Kanaykin Takes Down World Record At Challenge Final

Saransk, Russia, Sept. 29—In the final race of the IAAF's Racewalk Challenge Series, Russia's Vladimir Kanaykin erased Jefferson Perez's World 20 Km record with a 1:17:16 effort. Walking by himself over the final stages, following disqualifications of three of his countrymen, the 22-year-old chopped 5 seconds from the record Perez set in 2003.


Russia's Olga Kaniskina, also just 22 and winner of the World Championship in Osaka four weeks ago, was nearly as dominant as she won the women's race in 1:26:47, 73 seconds ahead of countrywoman Anisya Kornikova. The winners were helped by the thousands of spectators two and three deep along much of the 2 Km loop.

The downside to this final race of the series was the absence of many competitors from outside Russia. Francisco Fernandez had planned to compete, but ran into visa problems and could not get into the country, a plight that apparently befall others. As a result, only five of the 24 female competitors and four of the thirty-five male competitors were from outside Russia.

In near perfect weather conditions, Kanaykin went through the first 5 Km in 19:25 with an 8 second lead. He was soon joined by his compatriots Valeriy Borchin, Igor Yerokhin, and junior champion Sergey Morozov. As the pace quickened, the foursome passed 10 Km in 38:28. At that point, Adams was more than a minute back (40:05) and another expected challenger, Norway's Erik Tysse, was struggling with a hip injury sustained in Osaka, which soon put him on the sidelines.

Yerokhin was pulled before they finished another lap. Morozov, in his 20 Km debut, hung on through that lap, but then got his third red card. Borchin was dropping away by the time they hit 16 Km and by 18 Km was nearly a minute-and-a-half back. Then he too was pulled by the judges. Kanaykin stormed through to the finish and looked like he still had more walking in him. "I realized with one lap to go I could break the world record, but my coach warned me about being dq'd," said the winner. "It's amazing, and I can't really take it all in right now. I never thought I could break the record. The course was impressive, but not as much as the people cheering for me. I knew I had to walk hard for them—after all, most of them are neighbors."

His coach, Victor Gegin said, "This was never expected. It's beyond my dreams. But he is a wonderful athlete. He can walk 50 Km, 20, any distance you want—and he has the capability to win them all."

Kanaykin had shown his potential at this distance with his win at the Russian Championships in June with a 1:17:36, a few weeks after he won the European Cup 50 Km in 3:40:57. However, he had failed to finish in the World Championship 50 in Osaka.

In the women's race, Kaniskina had company for 16 Km, and then shook off final challenger Ariysa Kornikova to come home just 44 seconds outside her personal best. Kornikova, only 17, kept up the chase and was rewarded a sparkling 1:28:00 in her 20 Km.
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Korotkova finished in a season's best 1:28:46. Sabine Zimmer seventh and Athina Papayianni in eighth were the first non-Russian finishers.

Lyudmila Arkhipova, who finished fourth behind Tatyana Korotkova (43:46 at 10).

Korotkova commented, "The race was more difficult than the World Championships because there was more responsibility to perform for my coach and the people here. The weather was not a problem, but I was not concerned about a personal best. It's also too early to worry about Beijing."

With the sparse number of athletes that came from outside Russia, the IAAF might want to reconsider the at the tail end of the season following the major competition of the year (the World Championships).

The results:


October A Month For Nationals

October saw national titles decided at three distances-5 Km, 1 Hour, and 30 Km.

First up was the 5 Km in Kingsport, Tennessee. In the absence of the country's most elite racewalkers, the races seemed to be mostly a dual between those under 20 and those 40 and older. 17-year-old Ricardo Vergara took full advantage of the situation (which included brother Roberto resting in Texas) to record his first Senior national title, most likely the youngest ever to do so. Leaving the rest of the field early, Ricardo finished in 23:43, 32 seconds ahead of 48-year-old Ian Whatley.

