Three National Title Races In October

October was a month for National titles, but unfortunately, the dearth of elite walkers at these races continued and master’s competitors dominated the results. One of those masters, however, was the still dominant Teresa Vaill, who, at age 45, added two more titles to bring her record total to 33 (I think; having trouble keeping track). Teresa scored walkaway wins in the 5 Km in Kingsboro, Tenn and the 1 Hour in Waltham, Mass. Tim Seaman, seemingly teetering on the brink of retirement, added what I think is his 33rd title with an easy win in the 5. The men’s 1 Hour title went to Theron Kissinger, who beat 16-year-old Matthew Forgues.

The other National was the 30 Km held in Hauppauge, N.Y. In that one, Ecuador’s Mesias Zapata was an easy winner, with Patrick Stroupe, in his first race of over 20 Km, grabbing his first U.S. National Championship while finishing second. In the women’s race, 55-year-old Debbie Topham garnered a National title while finishing second to Columbia’s Lina Cruz.

The results of these races:


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: imortland@ohiomeetings.org. Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 24th of each month.


DQ- Panseluta Geer (61), Shore AC and Mari Ryan (53), Cambridge SU. Team: 1. Maine Racewalkers


Other Results


Judges: Bill Pollinger (Chief), Ron Daniel, Maryanne Daniel, Bruce MacDonald, John Shilling, Diane Martin, Gary Westerfield.


Judges: Bill Pollinger (Chief), Ron Daniel, Maryanne Daniel, Bruce MacDonald, John Shilling, Diane Martin, Gary Westerfield.

Other Results


Judges: Bill Pollinger (Chief), Ron Daniel, Maryanne Daniel, Bruce MacDonald, John Shilling, Diane Martin, Gary Westerfield.

Other Results


Judges: Bill Pollinger (Chief), Ron Daniel, Maryanne Daniel, Bruce MacDonald, John Shilling, Diane Martin, Gary Westerfield.


Judges: Bill Pollinger (Chief), Ron Daniel, Maryanne Daniel, Bruce MacDonald, John Shilling, Diane Martin, Gary Westerfield.


Some Delightful Events For Your Racing Enjoyment

Sat. Nov. 1 or 8
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
Sun. Nov. 2
1 Hour, Kentfield, Cal., 9 am (P)
Sun. Nov. 9
5 Km, Littleton, Col., 8 am (H)
Conn. 10 Km, Clinton, CT, 10:30 am (Q)

Sat. Nov. 8
5 Km, Minneapolis (Y)
Indiana 20 Km, also 5 and 10 Km races, Indianapolis (K)

Sun. Nov. 16
10 Mile Handicap, Coney Island, Brooklyn, N.Y., 9 am (F)
Sun. Nov. 20
5 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)
Sun. Nov. 22
5 Km, Brighton, Col., 8:30 am (H)
Sun. Nov. 23
1 Hour, Pasadena, Cal., 6:45 am (R)
Sun. Dec. 13
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
Sun. Dec. 14
5 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)
Sun. Dec. 20
5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
Sat. Dec. 27
5 Km, Aurora, Col., 10 am (H)
1 Hour, Park, Texas, 7 am (O)
Fri. Jan. 2
1 Mile, Park, Texas (O)
Sat. Jan. 3
5 Km, Park, Texas, 8 am (O)
Sun. Jan. 11
50 Km, Houston, Texas (L)
Marathon and Half Marathon, Mobile, Alabama (P)

Contacts:
A-Elliott Dennman, 28 N. Locust, West Long Branch, NJ 07764
B-Daniel Koch, South Florida Racewalkers, 954-970-9634, racewalker@bellsouth.net
C-Billy McCall, 511 Lost River Road, Mazama, WA 98833
D-www.USATF.org
E-Stella Cashman, 320 East 83rd St., New York, NY 10028
F-Lon Wilson, (718)-588-0441
G-Stella Cashman, 954-970-9634, racewalker@bellsouth.net
H-Bob Carlson, 2261 Glencoe St., Denver CO 80207
I-Mike DeWitt, uwpcow@umich.edu
J-Art Klein, 324 Alta Vista, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
K-Indiana Racewalking Club, P.O. Box 1302, Indianapolis, IN 46206
L-Dave Gwyn, 6502 Briar Bayou, Houston, TX 77072
From Heel To Toe

