With the passing of Corinn Blackburn in July, the wonderful couple that really gave birth to the Ohio Racewalker is gone from this worldly scene, but their inspiration certainly lives on. Without John and Corrin Blackburn there would be no Ohio Racewalker and likely your editor would never have become involved in racewalking. John led his son Jack into the sport, together they led me into the sport, and it was Jack who actually conceived the idea of this publication in 1965. It is fitting that we pay tribute in these pages and better acquaint all of you with Ohio's first family of racewalking. So excuse me as we depart from the news of the day and reflect on these two remarkable people.

First, Corinn's obituary:
Corinn King Blackburn, age 94, of Salida, Colorado, died July 21, 2007 at Columbine Manor Care Center. She was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio on November 14, 1921 to Rev. James N. And Kathleen King, the eldest of six children.

Corinn attended Bluffton College in Bluffton, Ohio where she was an outstanding art and drama student. She painted her entire life and has had many landscape scenes on display over the years throughout the state of Ohio. While at Columbine, she received two consecutive national art awards for her watercolor Christmas cards.

(Continued on page 3)
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**Perez Makes It Three In A Row**

Osaka, Japan, Aug. 25—Overcoming stifling conditions and strong efforts of a deep field of outstanding athletes, Ecuador's Jefferson Perez strode to his record third straight 20 km Racewalk title in the World Championships today. It was also a record fourth WC medal. Although he was the two-time defender, Perez went into the race as an underdog to Spain's Francisco Fernandez, who had beaten him handily in last year's World Cup race.

While the winning time of 1:22:20 doesn't seem impressive, with the starting temperature at about 90 F and the humidity at 50 percent, it was remarkable, with Perez covering the second 10 km in under 40 minutes. The favored Fernandez just edged Tunisia's ever-improving Hatem Ghoula for the silver, 20 seconds after Perez had finished. (More on that later.)

The win was the seventh for the 33-year-old Perez in major international races. He won Olympic gold in 1996 and added World Cup titles in 1997, 2002, and 2004. He also has World Championship and World Cup silvers (2006 and 1999 respectively). The only real blemish on his record is his fourth place finishes in the 2000 and 2004 Olympics. Over the 11 years from 1996 to 2006, he was ranked number one in the world three times and number two four times, plus rankings at three, four, and five. He did not compete in 2001.

In the extreme heat, the race went off cautiously with the first 5 km taking 21:39. Italy's 2004 Olympic Champion Ivan Brugnetti was leading by two seconds with Perez, Ghoula, and Fernandez together behind him. Brugnetti tried to steal the race and opened a 17-second lead at 10 km, which he passed in 42:14 (20:35 for the second 5). Walking well within himself, Perez did not panic and bided his time waiting for the opportune time to make his move.

With two warnings, Brugnetti was starting to show signs of distress. Sensing the time was right, Perez broke free from the main pack at 12 km, followed closely by Russia's Valery Borchin. Perez caught Brugnetti at 13 km and the Italian's race was over a little further down the road when he was shown a third red card. With the heat starting to take its toll, Borchin's medal bid also ended when he collapsed at the side of the road not long after.

By 15 km, Ghoula had joined Perez, and Fernandez was just 2 seconds back with the clock on the leaders reading 1:02:31—40 minutes flat for the third 5. Fernandez was working hard to stay up, but had to yield to the other two. On the final 2 km lap, Perez applied more pressure and opened up a decisive lead on Ghoula which he held to the finish with a 19:49 for the final 5. In the final stretch, Ghoula slowed and Fernandez stormed from 15 or 20 minutes back in the final 100 meters, passing the Tunisian just before the finish line. However, Chief Judge Ron Daniel disqualified him for his final sprint, which is the prerogative of the Chief Judge. On an appeal from the Spanish, the Jury of Appeal overruled that DQ and the silver medal was restored to Fernandez. Mexico's Eder Sanchez, who crossed the line fourth, had celebrated his medal upon learning of the DQ, and even completed an interview with the medalists, and then finally had to accept fourth place, nearly a minute behind Fernandez and Ghoula, and just 3 seconds ahead of Italy's Giorgio Rubino.

