As we enter a new year, may joy bless our lives, may compassion fill our hearts, and my peace and understanding spread through all the world. We wish you a Happy New Year.

World and U.S. Rankings

I suppose not all the world has been waiting with bated breath for the Ohio Racewalker's Annual Rankings, 40th edition, but I hope that some few of you have been panting in eager anticipation. So the moment has nearly arrived. But, first some explanation.

Late in 1970, I received a communication from Bob Bowman that, surprisingly, Track & Field News had seen the light and was adding the 20 and 50 Km racewalks to their annual World Rankings for track and field events. Bob was asking England's Colin Young and me to lend our supposed expertise on racewalking to his in coming up with rankings for the racewalks. T&FN's panel of experts had little knowledge of and probably little interest in these events. I accepted the invitation, as did Colin, and through our consensus, which wasn't too difficult to reach, we gave the "bible" of track and field what it wanted. And we continue to do so, with Ireland's Pierce O'Callaghan replacing Colin in 2002.

Back there in 1970, I decided to publish the rankings I had sent to Bob in my own humble newsletter, then in its sixth year. In the process, I would scoop T&FN since my year end issue preceded theirs. Of course, as is still true, my own rankings differ to some degree from the consensus of three great minds. Somewhere along the way, T&FN started publishing their rankings earlier, no doubt disturbed by the fact the prestigious ORW was beating them onto the streets, but so be it.

In 1972, I added U.S. Rankings and in 1979 Women's Rankings, both world and U.S. Prior to 1979, it was not the ORW that was being sexist, but the racewalking world itself. We supported women's racewalking in our pages and included it in the Ohio Track Club's annual Distance Carnival, but there simply was not sufficient activity to justify any ranking prior to 1979. The first Women's Rankings were at 5 and 10 Km, the primary competitive distances for many years. After 1985, we ranked only the 10Km as international competition at that distance proliferated and significant activity at 5 Km waned. In 1999, the Women's Rankings shifted to 20 Km when that became the distance for international competitions. Should there ever be a significant increase in women's competition at 50 K we will gladly add that event to the rankings.

The ORW Rankings are based strictly on the opinion of your editor; arbitrary, but with close attention to the year's entire performance for each athlete. All gripes are accepted, but once in type, the rankings are most unlikely to change. And, thus, let's get on with the show.
DECEMBER 2009

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 matter to: Ohio Racewalker, 3184 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43202. E-mail address is: jmortlan@ohio-mole.com. Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 24th of each month.

2005 World 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Olga Kaniskina, Russia
   1:24:56 (1) Adler 2/28
   1:28:00 (1) Wuxi 4/18
   1:28:09 (1) World Champ. 8/16

2. Olesya Kirdyapkina, Russia
   DQ Rio Maior 4/4
   DQ Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
   1:35:42 (4) Euro Cup 5/24
   1:30:35 (5) World Champ. 8/16

3. Hong Liu, China
   1:30:01 (3) Wuxi 4/18
   1:32:45 (8) La Coruna 6/20
   1:29:10 (3) World Champ. 8/16
   1:28:11 (1) China Games 10/24

4. Anisyia Kirdyapkina, Russia
   1:25:26 (3) Adler 2/28
   1:33:28 (2) Euro Cup 5/24
   1:30:09 (4) World Champ. 8/16

5. Kjersti Platzer, Norway
   1:33:34 (1) Chihuahua 3/14
   1:30:35 (1) Rio Maior 4/4
   1:28:50 (1) Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
   1:30:56 (2) La Coruna 6/20
   DQ World Champ. 8/16

6. Vera Santos, Portugal
   1:28:03 (3) Japanese Champ. 1/25
   1:30:49 (1) Nomi 3/15
   1:32:45 (8) Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
   1:31:42 (2) World Univ. Games 7/12
   1:31:15 (7) World Champ. 8/16

7. Beatriz Pascual, Portugal
   1:28:54 (4) Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
   1:35:28 (6) Euro Cup 5/24
   1:32:44 (7) La Coruna 6/20
   1:30:40 (6) World Champ. 8/16

8. Masumi Fuchise, Japan
   1:30:25 (5) World Champ. 8/16

9. Kristina Sultanovic, Lithuania
   1:31:26 (4) Rio Maior 4/4
   DNF Sesto San Giovanni
   1:34:17 (4) Euro Cup 5/24
   1:31:29 (4) La Coruna 6/20
   1:31:23 (8) World Champ. 8/16

10. Elisa Riguaudo, Italy
    1:35:41 (2) Chihuahua 3/14
    1:29:04 (3) Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
    1:33:49 (3) Dublin 6/28
    1:31:52 (9) World Champ. 8/16

Despite all the races, the World Championship race turned out to be decisive. Finishes in other races only seem to reinforce the World Championship outcome. Thus, the only deviation was the placing of Kjersti Platzer in fifth, despite her DQ in the Worlds. She had too many good races in which she beat ranking walkers to be left out. Just missing becoming a ranked walker was Germany’s Sabine Krants (nee Zimmer) who beat Platzer at La Coruna.

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and finished a close second to the Norwegian at Sesto San Giovanni. However, she was disqualified at the Euro Cup and did not finish at the World Championships, the two major races. Russia’s Vera Sokolova, who had the year’s second best time in finishing second to Kaniskina at Adler and who also won the Russian Championships in 1:27:33, managed only 1:28:11 at the Euro Cup and 1:27:31 at the World Championships.