Engle to coach Army team. Former racewalker Troy Engle has been named head coach of the men's and women's cross country and track teams at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. He leaves Division III Occidental College in Los Angeles, where he was Assistant Athletic Director and athletic department business manager, as well as track and cross country coach. He was an assistant track coach at Army in the middle '90s, and has also coached at Kansas State and Washington U. In St. Louis. He was the National Coach for Papua New Guinea from 1987 to 91, was on the staff of the US National men's team for the 1995 World Indoor Championships in Barcelona, and coached the men's team at the 1994 Pan American Racewalking Cup. Troy first emerged on the national scene in racewalking in 1982 when he finished fifth in the Indoor 2 Mile in 13:47.68. He also finished fifth in the National 40 Km that year. In 1983, when a senior at Amherst College, he finished fifth indoors again, had fourth place finishes at both 35 and 40 Km (3:34:43) and had a 20 Km best of 1:36:58. In 1984, he had his best race ever in the National 50 Km, finishing fourth in 4:18:11 and walked a 1:32:42 for 20 on the track. He finished sixth in the Olympic Trials at 50 Km (4:25:00) and eleventh at 20 (1:34:57). He gave up the sport for his coaching career after that, but has maintained contact with the sport. I'm sure he realizes that Army has a wonderful tradition in the sport from the early to mid 1960s when Ron Zinn, Akos Szekely, and Art Mark were the among the elite of U.S. walking and several others from the Army competed in walks.

Any chance of reviving that tradition Troy? ... Retirements. Russia's 1996 Olympic silver medalist and 1999 World champion at 20 Km, Ilya Markov has ended his international career. Markov has ranked in the world's top five several times in his career. He married late in August in Poland and will continue to live there. Coached by Robert Korzeniowski, he managed to qualify for the Beijing Olympics at age 36, but due to problems with breathing finished 17th there. And 1964 Olympic 50 Km silver medalist Paul Nihill walked his final race in a 5 Mile in Moulton, England in June. Nihill was a fixture on the International scene into the early '70s and has continued racing on the club level. In his final race he finished 28th in a field of 60 with a 56:16 for the 5 miles. ... World Championship standards. Qualifying standards for the 2009 World Championships have been announced. For the racewalks they are: Men's 20 Km-A 1:22:30, B 1:24:20; Men's 50 Km-A 3:58:00, B 4:09:00; Women's 20 Km-A 1:33:30, B 1:38:00. Each country is entitled to enter, two, three or four athletes per event (but only three may compete) as follows: 1, 2, or 4 athletes with an A standard; 1 athlete with the B standard and 1, 2, or 3 with the A standard. If there are no A standard athletes, each country can enter two athletes with the B standard, but only one can compete. The qualification period for the walks is from September 3 2007 to August 3 2009.
specialties; mental training and biomechanical correction, and my higher salary request. I believe their team problems in the first two areas are a direct byproduct of their drug use.

I would like to encourage any USA racewalk athletes to ignore the drug issues and focus on their own clean lives and committed training. If your only goal is to win worldwide, I think you should quit sport. I never coach athletes to win, I always coach athletes to perform at their highest level.

There are many reasons why USA athletes are not at the top of the world standings in the walk, and two of the most influential are lack of support for the sport in public and private schools and the focus on coaching racers rather than grassroots fitness walkers (using the Olympic technique). I am impressed by Ian Whatley’s plans for a major training center for walkers (see September issue). He is a great athlete and the perfect person for this project and I hope USOC and the walk community will support him and that his effort will transfer to young walkers and racewalkers for fitness.

The last point I mention, because this is in stark contrast to the top-ranked countries, is our athlete's or potential athlete's environment in and surrender to, in whatever degree, our USA culture of too often taking the easy path, too often lacking dedication because we have so many alternative opportunities to achieve satisfaction and financial earnings, and disrespect in our culture for our bodies, mind, and spiritual development. Most of the top athletes I have met in the world make their training a full lifestyle commitment, and many of these also hold jobs and are responsible family leaders, live cleanly and do not indulge in inhibiting and destructive distractions.