In the women's race, 30-year-old Sam Cohen and Jolene Moore went at it, with Cohen edging away for a well-earned victory in 23:39, 16 seconds up on Moore, age 41.
The ORW Is Pleased To Inform You of These Upcoming Races

Sun. Nov. 4 5 Km, Fair Oaks, Cal. (P) 5 Km, Littleton, Col., 9 am (H) 5 Km, Metairie, La. (L) National USATF Masters 20 Km, Clermont, Fla. (E)
Adams and Turava 2007 IAAF Racewalking Challenges

Luke Adams, Australia, and Ryta Turava, Belarus, were named winners of the 2007 IAAF Racewalking Challenge following the final of eight races at Saransk. To be ranked in the Final Standings, athletes had to compete in at least four of the eight Challenge meetings. For those competing in more than four races, their top four placings were scored. In the final standings, Adams finished ahead of Norway’s Erik Tysse and Spain’s Francisco Fernandez. Turava was followed in the women’s standings by Kjersti Platzer, Norway, and Sabine Zimmer, Germany. Here are the final rankings:

Men
1. Luke Adams, Australia 36 pts (6 races)
2. Erik Tysse, Norway 33 pts (7 races)
3. Francisco Fernandez, Spain 32 pts (4 races)
4. Hatem Ghoula, Tunisia 28 pts (5 races)
5. Eder Sanchez, Mexico 28 pts (4 races)
6. Jared Tallent, Australia 26 pts (4 races)

Women
1. Ryta Turava, Belarus 40 pts (4 races)
2. Kjersti Platzer, Norway 37 pts (6 races)
3. Sabine Zimmer, Germany 27 pts (5 races)
4. Elisa Rigaudo, Italy 20 pts (4 races)
5. Ellena Ginko, Belarus 17 pts (6 races)
6. Claudia Stef, Romania 16 pts (4 races)
7. Jane Saville, Australia 13 pts (5 races)
8. Susana Feitor, Portugal 12 pts (4 races)
9. Ines Henriques, Portugal 12 pts (4 races)

My Aussie correspondent, Bob Steadman, who spent many years in the U.S. and Canada—competing for the Canadians in a 1969 dual meet with the U.S.—will be remembered by long-time readers for his sharing of correspondence with T.S. Golumnjub in Outer Mongolia over the course of several years. Now he has sent us a report he came across from an interstellar mission, which may be of interest to our readers.

Extracts From Report To Planet Uranos Headquarters

From Planet Earth Expedition, Earth Year 2007

Our last expedition, in Earth year 1996, reported some interesting observations about the billions of human Earthlings.

- They have four legs, two large and two small, and move mostly by “walking,” in which they disengage the two smaller legs and use the long ones.
- They are a very competitive people, and seem to enjoy races.
- They also move using wheels, sometimes (by their standards) at great speeds.

A major purpose of the current expedition was to find evidence of walking races, which we believed would be common. A report on the races we observed follows.

1. Noise attracted us to a place where humans race in cars, which have four wheels. With Earthlings’ obsession with wheels, there should be no surprise that their space program is so backward.

2. We observed a field where humans were walking, but intermittently. After walking out of a cart, they hit a small white ball with a club, before returning intermittently to the cart, which they drive near to the ball. This continues, often for a long time, until the ball falls into a hole. This is repeated 18 in different times parts of the field until the humans reach a clubhouse. The walking is slow, and the frustration is great. The winner seems to be the person who walks last.

3. Some humans put horses under them before walking. As these horses use off four legs, they are much faster, even with humans on top. This seems to be an elite form of racing, exclusive to small humans with eating disorders. The races are brief and intermittent, and are attended by big men who receive, and occasionally pay back, large sums of money.

