IAAF Challenge Series Continues With Two Events

Following the season opening event in Mexico in March and leading up to the World Cup in May, April saw IAAF Racewalking Challenge events in Rio Maior, Portugal and Beijing, China. The Chinese event previewed the course for the Olympics in August. The Rio Maior event highlighted a double victory for Norway's brother-sister act.

Rio Maior, Portugal, April 7 - In the 17th edition of Rio Maior's racewalking meeting, Erik Tysse and his sister Kjersti Tysse-Platzer scored victories in the two 20 Km races. With clockings of 1:19:51 and 1:29:29, both were strong efforts, although not approaching the meet records of 1:19:02 and 1:27:19, both set in 2005 by Spain's Francisco Fernandez and Belarus' R Mia Turava.

For the 35-year-old Platzer, it was the second Challenge win of the year, following her victory in Mexico last month and a step up from her runner-up finish in this race last year. But it wasn't easy. The home favorite and Portuguese record holder, Susan Feitor, fought her to the finish and trailed by just 2 seconds as Platzer crossed the line. Not far back was another Portuguese walker, Ana Cabecinha, a medalist in the 2003 European Junior Championships, who broke 1:30 for the first time with 1:29:56.

Feitor had the early lead, but Platzer took over before they reached 5 Km, although Feitor moved to the front at 10 km in 44:59 as they accelerated from an opening 5 in 22:43. Platzer then picked up the pace even more and led by two seconds at 15 in 1:07:12. Cabecinha stayed with them through 15 Km but had to yield in the final stages as the other two continued to push. Coming on strong at the finish was 2004 Olympic gold medalist Athanasia Tsoumelaka who nearly got up for the bronze medal, finishing in 1:30:00. It was by far her best effort since 2004. Still only 26 years old, she indicated she will be one to be reckoned with again as the World Cup and Olympics approach.

With a magnificent smile, Feitor congratulated the winner and said, "Kjersti is a great lady and a strong athlete. I tried to win in my country's town. I did all the things I could in the competition, but I knew she is very strong. She was the best and we must congratulate her effort."

The men's race saw four men together through 15 km, where Germany's Andre Hohne led in 60:04. On his heels were Tysse, Juan Manuel Molina of Spain, and the Ecuador's Jefferson Perez. Not far back was Perez's teammate, Roland Saquipay. But only Tysse was able to accelerate over the final 5 Molina held pace for the silver medal, Hohne slowed, but easily claimed the bronze, while the two Ecuadorians faded badly. However, one can expect that come Olympic time, Jefferson Perez is not likely to fade (although he did in 2004). Tysse and Molina switched positions from the Mexican race, where Molina was second and Tysse third behind Mexico's Eder Sanchez. They now share the points lead in the Challenge.
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Results:

**Women's 20 Km:**
1. Hong Liu, China 1:29:33
2. Yawei Yang, China 1:29:33
3. Yang Shi, China 1:29:33
4. Edith Sanchez, Mexico 1:30:11
5. Ana Cabecinha, Portugal 1:30:11
6. Jose Alessandro Bagio, Brazil 1:30:11
7. Hatem Ghoula, Tunisia 1:30:11
8. Yang Wei, China 1:30:11
9. Zhide Cui, China 1:30:11
10. Hyunsub Kim, Korea 1:30:11
11. Junnya Maeda, Japan 1:30:11
12. Christiana Yousaf, USA 1:30:11
13. Ronglong Zhang, China 1:30:11
14. Jingjing Yan, China 1:30:11
15. Yang Wei, China 1:30:11
16. Shanshan Wang, China 1:30:11
17. Yanmin Bo, China 1:30:11
18. Xin Zhang, China 1:30:11
19. Sona Avoila, Portugal 1:30:11
20. Rhama Mahmoudi, Tunisia 1:30:11

**Men's 20 Km:**
1. Jared Tallent, Australia 1:20:11
2. Hao Wang, China 1:20:25
3. Eder Sanchez, Mexico 1:20:25
4. Marco Picarevich, Brazil 1:20:25
5. Fatima Rodrigues, Portugal 1:20:25
6. Marisa Soares, Portugal 1:20:25
7. Dionisio Ventura, Portugal 1:20:25
8. Sonata Zimmer, Germany 1:20:25
10. Kenta Nakamura, Japan 1:20:25
11. Diego Torres, Mexico 1:20:25
12. Claudio Petrucci, Italy 1:20:25
13. Atbanasia Tsoumeleka, Greece 1:20:25
14. Sabine Fietor, Portugal 1:20:25
15. Vera Santos, Portugal 1:20:25
17. Luis Fernando Lopez, Columbia 1:20:25
18. Raquel Guisoulo, Portugal 1:20:25
19. Senna Avoila, Portugal 1:20:25
20. Rhama Mahmoudi, Tunisia 1:20:25