Your mention of Kevin Eastler shows him to be a prime example of the fully successful athlete in my personal view. He is a great athlete, he has been well-supported by his work life, and he is of strong character. He made it work, and I tip my hat to this young man personally and as a coach.

Kaniskina Enjoys New Car and Apartment

(From European Athletics website) Olympic walk champion Olga Kaniskina is being encouraged to rest her weary legs after her regional government in Mordovia awarded the 23-year-old star with a luxury car in recognition of her impressive performance in Beijing. However, Kaniskina has only ever known one kind of transport—the legs that won her gold this summer—and so, before the hard working university math student can get behind the wheel of her brand new Lexus, she will have to pass her driving test!

"It's true. I haven't really had the time to learn as I've been concentrating on my training and my studies. (Ed. See Viisha’s statement above about the problem of succumbing to the culture. Not Olga.) But with a car like this, I have an extra incentive to get her driving license. I'm certain I will start taking lessons in the coming months." said Kaniskina, who also hold the World 20 Km title from Osaka last year. "I haven't really needed a car until now as I'm used to walking everywhere", she joked.

With training slowing down post-Olympics, Kaniskina admitted that she will now have more time on her hands to study road signs rather than mathematical symbols. "I'm back in Adler (Russia's training camp for walkers on the Black Sea), but I'm only doing one training session a day, so it's a bit like a holiday as well. The weather has been nice and warm and Adler is a seaside town, so I'm recovering from my Olympic efforts", added a happy Kaniskina, who also received a three-bedroom apartment from her proud home city.

The young walker, who is based in Saransk, the venue for next year's IAAF World Racewalking Challenge final deserves a rest after a year that saw her win not only Olympic gold, but the World Cup title and the Russian Championship in a new best time of 1:25:11.

Great Scott One of the Best Walkers of All Time

by Alistair McMurrin, Otago, New Zealand Daily Times, Sept. 20

Dunedin racewalker Joe Scott was a household name in his time, becoming New Zealand's first world champion athlete and world record holder in 1888. There is a special display on Scott at the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame at the Dunedin Railway Station.

In his 700-page book, King of the Peds, (Arthur House, United Kingdom, 2008), on international professional pedestrianism during the 1870s and 1880s, author Paul Marshall devotes a chapter to Joe Scott and racewalking in Dunedin.

Pedestrianism (running and walking races) was a massive spectator sport and the big guns at that time were able to attract thousands of spectators to big indoor tracks in Britain and the United States, Marshall wrote. Scott, who was born in Ireland in 1859, came to Dunedin at a young age with his family and worked as a bookmaker. He came under the influence of Alfred Austin, an athletics handicap for the Caledonian Society, who trained him to become a professional racewalker.

Young Joe was a wonderful athlete who, under the influence of Austin, became one of the best heel-and-toe racers of all time, Marshall wrote. In 1887, Scott traveled to England and beat the walkers of Europe to win the 72-hour Champion Belt of the World at the royal Agricultural Hall in London in May 1888. There were 29 walkers in the race and Scott was prepared to hide his time and did not take the lead until the fourth day.

The early leader was Englishman Jack Hibberd, of Bethnell Green, who led the field with 70.1 miles at the end of the first day. Scott was 10 miles behind in fourth place. Racewalking was a popular sport in the Victorian age with the lucrative prize money making the contest exciting for the spectators.

Hibberd led Scott by nine miles after two days and several hundred spectators watched the New Zealander reduce the gap to six miles by the end of the third day. Public interest grew and 3000 noisy spectators saw Scott take the lead on the fourth day.

Many a hat was flung into the air to celebrate what had seemed impossible only a couple of days earlier. Scott not only took the lead but gradually pulled away from the rest of the field. At the end of the fourth day, Scott led Hibberd by nearly two miles and increased it to eight miles after the fifth day. Scott eventually won the race by covering 363 miles 1510 yards in 71.51.23. Hibberd covered 337 miles.

Scott received 100 pounds and the R. Lewis Champion Belt for winning the event. Hibbard took the runner-up purse of 25 pounds, a lot of money at the time.

