient,” she said. “It was a fight against the time to recover from injury (a minor back problem following the Portugal race) and I decided not to follow the strong pace of the Chinese who pushed hard from the beginning. The tactic paid off and it was rewarded with a national record. It’s like competing at home here with the crowd shouting my name along the course. I am planning to compete in the Norwegian Championships before the World Championships.”

In the men’s race local favorite Ivano Brugnetti, the 2004 Olympic champion, went to the front, followed by Adams, China’s Roughtha Lu, Tsye, two other Chinese, and Spain’s Mikel Orriesola. Brugnetti led at 5 Km in 20:27 over Adams and Lu and raised the tempo over the next 2 Km to increase his lead over Adams to 15 seconds by 10 Km, which he passed in 40:44.

But, then the Italian began to struggle and Adams passed him at 12 Km as did Tuysse soon after. He dropped out shortly after 15 Km. Adams led at that point in 1:01:30, five
Boyles Escorts Stroupe To Trials Qualifier

Dayton, Ohio, May 6—Patrick Stroupe came to Dayton for the annual Jack Mortland races with a 20 Km best of 1:38:44 in his only race at the distance a year ago. He left with a best of 1:33:26, qualifying him for the 2008 Olympic Trials. He was aided immensely by the Miami Valley Track Club’s Matt Boyles, a veteran of two World Cups, and several Jack Mortland races. Matt agreed to pace him through and afterward to have him for perhaps making the pace a bit too quick early on and making it tougher for Patrick in the closing stages. But, Matt stayed with him to the finish, when he could easily have moved to a quicker time himself. The two hit 5 Km in 22:49, and went slightly faster the second five to pass 10 in 45:35. Patrick started to struggle a bit, but Matt continued to encourage him and at 15 they were at 1:08:52, still on 1:32 pace. They slowed further on the final 5, with Matt looking quite fresh and easy, and Patrick struggling, as he might have gone more than 5 minutes under his previous best. Laura Feller looked solid in third and 60-something Leon Jasionowski walked a strong, steady pace for fourth in 1:54:32, which, as noted later in this issue, is just a bit more than 4 minutes slower than he did 35 years ago. Results of the 20 and other races on the day’s program:

**Men’s 20 Km—**

**Women’s 20 Km—**

Other Results

**NAIA Championships, Fresno, Calif., May 25: Women’s 3 Km—**

**Other Results**

**Penn Relays, April 25: Women’s 4 by 400—**

**New York City, May 20: Women’s 5 Km—**

**Women’s 5 Km—**

**Max Walker (60+), Indiana RW 2:01:05 7. Andrew Smithly (55+) 8. Jerry Muskal (45+) 9. Miami Valley 2:22:10**
Events For Your Racewalking Pleasure

Sun. June 3  Pacific Assn 1 Mile, Stockton, Cal. (J)
Sat. June 9  West Regional 3 and 5 Km, Sante Fe, N.M. (T)
           2.8 Miles, Seattle (C)
          1 Mile, Holmdel, N.J. (A)
          Florida 10 Km, Clermont (N)
          20 Km, Kenosha, Wis. (I)
          Indiana 3 Km, Indianapolis (CC)
Sun. June 10 10 Km Kentfield, Cal. (P)
           Ohio 10 Km Yellow Springs (M)
           10 and 20 Km, Kenosha, Wis. (F)
           10 and 20 Km, Eugene, Ore (E)
           5 Km, Greeley, Col. (H)
Sat. June 16 5 Km, New York City, 8 am (G)
Sun. June 17  Met. 20 Km and 10 Km, New York City, 9 am (G)
           5 Km, Denver (H)
Mon. June 18  New England 3 Km, Cambridge, Mass. (X)
Wed. June 20 5 Km, Denver, 6 pm (H)
Sat. June 23 National USATF Men's 20 Km, Indianapolis, 6:30 am (D)
           National USATF Jr. Men's 10 Km, Indianapolis, 8:30 am (D)
Sun. June 24 5 and 10 Km, Pasadena (R)
           National USATF Women's 20 Km, Indianapolis, 6:30 am (D)
           National USATF Jr. Women's 10 Km, Indianapolis, 8:45 am (D)
           National USATF Women's 10 Km—Marina Czakova, Slovakia 50:22.2
           5 Km, Denver, 8 am (H)
Mon. June 25 5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)

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Dorit takes the long road. Dorit Attias has been competing in ultr-distance races in France to qualify for the annual Paris-Colmar race June 6 to 9. She will be the first American woman to compete in the race of over 300 miles. (Paul Hendricks and Eugene Kitts are the only American men to compete.) On March 3-4, Dorit competed in the French 24 Hour Championship finishing eighth by covering 168 Km (nearly 105 miles). April 7-8 she did the Rouen 24 Hour finishing first with 172.5 Km (over 107 miles).