There was no domination in the final standings, which speaks well for the spread of our sport. Following Rubino were Robert Heffernan of Ireland, Luke Adams of Australia, and Erik Tysse of Norway. Russia, usually good for two or three in the top ten, had to settle for ninth in the person of Ilya Markov. Italy was the first country to finish two athletes, with Alex Schwarzer in tenth and then Ecuador with Rolando Saquiquy in twelfth.

Post-race quotes: Jefferson Perez (Who collapsed a few moments after finishing, apparently with severe stomach cramps and was carted off on a stretcher. Apparently he recovered quickly for the interview): I had much respect for all the walkers. I also knew I could be the first with three consecutive golds, but shortly after the start, I forgot about this. I needed to concentrate on today's particular race. The weather was my biggest worry. The last three laps I was thinking just catch the others and do what you can. I was not thinking about the position. Just to give the best fight. I am not sure, but this could be the toughest of my victories. After the finish line I said, "My goodness, maybe this is a dream, but my dream." Hatem Ghoula: I've been quite consistent in the last few years, fifth in Helsinki, fourth in last year's World Cup. I'm so happy to get a medal for my eighth participation at the World Championships. Besides, it is the first Tunisian medal in the history of the competition. In the homestretch, I drastically reduced my pace. I saw the judges close to me and got scared I could get disqualified. (Which explains how Fernandez made up so much ground at the finish.)

(Note: The women's 20 km and the men's 50 were on August 31 and Sept. 1. That was too late for inclusion of the results in this issue. So you can await our report on those two races next month's issue.)

The results:


**Blackburn (continued from page 1)**

She was married to Dr. John H. Blackburn in 1934. They were together for 67 years before his death in July 2000. Dr. Blackburn served with honors in World War II as a physician and surgeon. His battle was among the first wave to land at Omaha Beach to begin the invasion of Europe.

After John returned home from the war, the couple made their home in Worthington, Ohio where they worked together in his office as a general practitioner for many years. Corrin and her husband were the pioneers of racewalking in Ohio and she was the first woman to participate in the sport, beginning in her early forties. (Ed. Actually, there were
racewalkers in Ohio prior to their participation and several national 40 and 50 km races were held in Cincinnati and Dayton in the 30s, 40s, and 50s before John discovered the event when Jack was running at an Ohio AAU meet. But, they were pioneers in the Columbus area and quickly became strong advocates.)

Survivors are daughter Sara and Tony Fernandez of Villa Grove, Colorado; son, Jack of Alcony, Ohio; sister Mary of Bluffton, Ohio; 11 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Here is how Jack remembers his mother:

Corinn was a multi-talented lady who never realized how special she was. As an artist, she turned out countless numbers of paintings and card illustrations, as well as very special sculptured pieces. She was a talented musician, playing the cello, piano, and organ quite well. Before she had her thyroid gland removed, she sang in choirs and had a yodel that pierced the neighborhood. When I was little, this was her call to me to get home, NOW! Corinn was also blessed with intestinal fortitude (guts) that enabled her to be a great single mom through World War II, especially during the times when we didn’t know where John was overseas.

She was, as far as I know, the first competitive lady racewalker in the U.S. For a long time she was only able to compete with men, to their chagrin, beating many of them to the finish line. Now, the U.S. sends world class lady racewalkers to the Olympic Games. Corinn also ran with and helped coach the girl’s team of the Ohio Track Club. This team had nationally ranked athletes and they traveled to Texas for the Women’s Track and Field Championship in the early ‘60s. (Ed. Among them, Estelle Baskerville, a high jumper on two Olympic teams and Susan Knott, a 400 meter runner in the Pan Am Games.)

Corinn and John were great role models as a married couple. They had two entirely different personalities with the same values and were able and willing to learn from each other, therefore, balanced each other out. They were totally loyal and accepting of each other, imperfections and all. No man that I have ever known was so totally in love with his lady, woman, and wife. She was also very much in love with him and expressed it in many ways, including comforting him and protecting him from the harshness of the outside world. (That’s another story.) They had a very deep and accepting understanding of each other.

John used to say that she has no recognition of how beautiful and amazing she is. Corinn frequently criticized herself for possibly (sometimes actually) offending others with her straight from the shoulder comments regarding how she felt about them and what she thought they should do about their selves. No fluff at all. She never had the intentions of hurting anyone and felt badly if she did. She would say of herself on occasion, “Why can’t I just keep my mouth shut sometimes?” She just spoke the truth as she saw it at the time. She didn’t have a fake bone in her body. She wouldn’t have made a successful politician.