Desakes record. Bob Steadman (see above) now gets his ORWs second hand from another Aussie, John McDougall, so he caught up on commenting on matters in back issues. He made reference to Nathan Desakes’ world record race at 50 km late last year. “This turns the clock back 40 years to when specifically arranged record attempts were held. It was a great performance, but conforms only to the letter, not the spirit, of the law. I hope it will not lead to other countries organizing attempts on walking records, with selected sympathetic judges” Bob also noted: “I enjoyed the judging debate between Bob Bowman and Larry Young—a very fair walker, I thought—and found myself mostly on Larry’s side.” A C. Jaime has worked very hard, with the help of many others, to establish a wonderful racewalking program in South Texas. The great performances of the Rodrigues brothers and the high participation in races in South Texas are testimony to that effort. Now, he wants to see that effort expanded nationwide. He writes: “We strongly believe that if we are to ever increase participation in our beautiful sport of Racewalking among the youth of our country, we must do so by reaching out to our children when they are in the third, fourth, and fifth grades. Out South Texas Walking Club has had some success in the apt by working with this age group and we wish to ask for your help in presenting a request for our school district to start a racewalking pilot program for all 6500 third through seventh grade students in our school district. Professor Tom Eastler of the U. of Maine has suggested that we start teaching third, fourth, and fifth graders the first year and add the sixth graders the second, and the seventh graders the third year. Gary Westerfield of Long Island, our International Racewalking Judge, has suggested that we write a book on Racewalking specifically for this age group. Coach Diane Graham-Henry of Illinois might create a video of racewalking also specifically for this age group. We are sure that many of you could contribute to the success
of this pilot program that helpfully could later be started in other areas. Your ideas, suggestions, and recommendations would be greatly appreciated. How is the district to go about setting up such a program? What would be the benefit of this program? What would it cost the district? This and many other questions need to be answered. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please communicate with me if you have any ideas or recommendations or simply would like to volunteer.” A.C. can be reached at 621 N. 10th Street, McAlellan, TX 75801, 1-880-383-573 (work), 1-866-787-441 (home), 956-821-6659 (cell), ACChimes@global.net. …Date and Times for 2008. Here is the schedule for next year’s World Cup of Racewalking in Cheboksary, Russia: Saturday, May 10-11 am Junior Men 10 Km; 12 noon Junior Women 10 Km; 1 pm Senior Men 20 Km. Sunday May 10-11 am and Senior Men 50 Km; 1 pm Senior Women 20 Km. The World Junior T&F Championships will be held in Bydgoszcz, Poland from July 8-13, 2008. Qualifying standards for the 10 Km racewalks are 44:05 for men and 50:55 for women. …A bit of history. In the results section of this month’s issue, you will notice the Doc Tripp Memorial 10 Km in Broomfield, Colorado. Here is some history of that event, as described by Bob Carlson in the Front Range Walkers newsletter. Doc Tripp was a podiatrist practicing in the Sterling area in Northeast Colorado until 1971 when inoperable cancer ended his life. He was well-liked by athletes of all sorts, especially runners and racewalkers. In an endeavor to help promote athletics, he donated his valuable services to those athletes who needed advice or medical treatment. He also promoted racewalking as a superb, low injury, aerobic sport—unusual in the days when running was considered to be the best path to aerobic fitness. Floyd Godwin, Colorado’s earliest national class racewalker, undoubtedly got into the sport because of Doc Tripp. Floyd was earlier a distance runner at Colorado University and a candidate for the marathon in the Olympic Trials in 1968. He did run the marathon in 2:20 and some seconds at sea level, but still did not qualify for Mexico City. He also set a Colorado high altitude marathon record of 2:28, which held for more than a decade. Then injuries started to slow Floyd in his runs. Doc Tripp told him that he ought to try racewalking until his leg injuries subsided. After learning the technique from various competitors who visited Colorado for some track meets, Floyd liked the feeling of the sport so much that he never returned to running. He noticed that he had a natural aptitude for racewalking. In 1971, saddened greatly by Doc Tripp’s untimely demise, Floyd suggested to the small coterie of local racewalkers, including Chris Amoroso, Jerry Brown, Bill Weigle, Peter VanArsdale, and Carl Merschans, that an annual race should be set up in Doc’s honor and memory. They heartily agreed. The first race was held in August 1972 over a course in downtown Broomfield that was used over the years until 1990 when increased traffic forced moving to a safer course. Many elite walkers besides Floyd and others mentioned above have participated in this event over the years: Ron Laid, Gary Westerfield, Greg McGuire, Ray and Wendy Sharp, Marco Evoniuk, Vishna Sediak, D.A. Walker, Dan Pierce, and Steve Pecinovsky among them. (Ed. We might mention that from that original group of Colorado walkers that put the Tripp Memorial race together, Bill Weigle was on the 1972 Olympic team and put the Tripp Memorial race together, Bill Weigle was on the 1972 Olympic team and put the Tripp Memorial race together, Bill Weigle was on the 1973 World Cup team, Jerry Brown on the 1973 and 1975 World Cup teams, and Floyd Godwin on the 1973 World Cup team. Besides that, Karl Merschans was Canada’s top walker at the time. A rather elite group in one location. And Marco Evoniuk got his start in Colorado a few years later and went on to compete in three Olympics, two World Championships, and seven World Cups.)