Some further thoughts on the Bob Bowman-Larry dialogue in the last two issues:

From Sal Corrallo (Competitor, judge, race promoter, and National RW Chair 1984-88):

I have read with great interest the very well developed Young/Bowman exchange on judging. Each appears to have convincing arguments for their side of the issue. However, it seems to me that increasing the international race distances over the years, is an admission of the difficult job judging international level athletes has become, no matter how experienced and qualified the judge. No longer are races conducted on an indoor or outdoor track, where some really thrilling events have taken place. The reason is the apparent difficulty in judging lifting at faster speeds. As a result, racewalking has dropped out of the eyes of most track fans, athletes, and coaches. Given the long distances of the international events, the commitment and training time needed is a real barrier to recruiting athletes. Overall the number of walkers has dropped over the past 20 years, at least in this country, especially those able to spend the time and money to train for a 20 or 50 Km. The real question is what can be done to bring the sport back onto the track and into the eyes of the track and field community. I am sure Bob Bowman has many other reasons for the increased distances and the dropping of the shorter track races, but the numbers of competitive walkers doesn’t lie. Racewalking can be a popular event, as suggested by the number of youth and masters racewalkers. The short distances in these events contribute to this popularity. The difficulty in judging the international racewalker should not be the reason for setting distance or the selecting of venues, as is the case now. Rather the role of the judge is to find the best way to assure the integrity of the sport.

Larry is right when he states “The time is now to insure fairness through diplomacy, to bring technology into the judging of the sport.” Clearly, a form of electronics is the answer. I am not sure what form it might eventually take, but I suggest the answer is out there. It should be kept in mind that the technology should be developed so that the international distances can again include track events, with assurances they will be judged fairly. Only then will we have the opportunity to build a fan base and recruit and keep quality athletes. Perhaps I am a bit too optimistic, but it sure beats the current situation.

(Ed. A lot of research suggests that the technology may not be out there—Bob Bowman can comment more astutely on this than I—or if it is, the costs would be prohibitive. As to judging issues bringing a change to greater distances, the international distances for men’s racewalking have been 20 and 50 Km since 1956. True, an indoor 5 Km World Championship was in vogue for a few years, but was dropped and that quite probably was because of judging controversy. In the same time, the women have gone from no races to 5, then 10, then 20 Km, but more because racewalking should be an endurance event than because of judging issues. In this country, 20 years ago we had 40 or 50 male athletes willing to train long and hard enough to betters 1:40 and 5 hours, now we have a dozen or fewer. The reasons are mysterious, but probably not connected to judging.)

From Roger Burrows, Canada’s Racewalking Chair:

Larry Young was a wonderful athlete, and must be eternally celebrated for his achievements. But his technical analysis of modern racewalking is wrong. Sincerely argued, but wrong. Wrong premise, wrong decade.

If we were high jumpers, Mr. Young’s position would be like providing detailed analysis of the straddle take-off. If we were road race organizers, he would be describing, oh so accurately, the logistics of the “popsicle” stick finish line system. Both worked well in their time, but their time is past.

Those interested in the sport’s technical and evolutionary history should read Mr. Young’s views—I for one am fascinated. But for those interested in the level to which the sport has now moved, we all know that we have to go with Bob Bowman’s views. Right?