Scott arrived back in New Zealand on the steamship Ruapehu and he and his trainer, Alfred Austin, were given heroes welcome at the Caledonian Sports meeting in January 1889. The Otago Witness stated that Scott wore the pedestrian costume and the silver champion belt won in England. Scott and Austin led a procession around the ground and the band played “See the Conquering Hero Comes”.

The long-distance walking races were not held on the road as they are today, but indoors and always attracted crowds of spectators. In 1975, Scott beat Australian champion William Edwards twice. In one race, the 120 pound Scott walked 25 miles around the Queens Theater in Dunedin on a track comprising 31 laps to the mile in a time of 4:47.

In 1979, Scott became the New Zealand champion after walking 106 miles in 24 hours against eight other competitors on the 22-laps-to-the-mile course at the Garrison Hall in Dunedin.
Dunedin. In 1995, he beat the visiting British champion Arthur Hancock by walking 114 miles in a 24-hour match at the Garrison Hall. When the match was delayed for a week, Scott reduced his racing weight by 114 pounds by training on the main road between Dunedin and Palmerston.

A few weeks later, Hancock did not turn up for a scheduled match race and Scott, by himself, set a world record of 17:59 for a 100-mile race at the Garrison Hall. It beat the old record by 8 minutes.

It was not easy and Scott suffered from nausea during the event. He also suffered from vomiting and diarrhea during his races. He had often had a 30-minute break during his races when he took a warm bath to ease the pain in his legs. In one 100-mile race, he suffered from severe cramp in his legs after 92 miles, but still managed to complete the race.

In 1886, Scott competed in Australia and was declared the Australian national champion. Scott married Isabella Jarvis in 1881 and the couple had five daughters and two sons. He still kept training and at weekends would get up early and walk the 15 Km to Waitati from their home in Northeast Valley and get back in time to cook the family's breakfast. He died of cancer in 1980 at the age of 49. (Ed. If the dates are correct, he started his long-distance career at the age of 16.)

**King of the Road**

Following up on the above story and on the earlier information on Sandra Brown, what better time to discuss Shaul Ladany's book, _King of the Road—From Bergen-Belsen to the Olympic Games_. The coer describes it as "The autobiography of an Israeli scientist and a world record-holding race walker". Last month we published Neil Amdu's N.Y. Times review of the book, which was first published in Hebrew in 1997 and has recently come out in English. Here is my take on the book.

This is a fascinating read for anyone who has been involved in racewalking and also for anyone who has faced and fought life's adversities and won. Most of us are aware of Shaul's many accomplishments in racewalking, primarily in events of 50 Km and longer. Here we get vivid descriptions of many of his races, along with the stories behind them, the training leading up to them, and the machinations of sporting bureaucracies that often put barriers in his path. Shaul both amazes and inspires the reader throughout the book.

Shaul is a very principled, honest, and virtuous man, both in his professional and athletic lives and has steadfastly stood by those principals whatever the cost. As a result, he has often stood against the culture of the moment and has not yielded. I'm not sure that in every case of his battles with red tape and high-handedness, I fully agree with his stance, but I always admire his unbending nature in standing for what he believes is right.

As part of his story, he sheds new light on the terrorist attack on the Israeli compound at the Munich Olympics as one who survived. Shaul also served as a reserve artillery officer in the Israeli army. His immediate response to military crises, even though he wasn't called up, speaks again of his dedication to principle.

In one case, he was in the middle of an 100 mile race in Columbia, Missouri, when he heard there was fighting in Israel. This was the beginning of the Yom Kippur War. He finished the race, received more definitive word on the situation, flew immediately back to New York where he was living at the time, and in a few hours was on a flight to Israel. He arrived there on Monday evening and by 4am on Tuesday was commanding his artillery unit somewhere in the desert, having been without sleep for about three days, 19 ½ hours of which he was walking. He hadn't been called up. He wasn't required to be there. But his own principles told him he had to be.

---

**Ohio Native Chases Fourth Straight Title**

by Tom Reed

Columbus Dispatch, Sept. 20

(Excerpts by far-and-away the longest article on our sport to ever appear in the hallowed Dispatch sports pages.)