Her last home on earth was the Columbine Nursing and Convalescent home in Salida, Colorado. She continued to be creative with Christmas card designs and much...
medical examiner, and then, with Corrin, retired to Arizona. He continued to walk, though no competitively. A couple of years ago, he published a Civil War novel, which was a very good read, and had since done a sequel to that book. But, as health problems caught up with him, he was unable to go for his walks or to play his violin, or to devote the effort he wanted to toward doing a third book. So from his perspective, I am sure the end was welcome. Al those who encountered Doc are the better for it and will miss his presence in this world.

Race Results


Race Results


Race Results

Opportunities To Satisfy That Competitive Drive (Or Just Enjoy Racewalking Companionship)

Sun. Sept. 2  West Regional 1 Hour, Banks, Oregon (E)
Sat. Sept. 8  New Mexico 5 and 10 Km, Albuquerque (T)

2.8 Miles, Seattle (C)
From Heel To Toe

Easter, Seaman comments: Commenting on the World Championship race, Kevin Easter noted: “It was fair for the conditions, considering that I am supposed to do the 50 in six days, I'm happy with my race. That 50 is going to be brutal. I'm going to rest and see how I recover. I didn't hold too much back in this race. I was a little conservative at the start which was my plan. I knew the conditions would be brutal.” Regarding Jefferson Perez, Kevin said: “Jefferson is my hero. He’s everything a champion athlete should be, a real modest guy who’s done so many good things for his country” On that account, Tim Seaman added: “I'm happy for Jefferson. When he passed me I told him 'win this one for the Americas' Well he smiled and did just that. Now he goes after another Olympic gold. And he's going to get it. He wants it for sure” On his own race, Tim said: “For me, it was pretty hard. I've been struggling ever since Athens. Maybe something happened over there. I've been struggling in the heat every single race. I need to get more focused. I'm doing too many things besides training. I have my own business”. IAAF RW Committee: In a meeting of the IAAF (the International T&F organization), Italy’s Maurizio Damilano was re-elected to the chairperson seat, defeating Gabriel Rodan of Mexico and former chairperson Bob Bowman. Elected to seats on the committee were Jane Saville of Australia, Sari Essayah of Finland, Vyacheslav of Russia, Rodan, Shande Yang of China, Fumio Imamura of Japan, Bowman, Luis Saladie of Spain, Petger Marlow of Great Britain, and Khaled Amara of Tunisia. 50 Km Olympic Trials: USA T&F has announced that the 2008 Olympic Trials in the men's 50 Km walk will be held in Palmetto Bay, Florida on February 10. “We are pleased to be returning to Palmetto Bay”, USA Track & Field. Venice Peters said. “The village, in conjunction with the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department, did a superb job of hosting the Pan American Walkers Cup Trials this past March. Together, they put together an extremely attractive Olympic Trials bid package that will result in an outstanding environment for the selection of our Olympic Team in 2008.” A purse of $50,000 will be awaiting the top finishers of the race. First place will be worth more than $15,000, with the top eight finishers guaranteed prize money. (Ed. Not to be cynical, but recent history suggests that the money might be guaranteed, but that eighth finisher is not guaranteed. Let us hope that will not be the case this time.) To be eligible for the race, athletes must have walked faster than 4:45 on a USA Track & Field certified track or road in a judged race during the period of January 1, 2006 through February 1, 2008. (Ed. I can count only nine qualifiers at this time—Philip Dunn, Ray Sharp, Theron Kissinger, Mark Green, Dave McGovern, John Num, Curt Clausen, and Marco Evoniuk, and Kevin Easter—and there won't be many more opportunities for further

Qualifiers. We are aware of 50s at Minneapolis, Oct. 6, Hauppauge, N.Y. on Oct 28 and Houston, Texas, Jan. 6, 2008. And whether all of those that are qualified will choose to be on the line in February is another question. So the question might be will there be eight starters. We need to encourage greater participation in the 50. Is there a chance of making this the Olympic Trials 50 Km and Open 50 Km?...
unnatured eyes likely would not. Of course, I could not see on the video anything like what Ron saw from a few meters away or others saw from a few tens of meters away. However, if this video was all the jury had to go on, I can see why they didn’t find that there was “obvious” failure to comply. The view of these juries is that the violation has been more egregious than that which would warrant a red card from the scoring judges to disqualify under 230.3 (a) and I guess I would agree that it should, to prevent abuse of the rule. Again, it comes down to how obvious is “obvious”.