Osaka Continued

We continue to get commentary on the 20 Km at the World Championships In Osaka, where a Jury of Appeals overruled the decision of Chief Judge Ron Daniel to disqualify silver-medalist Francisco Fernandez after his “run” to the finish line. Apparently that was not all. We hear this from Jim Hanley:

While everyone is talking about the Osaka judging fiasco (and rightly so), there was some other equally disturbing officiating in all three racewalking events. If you recall, the officials were three for three in messing up the lap counts in the walking races. In the men’s 20 Km, a German walker in fourth place was due to go into the stadium, but missed the turn and started to go an extra 2 Km loop. After about 30 meters, he was turned back and was directed into the stadium. Due to the heat and humidity, he collapsed just before the finish line and got a DNF. In the women’s 20 km, walkers were to go 1700 meters on the track before exiting the stadium. The leaders started to leave after 2 laps and had to be redirected back onto the track. There was a lap counter with a flip sign at the exit point, but the lead pack did not appear to know about it. And in the 50 Km, the hometown hero—a Japanese walker—started to fade badly after being with the race leaders. The lap counters assumed that he was still with the leaders, so they ordered him back into the stadium one lap too soon resulting in another DNF.

Seiko chips were recording times for the walkers, but the officials who were assigned to direct the athletes back into the stadium were not getting the chip information and were simply using check marks to keep track of laps. The judging fiasco at Osaka reminds me of a similar incident.

There was an old rule that stated that the “decision of the racewalk judges is final and without appeal.” This discontinued rule was put into the rule books after a US-USSR Meet in Berkeley, Cal. in the 1960s. A Soviet walker was disqualified. Then his team protested the DQ on the grounds that the purpose of the meet was to “promote friendship between the two nations.” High-level AAU officials bought the ridiculous argument and overruled the Chief Judge’s DQ.

As Bob Bowman wisely said, there was no judging controversy in Osaka until the Jury of Appeals got involved. Many track and field people including coaches, agents, TV announcers, team managers, and even meet directors simply do not understand—or care to—how much bad officiating in racewalking events can hurt our sport.

In a reply to Jim, Ron Daniel, the party most closely involved in the Osaka controversy, commented:

You’re right. There were three lap counting errors, but your details are a little off. The German walker was rerouted after he missed the turn into the stadium after less than 30 meters. Yes, he did collapse just as he was entering the stadium passage way. He had slowed to the point that he might have had trouble finishing in the top 10. But it should have never happened. In the women’s race, there was a lap counter and flip sign at the apex of the turn where they were to begin the exit. No explanation as to why the lead woman missed the sign. The correction would have been to have marshals at that point to keep them from exiting. And in the 50, the Japanese walker was sixth at 45 Km, but by the time he was to go another lap, he had been lapped and they simply missed that and set him in. In my Final Report, I went into great about the lap counting errors.

When I went to the Japanese 20KM Championship in May, I recommended that they use your (meaning Jim’s) lap counting system. Meet officials said they were relying on the Seiko lap timer off the transducer/chips. However, the officials by the stadium entrance (making check marks to count) were not receiving the Seiko information.