Beijing, China April 18-19—As in the past, the Chinese leg of the Challenge was largely a domestic affair with only the men's 20 Km race drawing a significant number of athletes from outside of China. The women's 20 drew only six outsiders and the 50 only two.

The men's 20 was a highly competitive race for the first 10 Km. Australia's Jared Tallent, Mexico's Eder Sanchez and four Chinese walkers were tightly packed at 40:10. That group didn't break up until after 15 Km and at 16 Tallent and Hao Wang were still together at 64:18 with Sanchez 7 seconds back, just ahead of Yafei Chu and Jamin Dong, with Yuheng Han another 14 seconds back. Tunisia's Hatem Ghoula was seventh at that point, but nearly a minute behind Han and in a tight battle with Yang Wei.

Over the next 2 Km, Tallent managed to open a 2 second gap on Wang as the rest of the field started to spread out. Tallent proved too strong over the final 2 Km lap. After walking just over 8 minutes per lap through 14 Km, he did his final three laps in 7:59, 7:56, and 7:57. He finished in 1:20:11, 14 seconds of Wang, whose final lap was his slowest. Sanchez held off Chu for third in 1:20:57. Dong and Han were next, but struggled on the final lap. Ghoula finished strongly, gaining 40 seconds on Han over the final two laps, but still came up 10 seconds short of sixth. His final lap of 8:10 was bettered only by Tallent.

After the race, Tallent told the media that he felt great. "It looks very busy, but the pollution is no problem at all," he said. "The main factor in August is going to be the heat and humidity, so get to get ready for that." In fact, the race condition that troubled competitors the most was not the pollution, but the hardness of the course, which was reportedly made of concrete instead of asphalt. (More on this later in this issue.) Australia's Luke Adams felt the impact aggravated injuries, and dropped out of the race as a precaution around the 4 Km mark, while with the lead group.

The women's 20 went to Hong Liu after a race long tussle with three of her countrywomen. The four were right together through 18 Km and only 9 seconds apart at the finish, which saw Hong winning in 1:29:33, the same time given to Yawei Yang in second. Yang Shi was another six seconds back and Mangwe just three seconds behind her. The first finisher from outside of China was Japan's Masumi Fuchise in sixth with 1:31:11.

In the men's 50, held on the second day of competition, only 14 of 53 starters finished, with 11 DQ's along with the many drop outs. The winner, Tianfeng Si, started to pull away from a six-man lead pack (all Chinese) after 25 Km (1:54:32). By 30 km, he was 17 seconds ahead. By 35 Km, fourth place Chaohong Yu was still within 18 seconds, but he dropped well back from there. Chengliang Zhao and Jianbo Li stayed within striking distance (33 seconds) through 40, but then lost two minutes on the next 5 Km. Zhao closed to within 17 seconds by 45 km, but then he hit the wall and eventually finished two minutes back, well clear of the rest. Si's winning time was 4:45:13, as he covered the second half in 1:50:41. The only two walkers from outside of China were New Zealand's Tony Sargisson and Mexico's Cristian Berdeja, who finished 12th and 13th, well off their best performances.

On his dominant finish, Si said simply, "I wasn't really thinking anything in the final 5 Km, just that if I could stick to what I did in training, I'd be fine. Of course, I was tired, but just wanted to persevere. Our sport requires endurance, and the final 5 Km are definitely crucial, but just that I'm satisfied with my performance today."
### Other Results

**U.S. Junior World Cup Trials, Huapagouge, N.Y., April 6:**

|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Men: 26:04

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finisher</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tyler Sorenson</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>59:22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. John Soucheck</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>51:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bill Masters</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>48:51</td>
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**Men's 50 Km:**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tianfeng Si</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3:45:13</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Chengliang Zhao</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3:47:14</td>
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<td>4. Panriseow</td>
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**Women's 10 Km:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Lisa Marie Vellucci</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1:23:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. David Wolf</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1:23:41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Alexis Davidson</td>
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**Men's 5 Km:**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tyler Sorenson</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>26:57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. John Soucheck</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>28:35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Jeff Masters</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>29:28</td>
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**Racewalking Challenge Points Standings after three races:**

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>Finisher</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Lisa Marie Vellucci</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1:52:37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>David Wolfe</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1:53:34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Other Events:**

- **APRIL 2008**
  - Penn Relays, Philadelphia, April: 26
  - Women's 10 Km, April 19
  - Men's 5 Km, April 11
  - Women's 10 Km, April 17
  - Men's 5 Km, April 20

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**Note:** Times and events listed are from various sources and may vary in accuracy.