And finally, Chief Judge Ron Daniel reflects on what followed his sincere attempt to enforce the rules as they are written, or at least as he reads them:

First, let me start with the description of the Appeal on the IAAF page. “After examining the video of the race and discussing with the Chief Judge, the Jury of Appeal decided unanimously that the mode of progression of the Spanish athlete did not merit a disqualification. The Jury of Appeal in its decision noted that the purpose of Rule 230.3 (a) is to prevent athletes from improving their position in the closing stages of the competition by obviously failing to comply with the mode of progression defined as Racewalking. The appeal of the Spanish federation is upheld and the athlete reinstated. It is to be noted that Mr. Odrizola, a member of the Jury, did not participate in the decision.”

I did not have the opportunity to review any video. I don’t know what the Jury saw. At these World Championships, Jury members come from the IAAF Council and are rotated throughout the days of competition. Mr. Odrizola, The President of the Spanish Federation, is to be on a Jury on another day; however, on this day, he sat in on the proceeding. If fact, he was already in the Jury room when I was called in and he remained in the room after I left. He was allowed to make his ‘pitch’ for Fernandez. Because the Jury room was next door the ITO/IWR judges room and the wall was open at the top, we could continue to hear him speaking with the Jury after I left. His participation before and after my participation is bothersome to me. He has a direct personal interest in the outcome and is, of course, friends with other members of the Jury. I don’t know what accepted Jury protocol is to be, but this is beyond my expectation. And what Gary said is most likely their defense that Fernandez was not obvious enough!! And what did happen?

Perez...well, he is the master of strategy, enough said and of course a sub-20 minute finish helped. Fernandez just didn’t have it yesterday. Ghoula had a very good race (albeit with two red cards). I had two judges on the track for the 300+ meters to the finish; one at 250 meters, the other at 100 meters. I positioned myself around 40 meters. Perez entered the stadium well clear (80 to 90 meters) and it is worth noting, he maintained his speed to the finish. Ghoula entered at least 30 meters ahead of Fernandez. There was not much change around the track until they entered the last 100. Ghoula seemed to slow and perhaps begin his celebration not being aware that Fernandez was making his charge. Side Note: Odrizola asserted that Ghoula was obviously very tired and not able to walk any faster and that Ghoula had turned around and saw Fernandez coming but could not respond. I did not see Ghoula turn around and I don’t know how he felt...of course Odrizola did! Continuing...as this was developing, I proceeded toward the finish. I stepped forward so that Fernandez could obviously see me with red paddle in hand. Fernandez continued his charge. About 20 meters before the finish line, Fernandez fully “shifted” gears and was (to me) very “obviously” off the ground. His acceleration is what moved him to Ghoula and allowed him to pass within the last stride, much to Ghoula’s surprise. Clearly he didn’t know Fernandez was coming.

Fernandez’s move was very shocking and easy to call. At least one jury member asserted that perhaps the difference in the closing speed of Ghoula and Fernandez is what led to my decision. Not true. In fact, even if Fernandez was not overtaking someone, he was so far off that I would have made the call.

I had at my side Nicola Mggio (Level III judge, one of the recorders in this meet).

45 Years Ago (From the August 1962 American Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)-

Ron Laird left the rest of the field from the start and cruised to an easy win in the National 35 Km in Seattle. His 3:20:21 effort left Ed Glander more than 20 minutes back at the finish. Claude Wathall was third. John Allen won the New York State 2 Mile in 14:38.5 with George Shilling second. John Harwick won the Jr. National 30 Km ahead of Regis Brown (who eventually achieved international status as Jerry Brown). Olav Yik Tokala walked a 6:45 mile in Providence.