Matt Boyles acknowledges the techniques of competitive racewalkers appear a bit peculiar to the uninitiated. Elbows pumping furiously, hips rolling penguen-like, strides taken on stiffened legs. It's like watching the awkward gait of kids who have been told not to run around the pool.

"If you haven't seen it before, you would think it looks ridiculous", Boyles said. "Some say it's a duck walk. I've also heard it described as guys trying to run with two broken legs."

Appearance aside, Boyles's stride has taken the 25-year-old Rio Grande resident around the world. He finished runner-up in the 20 and 50-kilometer races in the U.S. Olympic Trials, and on Sunday he will defend his New Albany Walking Classic title. Boyles has won the 10-km race in each of its first three years. Boyles won last year's race by more than 11 minutes, covering the distance in 43:42.

A converted middle-distance runner, Boyles said it took him more than a month to grasp the techniques after he started racewalking as a college freshman at Rio Grande U. in 2001. He competed in running and walking events.

At first, his family wasn't sure what to think. "My grandfather said 'You're not giving up running just to walk, are you?'" Boyles said. As he accelerated through the ranks with the help of coach Vince Peters, the Boyles clan gained an appreciation for the sport. In peak training he logged more than 100 miles per week, taking off only Sundays.

"Matt has really good flexibility and that's key", Peters said. "Most distance runners have tight hips, but he has the flexibility of athletes who compete in field events."

Despite his two second-place finishes in U.S. trials, Boyles failed to qualify for Beijing because he didn't meet the Olympic standard times in either the 20 or 50. "I think Matt became the first American walker to finish second at the trials in both events and not make it", Peters said. "It was definitely disappointing."

Boyles, who runs a small business and coaches cross country at Rio Grande, isn't sure if he will try out for the 2012 Olympics. He plans to keep walking competitively, however, and trying to raise the sports profile. "I never dreamed walking would take a kid..."
from rural Ohio so far”, Boyles said. (As reported last month, Matt won the New Albany race again in a rather pedestrian, for him, 45:04.)

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the Sept.-Oct 1963 Race Walker edited by Chris McCarthy. (This issue was published very late, since it covered results from September through December. This was issue No. 30 of the publication Chris started in February 1961. I think it was the last “fancy” issue, i.e. with a cover and some photos. I do not seem to have issues 31 and 32, but do have 33, published in the Spring of 1964, and that was the final issue. Nearly a year later (March 1965) the Race Walker began to fill the void left when Chris turned his attention fully to his 50 km efforts--he won the Olympic Trials and was the first U.S. finisher in the Tokyo Olympics in Oct. 1964--and then to other matters entirely.)--In the second Lugano Cup competition (now World Cup), Great Britain’s Ken Matthews and Hungary’s Istvan Havasi were the individual winners and Great Britain was a walk-away winner of the team title. Matthews decimated the field in the 20 Km winning in 1:30:10 with his teammate Paul Nihill more than 3 minutes back in second. Antal Kiss of Hungary was third. Havasi won the 50 in 4:14:24, nearly 3 minutes ahead of Great Britain’s Ray Middleton. Great Britain led the team battle in both races and totaled 93 points to second-place Hungary’s 64. Sweden and Italy followed. The U.S. did not send a team... In domestic races, Ron Zinn won a 15 Km in Massachusetts in 74:38 with Paul Schell second; Bruce Macdonald won a 50 on Staten Island in 4:58:17, with Schell again second some 18 minutes back; Martin Rudow went 6 miles 1500 yards in an hour to beat Ed Gander in Seattle; and Rudow also won a 4 mile from Gander with a 32:35 effort in Issaquah, Washington.