The Joy of Competition, The Joy of Spring Available Here

Sun. May 3 1. Henry Laskau 5 Km, Coconut Creek, Florida (N)
2. 5 Km, Denver, Colorado (H)
3. 10 and 20 Km, Queens, New York (G)
4. 5000 meters and 1 Mile, Queens, New York (G)
5. 3000 meters and 1 Mile, Dayton, Ohio (M)
6. 5000 meters and 1 Mile, Dayton, Ohio (M)
7. 1 Hour, Kentfield, Calif. (P)
8. Utah Olympic Trials, 20 Km, Men and Women, Eugene, Oregon
9. 1 Mile, Stockton, Calif. (J)
10. Metropolitan 20 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)
11. U.S. Olympic Trials, 20 Km, Men and Women, Eugene, Oregon
12. 1 Mile, Stockton, Calif. (J)
13. Metropolitan 20 Km, New York City, 9 am (G)
14. 1 Mile, Kentfield, Calif. (P)
15. 5 Km, Denver, Colorado (H)
16. 5 and 10 Km, Pennsylvania, 9 am (G)

Contacts:
A—Elliott Denman, 28 N. Locust, West Long Branch, NJ 07764
As you may have noticed last month, with that issue, the Ohio Racewalker launched its 44th year of publication. In March 1965, at the suggestion of Jack Blackburn, he and I, with the help of the ditto machine (younger readers probably don’t even know what that is) he had access to through the Columbus Recreation Department, reproduced Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Ohio Racewalker. There were five pages. We mailed it to perhaps 20 to 30 racers around the country whose addresses we happened to have. They told others and in time, we had a subscription list of close to 100, which was about the printing capacity of a ditto master. The last issue reproduced by the ditto process was September 1968. Two reasons that we started to use mimeograph (some of you might not even know what that is) at that time: The fact that we were pushing the limitations of ditto and, more immediate, with that time: The fact that we were pushing the limitations of ditto and, more immediate, with that time, we were pushing the limitations of ditto and...
A half lap back to lap me. I barely held of Shaul Ladany for second. Not too far back in fourth was Ron Kulik just over 4:30. If you can find those race reports, perhaps you can pull them together in one report. I think these were the break through US 50 Km performances and all on the track.” Ron added. “Another ‘look back’ that I’m curious about came in the spring of ‘72. Two of my best 20 Km performances came when I finished second to Larry Young in the AAU 20 Km Championship also on CW Post Campus and then a couple of weeks later, I finished second again to Larry at the Western Hemisphere Championships (maybe predecessor to Pan Am Cup). Can you check on the name of the Mexican walker in fourth? And then check to see if that same Mexican finished in front of Larry in Munich.”

And here, for the historical record, is my reply to Ron: “Regarding ‘72, the Mexican walker was Jose Olivos. He actually finished fifth in that race—the Western Hemisphere 20 Km in Sharon, Pa. Actually, I was the U.S. team manager for that meet, which didn’t entail much managing as everyone just showed up for the race. The result was: 1. Larry Young 1:31:59.2. Ron Daniel 1:37:18.3. Floyd Godwin 1:37:28. 4. John Knifton 1:39:25.5. Jose Olivos, Mexico 1:39:38.6. Neville Conway, Canada 1:39:39.7. Marcel Jobin, Canada 1:40:46 (He certainly got better.) 8. Patrick Farrellly, Canada 1:43:45.