40 Years Ago (From the August 1967 ORW)-Laird was the star of the month and then some. He first won the Pan American 20 Km title in 1:33:05, leaving and up-and-coming Mexican walker, Jose Pedraza, nearly 2 minutes behind. Later, Ron did a 43:10.4 10 Km on the road in England, a 44:36.8 American record on the track in Germany, and a 1:28:18 20 Km to beat 1964 Olympic 50-Km gold medalist, Abdon Pamich, in Italy. Larry Young walked the same three European races in 45:19, 46:22, and somewhere in the low 1:30s, after winning the Pan Am 50 Km in 4:26.21. With those two in Europe, Tom Dooley had his best ever distance race to win the National 40 Km in 3:30:10, 2 minutes ahead of Goetz Klopper. Bob Kitchen showed his great promise at the distances with a third place finish in 3:34:04. Dooley was fourth in the 20 and Klopper third in the 50 at the Pan Am Games.

35 Years Ago (From the August 1972 ORW)-Larry Young completed a busy July with a win in the Senior 40 Km in Long Branch, N.J. in what seems a very slow 3:39. S4. However, with the temperature at 93 F and the humidity high, it was no insignificant performance. John Knifton was 8 minutes back and Todd Scully was the only other walker able to better 4 hours in the conditions. Jeanne Bocci won the women’s National 1500 meters in 6:59.1 over Lynn Olsen and Sue Brodock. A week later she did 6:50.4 to beat the same two, with Brodock ahead of Olsen this time. The Strasbourg-to-Paris 500 Km race went to Luxembourg’s Josy Simon in 6:03.28 with Belgium’s Robert Schouweeck second.
25 Years Ago (From the August 1982 ORW)--In the Women's World meeting in Bergen, Norway, the Soviet Union emerged as early winners with Alexandra Devinskaya winning the 10 Km race in 48:11:11 ahead of Sweden's Ann Jansson (48:14) and Susan Liers-Westerfield of the U.S. (49:25). Australia's Sue Cook won the 5 Km in 23:09:2, but the Soviets took second and third, with Ludmilla Kutseva just 4 seconds back of Cook. Teresa Vaill led the U.S. in 7th with 24:28. With 110 points, the USSR finished 32 points ahead of Norway, followed by Sweden, the U.S., and Australia... The Soviet Union took first in a three-nation international with races at 20 and 50 Km. East Germany's Thomas Hoffmann won the 20 Km in 1:18:37 with Vladimir Andreyev, Russia, second in 1:19:25 and Spain's Jesus Garcia third in 1:20:06. The U.S. men took third in a five-nation international with races at 20 and 50 Km... Italy's Annarita Sidoti walked a commanding 5 Km in 1:26:42. She moved steadily away from teammate Yelena Nikolayeva (1:28:20) over the second half. Italy's Erica Alfridi was third in 1:28:33. It was not a meet for close races as Spain's Francisco Fernandez won the men's 20 Km in 1:18:37 with Vladimir Andreyev, Russia, second in 1:19:25 and Spain's Juan Manuel Molina third in 1:20:06... Ecuador's Jefferson Perez dropped in the U.S. National 10 Km race in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. and strolled to an easy win in 39:59. Curt Clausen won the U.S. title in 42:20 ahead of Tim Seaman's 43:27. The women's race went to Teresa Vaill in 48:43 with Jill Cobb second in 50:40 and Jolene Moore third in 51:24. Australia's Nathan Deakes won twice at the British Commonwealth meet taking the 20 in 1:23:23 and the 50 in 3:52:40. His countrywoman Jane Saville won the women's 20 in 1:36:34.

An interesting note in our little judging controversy at the World Championships. Mention was made of the earlier similar incident at the Pan Am Junior meet. In an ironic twist, Ron Daniel had reacted to an on-line commentary that Tom Eastler had written regarding the incident. Ron said: "Very nice writeup. Yes, the reversal by the Jury of Appeals is bizarre but that's what happened. I have no better explanation. Again, the key word is "obvious" when the Chief Judge takes action at the end. And the "obvious" call would be one made by the spectators in the stands, not just the Chief Judge who may have acted with much greater scrutiny. The Jury of Appeals didn't feel it was obvious!!!"

I doubt that Ron realized he would soon be in the eye of a similar storm. Hey! Maybe the next time I doubt that Ron realized he would soon be in the eye of a similar storm. Hey! Maybe the next time...