And, from Mr. Bob Bowman himself:

Larry was certainly an exception when he was at his best (i.e., 1972). One of the reasons he walked good times was his minimizing or eliminating a great percentage of the time, the flight phase. However, he would not be competitive today because his stride was longer with a slower turnover. (Ed. Larry, of course, would reply that he would not be competitive because competitors are no longer racewalking.) The reason I stated that the walkers then generally had a greater flight phase is because of this fact. Longer strides with slower turnover. The smallest flight phases measured in various studies of old and recent videos are of top walkers in recent years such as Jefferson Perez. He hugs the ground so well with perfectly smooth and balanced technique. If you have two walkers with the same basic body and strength and the same stride length, but one has a greater flight phase, the one with the better contact will finish ahead of the other walker because of the faster turnover associated with the better contact. I know this is just the opposite of what many people, including Larry, feel is the case. They are wrong. There is no doubt in my mind after reviewing all the studies, that walkers 30 or 40 years ago in general had greater flight phases,
and fifth in an international 20 Km in Bergen, Norway, just inches apart, and were given the same time, an American record 1:25:59. Soviet Yevgeniy Yevsyuk won the track race in 1:22:30. Dan O'Connor won the National 50 Km in 4:22:22 with Vincent O'Sullivan second and the Ohio Track Club's Chris Knott third in 4:35. Sue Cook walked a World record 5 Km of 22:45.6 in Australia and also had a world best for 10 Km—47:13, but that was not acceptable as a world record, since it was done in a men's race.

20 Years Ago (From the May 1987 ORW)—The World Cup of Racewalking came to the U.S. for the first time and the Soviets dominated the races in New York's Central Park, taking both men's and women's titles. At 50 Km, East Germany's Ronald Weigel blitzed the final 5 Km in 20:56 to drop teammate Hartwig Gauder and win in 3:42:26. Gauder was 26 seconds back, and the third German, Dietmar Meisch, was 22 seconds behind him. The Soviets took the next four spots, not far behind, to stay in contention for the team title. Mexico's Carlos Mercenario, just 20 years old, was a surprise at 20 Km in 1:19:24, coming from 17 seconds back of teammate Ernesto Canto on the final 4. Canto faded to fifth, and a 2-3-9 finish by the Soviets, with no Germans in sight, sewed up the team title. Italy took second. The U.S. was ninth among 35 teams, led by Tim Lewis' 13th place in the 20 with a 1:22:27. The Soviet women took 1-2-5 for an easy team title at 10 Km, but only with the help of three Dqs on the Chinese team. Olga Kristop is the winner in 1:43:22, 13 seconds ahead of Irina Strakhova. Maryane Torrellas finished 16th in 1:46:28 and Teresa Vaill 20th in 1:46:50 as the U.S. women came in 6th of 23 teams.

15 Years Ago (From the May 1992 ORW)—Penn Relay titles went to Allen James with a 41:21.5 for 10 Km and Debbi Lawrence with 21:32.9 for 5. Dave McGovern was second in the 10 with 42:07. Michelle Rohl (22:08.5) and Teresa Vaill (22.26) followed Lawrence. In Mexico, Carlos Mercenario did 50 Km in 3:50:09, followed by Miguel Rodriguez (3:50:50) and German Sanchez (3:51.02). The Italian 50 went to Giovanni Perricelli in 3:55:01, 42 seconds ahead of Massimo Quirivoni.

10 Years Ago (From the May 1997 ORW)—U.S. walkers stayed in Europe following April's World Cup races with some success. In Poland, Curt Clausen and Tim Seaman took 1-2 in a 10 Km race in 40:47 and 41:14. Dana Yarbrough won a women's race in 46:24. A week later in Germany, Clausen did 1:25:32 for 15th in a 20 Km race, with Philip Dunn 24th in 1:28:22. Tim Seaman suffered a DQ. Victoria Herazo and Yarbrough finished 19th and 20th in a women's 10 Km at the same site with 45:45 and 45:52. Later in the month, Herazo was 27th in a 10 Km at Naumburg, Germany in 46:37. Herazo and AL Heppner won National 15 Km titles in Elk Grove, Ill. With times of 1:08:07 and 1:15:51. Mike Rohl was second to Heppner in 1:09:58. Heppner also won the Penn Relays 10 Km in 42:10.05, edging Will Van Axen (42:14.32).