There have been many suggestions on how to change the Appeal process that was used. The most effective is to (1) change the criteria for ‘obvious’ from that of only having the walker change his gait from ‘walking’ to that of ‘running’. From what I hear, the walkers in the World Junior Meet in Chile in 2000 actually broke into a run in the last straight (this is what instigated this rule). (2) That the Jury be able to use video that could clearly show the
ground contact or lack thereof. If there is no evidence to prove the judge wrong, then he can’t be overruled. (3) Don’t have anyone from the protesting Federation on the Jury or participating in the deliberation. (4) And have at least one member of the Racewalking Committee on the Jury. Maurizio Damilano, who saw the finish from across the track, is fully backing me.

**Kaniskina’s Rewards Include New Apartment**

by Yalina Kurdyumova and Sergey Porado for the IAAF

Russia’s Olga Kaniskina, 22, the World 20 Km Racewalk champion in Osaka, Japan, and winner of the IAAF Racewalking Challenge Final in her home town of Saransk, already has her eyes set firmly on the Beijing Olympic Games next year. “I have got all reasons to be satisfied with my performance this season. I won the World Championship in Osaka and the Challenge Final, and I am quite happy with my result in Saransk,” said Kaniskina.

“From the start, I led, together with my teammates Anisya Kornikova and Tatyana Shemyakina”, she said. “Tatyana received two warnings, which made her slow down. From the very beginning it was clear that the main competition would be between me and Kornikova. She was very well prepared. I did not break away from her after the 16th Km mark as it could seem. She simply got two warnings and had to slow down and I slowed my pace too. The competition was strong and could be even stronger if it were not for the warnings from the judges. (Ed. I would note that it is not really fair to blame the judges, rather the walkers bear the burden. Maybe that is what she intended and something is lost in translation.) Nobody wanted to lose Nothing held me back. I could probably walk faster, but it did not make sense. I just wanted to make my relatives, friends, and fans happy. I felt their support every minute.”

Commenting on her support, Kaniskina said: “The Government created excellent conditions for different sports, especially in Saransk. Athletes can live and train in the facilities of the Center of Olympic Training in Racewalking. In addition, a new sports complex with an indoor track and field stadium and a wonderful racewalking course in the park area was opened recently.”

She continued: “The help and support of my coach Vladimir Chegin plays the most important role in all my successful performances. He helps me to concentrate at the start and it works for me all through the race to the finish line. I shall never forget what he has done for me. In my opinion, the success of all Mordovian racewalkers would not have been possible without the guidance of a highly qualified team of coaches.”

Asked about rewards, Kaniskina replied: “After the success of the athletes from Mordovia in Osaka, the head of the Mordovian Government, Nikolay Merkushkin, decided to reward the prize winners. I got a two-bedroom apartment for winning the title and second place winners Tatyana Shemyakina and Darya Pishcainkova (discus) got one-bedroom apartments. Now we are looking forward to moving in at the end of this season and inviting friends to house-warming parties.”

Asked about free-time activities, she replied: “I wish I had more free time for leisure. I like reading very much, especially old French authors. I am also a third year student of mathematics in the State University of Mordovia. Now I have fallen behind in my studies and need to devote more time to learning.”

She concluded: “The Olympic Trials will come next, which I hope to get through successfully with minimal effort. I cannot predict who is going to be my main rival in Beijing.

**LOOKING BACK**

45 Years Ago (From the October 1962 American Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)-In the European Championships, Great Britain’s Ken Matthews prevailed at 20 Km in 1:35:55, with Germany’s Hans-Georg Reinmann (1:36:15) and the USSR’s Vladimir Golubnichiy (1:36:38) following. At 50, Italy’s Abdon Pamich was an easy winner in 4:18:47, as Grigor Panitschkin, USSR (4:24:36) and Don Thompson, GB (4:29:01) followed.
Interestingly, both winners repeated in the 1954 Olympics, and both bronze medalists had won gold at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Alex Oakley won the Canadian 50 Km title in 4:28:51 and two weeks later dropped down to Providence to win the U.S. 25 Km race in 2:03:14. Ron Laird (2:04:44) and John Allen (2:08:08) followed. Chris McCarthy began to show the form that would carry him onto the 1964 US Olympic team with a 4:49:22 50-km effort in Chicago.