40 Years Ago (From the October 1968 ORW)-The Mexico Olympics saw an excellent performance by the U.S. racewalking contingent. In the 20 Km, Soviet ace Vladimir Golubichy won his second Olympic gold medal in 1:33:59 (at 7000 feet altitude in a smoggy city), holding off local favorite Jose Pedraza, who finished in a near flat-out run in 1:34:00 to the cheers of his countrymen and consternation of the judges, who apparently feared for their heads. Nikola Smaga, USSR, was third in 1:24:03 and Rudy Haluza a brilliant fourth for the U.S. in 1:35:01. Tom Dooley was 17th in 1:40:08 and a sick Ron Laird 25th. At 50, East Germany’s Christoph Hohne was unchallenged as he overcame altitude and extreme heat to win by 10 minutes in 4:20:14. Antal Kiss of Hungary was second and Larry Young third in a gusty 4:31:56 for the U.S. Eighth at the mid-point, Larry was able to hold his pace and move through the field over the second half. Goetz Klopfer passed three men in the final 5 Km to take 10th in 4:39:14. Dave Romansky, also sick, was a distant 26th, but refused to stop with every excuse to do so.

35 Years Ago (From the October 1973 ORW)-With Hans-Georg Reiman and Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller taking one-two at 20 Km, East Germany swept to victory in the Lugano (World) Cup. That performance gave them a nine-point edge on the USSR, which held up through a strong Soviet performance in the 50 for a final four-point margin. Italy was third, West Germany fourth and the U.S. fifth in a best-ever performance. Ron Laird outscored Nikolai Smaga to capture his second Lugano bronze in 1:20:45. With Todd Scully seventh in 1:32:23 and Jerry Brown 14th in 1:34:05, the U.S. was third after the 20. The 50 went to West Germany’s Olympic champion, Bernd Kannenberg, in 3:56:51, with Otto Bartsch (USSR) and Christoph Hohne close behind. For the U.S. John Knifton had a 4:16:49 in 14th, Floyd Godwin 4:23:48 in 20th, and Bill Weigle 4:28:40 in 24th... East Germany also captured the Lugano-Chiasi Relay, an annual affair in Switzerland. The U.S. was sixth in this one as Ron Laird ran into stomach problems on the first leg, and, after spending much time in the bushes, struggled in 16 minutes behind the leaders... Shaul Ladany won the 100 miler in Columbia, Missouri in 19:38:26 with Chuck Hunter, John Markon, and John Argo also going all the way. Jerry Brown captured the National 30 Km in Columbia, his third championship of the year, finishing in 2:28:12. Floyd Godwin was a minute and a half back, and promising newcomer, Dan O’Connor, edged Augie Hirt for third, another 10 minutes back... The day before that race, Ellen Minkow won the women’s National 10 Km title, also in Columbia, in 56:19.

30 Years Ago (From the October 1978 ORW)-Alan Price won the National 100 miler in record time--18:57:01--with Paul Hendrickds second in 19:10:37. The race saw a record 10 finishers, including the first woman Centurion in this country, Elsie McGarvey, who finished in 22:52:31. Leonard Busen and Bob Chapin joined the two leaders in finishing under 20 hours... The U.S. defeated Canada in a dual meet, which included races at 10 and 30 Km. Winners were Jim Heiring, U.S., in 44:44 and Marcel Jobin, Canada, in 2:19:33... Neal Fiske set an American 1 Hour record in San Francisco covering 8 mi 1081 yards, 335 yards better than Ron Laird’s previous record.

25 Years Ago (From the October 1983 ORW)-In World Cup competition in Bergen, Norway, The USSR men and Chinese women prevailed. The Chinese women edged the Soviets by 2 points in the 10 Km race with Yuan Ju Xi taking individual honors in 45:14. Maryanne Torells led the U.S. with a 47:52 in 16th as the team finished eighth. Czech Josef Pribline beat Mexico’s Ernest Canto by 11 seconds in 1:19:30 to win the 20. Jim Heiring had 1:24:51 in 16th. Mexico’s Raul Gonzalez took command of the 50 early and drew steadily away to win in 3:45:37. Dan O’Connor was 18th in 4:09:50 as the U.S. team finished ninth. The Soviets had a third in the 20 and second in the 50 and finished well ahead of Mexico and Italy in the team race... Gonzalez also won the Alongi Memorial 20 Km in Dearborn, Michigan a week later in 1:27:55 with Carl Schueler second in 1:29:05.