5 Years Ago (From the May 2002 ORW)—National 30 Km titles went to Susan Armenta in 2:38:45 and Tim Seaman in 2:37.05. At the Penn Relays, UW-Parkside walkers shone with Jim Heys (40:31.03) and Matt Devitt (44:41.16) one-two in the men's 10 Km race and Amber Antonia (22:38.61) winning the women's 5 Km. Fastest of all, however, was UW-P's Ben Heys who won the Junior 10 Km in 43:20.60. Heys beat Shorey in a 20 Km in Kenosha, Wis., 1:20:46.5 to 1:21.35. In the NAAIA meet, Antonia won the women's 3 Km in 13:27.46 and Shorey beat Heys at 5 Km with a 20:57.16. Heys did 21:09.97. On the world scene, Spain's Francisco Fernandez had a 1:17:22 for 20 Km in Turku, Fin., a world best on the road, leaving Poland's Robert Korzeniowski more than 2 minutes behind. In Naumburg, Germany, Spain's Juan Molina did 1:20:18, just 7 seconds ahead of Ireland's Robert Heffernan. John Nunn was eighth in 1:24:49. Latvia's Aigars Fedevics did a 30 Km in 2:06:13 in Italy.

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the May 1962 American Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)—Your editor, a spry 27-year old at that time, journeyed west to capture the National 30 Km in Los Angeles in 2:36:02 with John Allen 3 minutes back and Ronald Laird 3 minutes behind him. Bob Bowman was fourth. Bowman won the Mt. SAC Relays 2 Mile in 16:27. Pedestrian of the Month was Corinne Blackburn, mommey of Publisher Emeritus, Jack Blackburn. Corinne, as one of the pioneers in women's racewalking, had best time of 56:45 for 5 miles and 68:10 for 6.

40 Years Ago (From the May 1967 ORW)—Ignoring the relentless sun and boiling blacktop of the McKeesport, Pa., Eastland Shopping Plaza, Ron Laird scored an easy National 20 Km win in 1:38:42. Fast-improving Larry Young was a distant second in 1:42:10, but still 3 minutes ahead of Tom Dooley and Larry Walker, and 6 ahead of one Jack Mortland, who edged Steve Hayden for fifth. Three days later, Laird found cooler weather in Chicago and captured the Zinn Memorial 10 Km, a track race, in 44:44. Dooley (47:32) and Mortland (47:30) followed. Laird also picked up the National 35 Km title, making for a very productive month. Shaul Ladany set his annual American record at 50 miles with an 8:11:41 in New Jersey. Race Director Elliott Deman was second in 9:11:05. Jack Blackburn toyed with Jack Mortland for 3 laps of the Ohio AAU 2 Mile, and then scored an easy win 14:26 to 14:47.

35 Years Ago (From the May 1972 ORW)—Larry Young topped the news with an American record 20 Km on the track in Columbia, Mo., and a win in the Western Hemisphere 20 Km in Sharon, Pa. Larry had 1:30:10 in the Columbia race. At Sharon six days later, he had no trouble winning in 1:31:59 on a tough, and maybe slightly long, road course. Ron Daniel was second in 1:37:18, followed by Floyd Godwin (1:37:28), John Knifton, Jose Oliveros, Mexico and Canadians Neville Conway, Marcel Jobin, and Pat Farrelly. Preceding that race was the World Cup races with some success. In Poland, Curt Clausen and Tim Seaman took 1-2 in a 10 Km race in 40:47 and 41:14. Dana Yarbrough won a women's race in 46:24. A week later in Germany, Clausen did 1:25:32 for 15th in a 20 Km race, with Philip Dunn 24th in 1:28:22. Tim Seaman suffered a DQ. Victoria Herazo and Yarbrough finished 19th and 20th in a women's 10 Km at the same site with 45:47 and 45:52. Later in the month, Herazo was 27th in a 10 Km at Naumburg, Germany in 46:37. Herazo and AL Heppner won National 15 Km titles in Elk Grove, Ill. With times of 1:08:07 and 1:15:51. Mike Rohl was second to Heppner in 1:09:58. Heppner also won the Penn Relays 10 Km in 42:10.05, edging Will Van Axen (42:14.32).

30 Years Ago (From the May 1977 ORW)—Augie Hirt won the National 100 Km title in a record 10:23:34, with Paul Lightsey second more than 50 minutes behind. Jim Heiring won the USTFF 10 Km over U.W.-Parkside teammate Chris Hansen, 45:36 to 45:48. The National 10 Km went to Steve Pecinovsky in 49:46, just 6 seconds ahead of Martin Kraft, as few people showed up. Bill Walker moved away from Jack Mortland over the last mile to take the master's title in 51:53, as they finished fifth and sixth overall.

25 Years Ago (From the May 1992 ORW)—Jim Heiring and Marco Evonik finished fourth...