In a separate 20, billed as the All-American 20, Steve Hayden won in 1:41:2, ahead of Karl Merschen, Can. (1:42:44), Jack Mortland (1:43:34), Alex Oakley, Can. 1:46:2, Jerry Bocci (1:46:29), Leon Jasminowski (1:50:55)–walking nearly as fast as these days 40 years later—and 20 or 25 others. And, yes, Olivos did finish ahead of Larry in Munich by 13 seconds for ninth place—1:32:40.6 to 1:32:33.4. Regarding the 50s, I found some interesting things. Larry did his 4:25:40 on March 17, 1968 at the Mt. SAC track with Ron Larder second in 4:29:29. Bob Bowman had 4:41:08, John Kelly 4:44:47, and Jim Hanley 4:59:48. Then I found on the same date, one Ron Daniel set a U.S. record for 35 Km at C.W. Post with 3:05:42.8 ahead of Knifton (3:07:45) and Shaul Ladany (3:14:57). A week later, at Kings Point, Dave Romansky took the measure of that same Ron Daniel over 50 Km, 4:45:56 to 4:48:58 with John Markson third in 5:01.

Then on April 14, in Columbia, Mo., Young broke his own record with a 4:21:01.8, winning the Missouri Valley 1 Hour title on the way and breaking records at 35, 40, 45, 50, and 50 miles. Finally, the other race you referred to was on June 2 at C.W. Post: 1. Bob Kitchen 4:26:56.2. Ron Daniel 4:29:40.3. Shaul Ladany 4:29:09.4. Paul Schell 4:59:5. Howie Jacobson 4:00:30–Kulik, Bruce MacDonald, and Steve Hayden did not finish. You had Kulik in fourth. But the report I published on the race (which came from none other than Ron Daniel) noted that Kulik dropped out and left shortly after you lapped him for the second time at around 30 Km. Well, our memories sometimes deceive us. I often find that my vivid memories don’t quite jibe with the way I recorded events many years earlier.”

Junior Camp. The 2008 USA TF Junior Elite Racewalk Camp will be Monday June 23 through Friday, June 27 in Sharon, Pa. The camp will begin the day after the USA TF Junior National Championships scheduled for Jesse Owens Stadium at The Ohio State University in Columbus. All qualifiers for Junior Nationals as well as the top 12 finishers at the High School Indoor 1 Mile Championships are eligible. 2007 USA TF Junior Olympics top six finishers are also encouraged to apply to the camp. Applications for the camp can be obtained by e-mailing camp coordinator Diane Graham-Henry at ARCAUSWIS@AOL.COM. Talent ID camp. Also scheduled for Chicago from June 23 to June 25 is the 2008 USA TF Talent ID Camp. The camp is for those individuals between the ages of 16 and 26 who have not race walked before, or who are in their first year of racewalking. Chris Tegtmeier was one of the collegiate athletes who took advantage of this opportunity last year as a Freshman. Following the camp, he competed in the NACAC RW Cup on the USA squad, qualified for the Olympic Trials, qualified for the USA Men’s Team going to the IAAF World Cup and won the NAIA Nationals. Athletes must apply on-line before June 1 to be eligible. Contact www.usatf.org/groups/RaceWalking/TalentIDProgram.
in the sport I can't remember so many watching the sport without any other athletics events around it."

Two centers of race walking

However, Cheboksary and its neighbour Saransk to the south did, and still do, have a head start on the rest of Russia. Apart from a few splendid isolations, the two cities have creamed the best of the country’s walkers while sustaining a long ‘friendly rivalry’, as Krasnov puts it, to lay claim as the country’s center of walking. Saransk, with coach Victor Chegin’s group, hosted the IAAF Race Walking Challenge Final last September.

And Cheboksary has the presence of two of the top female walkers for the last decade. Yelena Nikolayeva and Olimpida Ivanova have won 14 major medals between them, including Olympic gold, two silvers, three IAAF World Championships and a European Championship—and that’s not counting a fistful of team medals.

Imagine as a citizen of Cheboksary you’ve never had a chance to see your heroines in the flesh racing in top competition. You too, might have strolled out to the European Cup course on the quayside to catch the action.

For the second IAAF World Race Walking Cup in a row, competitors in the five races—two at junior level—will be able to take in a watery view. Two years ago, the Spanish port of La Coruna had a similar quayside setting. But come to think of it, if Cheboksary turns out in force again as is likely, it may be that racers will see nothing of the real water because it will be masked by a sea of spectators cheering them from first to last around the 2km loop.

About the Olympic Venue

(A report from Beijing following the first day’s competition in the Racewalk Challenge event held there.)