40 Years Ago (From the October 1967 ORW)—In the fourth edition of the Lugano Cup (now World Cup), the U.S. fielded a team for the first time and finished sixth among eight teams, just 2 points back of Sweden. The event was held in Bad Saurrow, East Germany. Ron Laird finished a close third in the 20 in 1:29:23 behind Soviets Nikolai Smaga and Vladimir Golubchicki. With Christoph Holme leading a 1:24, finish at 50 km, the host nation won the team title over the Soviets. Others on the U.S. team, apparently the first U.S. athletes ever to compete in the German Democratic Republic, were Tom Dooley and Jack Mortland at 20, and Larry Young, Goetz Klopfen, and Jim Clinton at 50. Three-time Olympian Bruce MacDonald was the team manager... Laird prepared for the Lugano Cup race with a 1:59:18 in winning the National 25 Km in Seattle. Goetz Klopfen, Bill Ranney, and Jim Lopes took the next three spots to cop the team title for the Athens AC.

35 Years Ago (From the October 1972 ORW)—Larry Young, fresh from his bronze medal performance at the Munich Olympics, won the National 30 Km in Columbia, Missouri in 2:28:09 with Todd Scully 4 ½ minutes back. Floyd Godwin and Jerry Brown, in third and fourth place, led the Colorado TC to a one point win over the Motor City Striders in the team race... Ben Knappe won the Columbia, Mo 100 miler in 22:15:05.

30 Years Ago (From the October 1977 ORW)—Canada’s Marcel Jobin was an easy winner of the National 30, again held in Columbia, with a 2:21:09. Augie Hirt was nearly 13 minutes back in second... Jeanne Bocci won the women’s National 15 Km title in 1:55:07, with Susan Liers second in 1:56:56. Liers won the National 20 in 1:57:59 ahead of Eileen Smith’s 2:01:26.

25 Years Ago (From the October 1982 ORW)—Ray Sharp survived a strong finish by Tom Edwards to win the National 40 Km in Monmouth, N.J. Ray’s 3:27:31 left him 46 seconds ahead of Edwards, who gained nearly 5 minutes in the final 10. Randy Mimm was another 3 ½ minutes back in third, well ahead of Mike Morris. Ernesto Canto was an easy winner of the Alongi Memorial 20 Km in Detroit with a 1:25:59. His Mexican teammate, Felix Gomez, was second in 1:27:23. Tim Lewis edged Ray Sharp for third, with both giving a 1:29:11. Alan Price won the Columbia 100 miler for the fifth consecutive time, covering the distance in 19:43:51. Bob Chapin was 40 minutes back in second, with four others finishing under the 24-hour limit... A 100 miler in England saw Mick Holmes winning in 17:21:52. In that one, there were 55 under 24 hours!

20 Years Ago (From the October 1987 ORW)—Dan O’Connor won the National 30, held in East Meadow, N.Y. Dan finished in 2:21:52, leaving another Dan—Pierce—minutes 25 seconds behind. Ed O’Rorke followed in third, just 6 seconds ahead of Cliff Mimm. Cliff’s father, Bob, had a very impressive 2:55:48 and was the first over-60 competitor to finish... A week earlier, Nick Bdera had won the National 40 in Ft. Monmouth, N.J. (He was seventh in the 30). His 3:27:59 put him well clear of Dan Pierce, who finished in 3:29:53, nearly 10 minutes ahead of third place, Steve Vaillancourt... Carl Schueler scored an impressive win in the Alongi 20 Km, beating Italy’s Sandro Bellucci, who had been sixth in the World Championship 50 Km earlier in the year (Carl was 16th in that one with a 3:57:30). Schueler had 1:26:30 to Bellucci’s 1:27:10. Columbia’s Arnuricuo Cortez (1:27:57) was third, ahead of Gary Morgan (1:28:03) and Steve Pecinovsky (1:28:31).