20 Years Ago (From the October 1988 ORW)-Veteran walkers dominated the Seoul Olympics. In the 20, Josef Pribline, 1983 World Champion, blistered the final 5 in 19:18 to edge East Germany’s Ronald Weigel with 1:19:57. Weigel was just 3 seconds back. 1980 Olympic gold medalist Maurizio Damilano was third in 1:20:14. Gary Morgan had a personal best of 1:27:26 in finishing 37th, just 4 seconds ahead of Jim Heiring. In the 50, Soviet Vyacheslav Ivanenko emerged from the shadow of East Germany’s Hartwig Gauder and Weigel to take the gold in 3:38:29. He discouraged the veteran pair with a 20:39 split from 35 to 40 Km and then pulled away over the final 10. Weigel finished in 3:38:56 and Gauder in 3:39:45. Marco Evnokov, only 40 seconds off the pace at 30 Km, hung on for 22nd in 3:56:55, with Carl Schueler 23rd in 3:57:44... Canada’s Tim Berrett won the Alongi 20 Km in 1:25:09 with Giorgio Damilano (Maurizio’s brother) second in 1:27:30.

15 Years Ago (From the October 1993 ORW)-Italy’s Ammanita Sidoti and Mexico’s Bernardo Segura were winners of the Alongi Memorial races in Dearborn. Sidoti took the women’s 10 Km in 46:06 ahead of Debora Van Orden (46:52) and Lynda Brubaker (47:46). Though unchallenged, Segura blasted the 20 in 1:21:55 with Italy’s Giovanni Perricelli a distant second in 1:27:09. Gary Morgan was the first U.S. finisher with a 1:29:31 in sixth... Czech Ivo Majetic, a student at the U. Of Houston, won a 100 miler race in Xenia, Ohio in 18:32:24. Alan Price was second in 21:03:07 and Bob Keating third in 22:01:46... Herr Nelson won the National 2 Hour in Cambridge, Mass., covering 16 miles 182 yards to Gary Morgan’s 15 miles 905. In the Women’s 1 Hour, Gretchen Easler won the title with 11,165 meters, but...
Canada's Pascale Grand won the race with 12,223 meters. (I'm not sure why one race was reported in English units and the other in metric, but I didn't bother to put them both in the same units then, nor will I now.)

10 Years Ago (From the October 1998 ORW) - Joanne Dow won the Pan-Am Cup women's 20 Km in 1:38:57, ahead of Teresa Vaill (1:41:02) and Mexicans Rosario Sanchez (1:42:22) and Aura Morales (1:43:03). Mexican men swept the medals in the men's 20, with Ignacio Zamudio winning in 1:28:33. Canada's Arturo Heurta was fourth, with Curt Clausen the first American at 1:37:11 in tenth. Mexico also swept the 50 - Carlos Mercenario winning in 4:06:38. Philip Dunn was fourth in 4:25:30. In the National 40, Gary Moran (3:21:37) and Cheryl Rellinger (3:40:38 captured the titles. Philip Dunn followed Morgan in 3:22:38. Rellinger was 32 minutes ahead of second-place Dorit Attias. Herm Nelson won the National 2 Hour going 23,694 meters and Gretchen Eastler-Fishman the women's 1 Hour with 11,656 meters.

5 Years Ago (From the October 2003 ORW) - Curt Clausen won his sixth U.S. 50 Km title in Hauppauge, N.Y. as he eased to a 4:29:32. Gary Morgan was second in 4:36:31 and Ben Shorey third in 4:37:43. Cheryl Rellinger won an accompanying women's 50 in 5:38:09. 20 Km races at the same site went to Dave McGovern in 1:31:51 and Teresa Vaill in 1:38:34.

A happy couple does Beijing. With the Bird's Nest in the background, John and Kati Kelly beam with the pleasure of their experience, John, Irish Olympian at 50 Km, conqueror of Death Valley in record time, marathon runner, hammer thrower, boxer, and a memorable, friendly competitor back in "our" day. Kati, classmate of your editor in the Upper Arlington Class of 1953, racewalker, Torch bearer in the relay to Atlanta in 1996, and a great lady.

The emotions of Olympic gold—joy, relief, thanks. Italy's Alex Schwazer (top) and Russia's Olga Kamiskina (bottom) react to their Olympic gold medal performances at 50 and 20 Km, respectively.