Complaints from athletes about a “dangerous” race-walking course overshadowed the long-awaited competition debut Friday of China's eye-catching National Stadium, the main Olympic venue. Better known as the Bird's Nest, the 3.5-billion-yuan (500-million-dollar) arena will be the centrepiece of the Beijing Games, staging the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the athletics events.

But controversy erupted Friday as 50 athletes competed in the first event ever staged there—a 20 kilometer men’s race won by Australian Jared Tallent. The walkers completed three laps of the stadium track before filing out to race nine times around a two-kilometer looped circuit nearby and then returning to the Bird's Nest for the finish. Hatem Ghoula of Tunisia, a bronze medallist in the world championships last year, said stone slabs on the circuit outside the stadium were too hard.

"I think this course is very hard," said Ghoula, who finished seventh. "I think for 50km it will be dangerous. "The men's 50km race takes place Saturday as part of a two-day IAAF race-walking challenge that includes a women's 20km race later Friday. All the top finishers complained about the surface, including Tallent, 23, after winning his first ever international race. "It is quite hard on the legs being concrete," he said. "It does cause a lot more of an impact, especially for the 50km race. "It is not what we are used to because 90 percent of time we race on asphalt."

The 23-year-old Commonwealth Games bronze medallist clocked 1hr 20min to go down in history as the first gold medal winner at the new Olympic stadium.

"Fantastic to win here in the Bird's Nest. It is really good to win the first race in the new Olympic stadium," he said. Next came China's Wang Hao in a time of 1:20:25, with Mexico's Eder Sanchez, who placed fourth in the world championship last year, third in 1:20:57. The field of more than 50 athletes started the race with three laps of the 91,000-seater stadium in front of a sparse crowd of about 1,000 spectators. By the time they returned to race down the final stretch to the finish line more than an hour later, fans had streamed in and about 3,000 Chinese were waving banners and screaming encouragement.

"Wow, what a thrill to run into the stadium, which is going to host the Olympics in August," said Wang, one of China's elite race walkers, from Inner Mongolia. But he also said the surface was an added obstacle. "We have never raced on such a hard surface," he said. "We train and race on roads which is a bit different." Sanchez said the hard ground reduced speed and added wear on bones and joints. "The hard ground has a bigger impact on the athletes and you can feel it in the knees," he said.

Organizers said that the IAAF race-walking challenge is part of dozens of test events designed to highlight problems with the venues before the August 8-24 Games. "We will report all these questions to the competition manager who is in charge of this stadium. That is what a test event is for," said Chen Shuxu, media spokesman for the stadium.

The event took place under hazy skies but Beijing's notorious pollution was not a problem for the Australian winner. "That's a lot of fuss about nothing," said Tallent, referring to bad air quality.

Work still needs to be done inside and around the stadium and it is not scheduled for completion until next month when it hosts a full Olympic dress rehearsal—the China Open athletics competition from May 22 to 25.

And, a reaction to this and other reports questioning the appropriateness of Beijing for the Games from Gary Westerfield:

1. Over 20,000 tickets were sold for seating in the National Sport Stadium to see the first event to be contested there. Many lined the course.
2. The stadium is fantastic.
3. There were hundreds of volunteers working the two days of the racewalk “test” events. The Chinese have it together.
4. There is nothing that will be done about the hard surface. It is not concrete, rather a granite esplanade.
5. The sky in Beijing is constantly overcast. There did not seem to be any polluting articles in the air, except for pollen. Who knows what I will be like in August.
6. Automobile traffic will be reduced 50 percent during the Games by mandating an odd-even license plate day system.
7. Construction sites contribute dust. There was a lot near the walk site. There will be none during the Games.
8. Heavy industry in Beijing is being curtailed.

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the March 1963 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)—Canada’s Alex Oakley won the Pan American Games 20 Km in Sao Paulo, Brazil with a rather pedestrian 1:42:43, thanks largely to temperatures in the 80s and 3000-ft. altitude. Nick Marone completed a Canadian sweep with 1:46:35, as Ron Zinn managed only 1:49:44 and Ron Laird 1:52:13 (after both being in the mid 1:30s a month earlier at the National race.) Mexico was still waiting for Jerzy Hausebler to come and start a program that revolutionized the sport, not only in Mexico, but in the world... Tea National 30 Km in Los Angeles went to Mick Brodie in 2:49:34, better than 5 minutes ahead of Ron Daniel, with Bob Bowman.
20 years ago (From the April 1988 ORW)—The Olympic 50 Km Trials in Indianapolis saw