15 Years Ago (From the October 1992 ORW)—Italy’s Giovanni Pericelli was an easy winner at the Alongi in 1:23:46. The field was spread out behind him—Alert Cruz, Mexico 1:24:42, Jonathan Matthews 1:25:40, Dorel Fircia, Canada 1:26:39, Andrzej Chylinski 1:27:22, and Gary Morgan 1:29:42. Thw women’s 10 went to Mexico’s Francisca Martinez in 46:19, followed by Victoria Herazo (46:24) and Sarah Standley (47:03)... Mexican were dominant in the Pan-Am Cup. Martinez and teammate Maria de la Luisa Colon (47:27) were one-two in the 10 ahead of Herazo (47:42). They finished one-two-three in the men’s 20—Bernardo Segura 1:24:09, Daniel Garcia 1:25:34, and Alberto Cruz 1:28:22—with Jonathan Matthews fifth for the U.S. (1:28:58)... And they also swept the first three spots in the 50—German Sanchez, Miguel Rodriguez, and Carlos Mercenario all in 4:06:21. Andrzej Chylinski and Dave Marchese were seventh and eighth for the U.S. Nick Bdera scores another 40 Km win at Fort Monmouth, this time in 3:37:15.

10 Years Ago (From the October 1997 ORW)—Gary Morgan won the National 2 Hour title in Worcester, Mass, covering 24,616 meters to beat 59-year-old Dave Romansky by 2,002 meters. Gretchen Eastler-Fishman won the women’s 1 Hour with 11,804 meters, beating 38-year-old Elton Richardson who had 9443. The top walkers stayed away in droves... At the Alongi Memorial Jonathan Matthews won a 10 Km race in 43:24, a U.S. masters record, with Gary Morgan second in 44:05. John Nunn won a Junior 10 in 44:55 and Emma Carter a women’s 5 Km in 24:38. The World University Games 20 Km went to Russia’s Ilya Markov in 1:25:36 with Mexico’s Alejandro Lopez (1:26:00) in second and Italy’s Arturo DiMezza (1:26:12) third. William Van Axe (1:32:59) and Tim Seaman (1:34:41) were 11th and 12th for the U.S. The women’s 10 went to Larissa Ramanova, Belarus, in 44:01.

5 Years Ago (From the October 2002 ORW)—The World Cup, held in Turin Italy, resulted in a Russian sweep—team titles in both men’s and women’s 20 and in the men’s 50. Individually, they won only in the men’s 50, where they took four of the five spots, but they finished 2:54 in the women’s 20, and second and sixth in the men’s 50. The women’s race went to Italy’s Erica Afriuldi (1:28:55), followed by Russians Olimpia Ivanova (1:28:57) and Natalya Fedoskina (1:28:59). Jefferson Perez, Ecuador won the men’s 20 in 1:21:26 ahead of Vladimir Andreyev (1:21:50) and Mexico’s Alejandro Lopez (1:22:01). For the U.S. Joanne Dow was 50th in 1:41:00, Kevin Eastler 31st in 1:28:18, and Philip Dunn 13th in a personal best 3:56:13. Two weeks earlier, Dunn had won the National 2 Hour covering 26,815 meters, 160 meters ahead of Curt Clausen, who had 140 meters on Kevin Eastler. Susan Armenta won the women’s 1 Hour in 12,195 meters. In Italy, Marco Giugni did 15 Km in 59:13 to beat Olympic Champion to be, Ivan Brugnetti by 6 seconds.

After our very hot summer, a few comments culled from the internet by Bob Carlson:

It’s so hot...
... the trees are whistling for the dogs
... you learn that a seat belt makes a good branding iron
... you realize that asphalt has a liquid state (which reminds me that Jack Blackburn walked out of his shoe, which was stuck in the asphalt, during a very hot 30 Km in Columbia, Mo.)
... the potatoes cook underground so you just have to pull one out and add butter
... the cows are giving evaporated milk
... farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying hard-boiled eggs.