Carl Schueler take command from the start and move to an easy win an impressive 3:57.48. Marco Evoniuk and a surprising Andy Kaestner captured the other two Olympic berths in 4:03.33 and 4:05.07. Jim Heiring, Herm Nelson, Paul Wick, Eugene Kitts, and Mark Fenton followed. Schueler went through 25 Km in 1:56.53, but without competition couldn't maintain that pace. There were 16 finishers and 2 DQ from 22 starters...Gary Morgan was an impressive winner at the Jack Mortland 20 Km in Columbus, covering the distance in 1:27:30. Steve Pecinovsky was second in 1:30:54 and Dave McGovern third in 1:32:15. Of 34 starters 31 finished. The Women's 10 Km went to Maryanne Torrellas in 48:03 with Debbi Lawrence 20 seconds back. Canada's Pascale Grand was right on Debbi's heels in 48:25. In the National Invitational 20 Km in Washington, D.C., Paul Schwartzburg prevailed in 1:26:39. Richard Quinn, Marc Bagian, and Curtis Fisher followed in 1:31.07, 1:31.35, and 1:31.37. The Women's 10 Km went to Teresa Vaill in 47:11, 3 minutes ahead of Mary Howell.

15 years ago (From the March 1993 ORW)—The World Cup was held in Monterrey, Mexico, and the home team ignored stifling heat that brought many elite walkers to their knees to romp home in the men's competition. The Italian women had a strong team effort to win that competition. Ileana Salvador led the Italians, although finishing sixth. But with Annarita Sidoti in seventh and Elisabetta Perone in tenth, the Italians finished three points clear of China and Russia, who did not pack their teams nearly as well. China's Yan Wang won in 45:10 over Finland's Sari Essayan (45:18) and Russia's Yelena Nikolayaeva (45:22). Debbi Van Orden led the U.S. contingent with 50:22 in 44th place, two places ahead of Dana Yarbrough. The U.S. team finished 13th. Mexico, with first and third in the 10 and first, third, and fourth in the 50, finished 149 points ahead of second place Spain with Italy third in the men's competition. Daniel Garcia won the 20 in 1:24:25, 6 seconds ahead of Spain's Valentina Massana. Alberto Cruz was third for Mexico in 1:24:37, with Poland's Robert Korzeniowski fourth. Jonathan Matthews was the first U.S. walker in 41st (1:31:28). Carlos Mercenario beat Spain's Jesus Garcia at 50, 35:20 to 35:22, with German Sanchez (3:54.15) and Miguel Rodríguez (3:54.22) completing the Mexican team effort. Canada's Tim Barret was a brilliant fifth in 3:55:12. Andrzej Chylinski led the U.S. in 38th (4:17.36). The U.S. team finished 11th. ..Teresa Vaill broke the American 5 Km record as she won the Penn Relays in 21:28.17, nearly 4 seconds ahead of Debbie Lawrence's old record. Gretchen Eastler was just 19.4 seconds back. The men's 10 went to Curt Cramton in 43:31.40.

10 years ago (From the March 1998 ORW)—The Rohls cleaned up at the National Invitational in Manassas, Virginia as Michelle won the women's 10 Km in 46:55 and Mike captured the men's 20 in 1:37:06. Michelle was 47 seconds ahead of Joanne Dow at the finish, with Teresa Vaill third in 48:04. Mike had a tougher time, but vanquished 43-year-old Steve Pecinovsky by 23 seconds. Down under, Craig Barrett did a 19:54.36 to win the New Zealand 5 Km title, but Nick A hern and Dion Russell went faster in Melbourne with 19:12.92 and 19:39.62. Barrett also had 1:24.25 for 20.

5 years ago (From the March 2003 ORW)—Ben Shorey and Jolene Moore won races at the Penn Relays. Shorey going 42:10.97 for 10 Km and Moore 23:44 for 5 Km. Sean Albert trailed Shorey by 19 seconds in the men's race. Anne Favolise was 33 seconds behind Moore...Matt Boyles won the Mortland 20 Km in Yellow Springs, Ohio for the second straight year covering the distance in 1:31.33.9. In Naumburg, Germany, Melanie Seeger impressed with a 1:29.44 and Andreas Emn went 1:33.53 for 50, 2:10 ahead of Latvia's Aigars Fadejevs. Norway's Trond Nymark was third in 3:46.49.