2009 Top 50 Performers

1. Valeriy Borchik, Russia
   1:17:38 (1) Adler 2/28
   1:20:10 (4) Wuxi 4/18
   1:21:15 (4) La Coruna 6/20
   1:18:13 (1) China Games 11/22

2. Hao Wang, China
   1:19:27 (1) Rio Maior 4/4
   1:20:10 (4) Wuxi 4/18
   1:21:15 (4) La Coruna 6/20
   1:18:13 (1) China Games 11/22

3. Eder Sanchez, Mexico
   1:21:21 (1) Chihuahua 3/14
   1:19:35 (2) Wuxi 4/18
   1:20:30 (3) La Coruna 6/20
   1:19:22 (3) World Champ. 8/15

4. Giorgio Rubino, Italy
   1:19:37 (2) Rio Maior 4/4
   1:23:42 (5) Sesto San Giovanni 5/1
   1:24:06 (1) Euro Cup 5/24
   1:22:34 (2) Medit. Games 6/30
   1:19:50 (4) World Champ. 8/15

5. Vera Santos, Portugal
   1:24:56 Olga Kaniskina, Russia
   1:25:26 Vera Sokolova, Russia
   1:25:26 Antsya Kirdyapkina, Russia
   1:25:32 Yelena Shumkinia, Russia
   1:25:52 Larisa Emelyanova, Russia
   1:27:11 Lyudmila Arkhipova, Russia
   1:28:03 Masumi Fuchise, Japan
   1:28:11 Hong Liu, China
   1:28:49 Mayumi Kawaski, Japan
   1:28:57 Yanfei Li, China
   1:28:57 Yang Jiang, China
   1:30:03 Elisa Riguaudo, Italy
   1:30:17 Yanmin Bo, China
   1:30:23 Tatyana Shemyakina, Russia
   1:30:37 Vera Santos, Portugal
   1:30:39 Sachiko Konishi, Japan
   1:30:44 Cheryl Webb, Australia
   1:30:54 Beatriz Pascual, Portugal
   1:30:54 Shanshan Wang, China
   1:31:07 Claudia Stefi, Romania
   1:31:16 Ekatarina Erhova, Russia
   1:31:16 Johanna Jackson, Great Britain
   1:31:23 Kristina Sultanovic, Lithuania
   1:31:33 Evdokyla Korotkova, Russia
   1:31:35 Tatiana Korotkova, Russia
   1:31:37 Susana Feitor, Portugal
   1:31:40 Mingxin Yang, China
   1:31:42 Kumi Otsuki, Japan
   1:31:49 Kang Zhou, China
   1:31:59 Okana Chebenko-Yankovskaya, Russ
   1:32:05 Tatyana Sibileva, Russia
   1:32:08 Brigitta Virbalyte, Lithuania
   1:32:09 Dan He, China
   1:32:12 Claire Tallent, Australia
   1:32:19 Li Li, China
   1:32:21 Xue Shi, China
   1:32:33 Yang Shi, China
   1:32:36 Marie Polli, Switzerland
   1:32:39 Antonina Petron, Russia
   1:32:39 Lina Bikolova, Russia
Jiai Li and Yafei Zhu are close to Toth for tenth spot, but Chu, who won at Worlds off his win in a fast time over several ranked walkers at Sesto San Giovanni. China's win at Sesto San Giovanni. We place Fernandez ninth, despite his failure to finish at the Here too the World Championship race pretty much decided the rankings. It was very tight for the number two spot. Sanchez beat Wang twice by convincing margins in races leading up to the Worlds. But Wang prevailed in the most important race and also had an impressive win at Sesto San Giovanni. We place Fernandez ninth, despite his failure to finish at the Worlds off his win in a fast time over several ranked walkers at Sesto San Giovanni. China's Jiai Li and Yafei Zhu are close to Toth for tenth spot, but Chu, who won at La Coruna in 1:19:51 was only 13th in the Worlds and Li with a couple of tunes under 1:20 did not compete at the Worlds or in any of the European races.

### 2009 Top 50 Performers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sergey Kirdyapkin, Russia</td>
<td>3:44:39 (5) World Champ. 8/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jesus Angel Garcia, Spain</td>
<td>3:41:16 (2) World Champ. 8/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia</td>
<td>3:40:12 Yuki Yamazaki, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Grzegorz Sudol, Poland</td>
<td>3:42:34 (4) World Champ. 8/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Jared Tallent, Australia</td>
<td>3:41:20 Chengliang Zhao, China</td>
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</table>

The first four are ranked as they finished in the World Championships. Jared Tallent faded to seventh in the latter stages of the World Championship race, but in November walked a brilliant race in deplorable conditions to take the fifth spot. The only other deviation from the World Championships finish places is Denis Nizhegorodov in seventh off his decisive win over Garcia in the Euro Cup. Others considered were Yohan Diniz, France, who had the world's second fastest time for the year but finished only twelfth in the Worlds; Matej Toth of Slovakia, tenth in the Worlds, and China's Chengliang Zhao, who won the Challenge race in China early in the year and walked 3:40:33 late in the year, but finished only fifteenth in the Worlds.

### 2009 Top 50 Performers

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<td>3:41:20 Chengliang Zhao, China</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2009 U.S. 20 Km Rankings—Men

1. Tim Seaman
   1:26:15 (1) Santee 2/11
   1:28:04 (2) Am. Cup Trials 3/29
   1:41:22 (22) Amer. Cup 5/1

2. Patrick Stroupe
   1:27:35 (1) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29
   1:31:00 (14) Amer. Cup 5/1
   1:26:42 (3) USAFT Nat. 6/28

3. Ben Shorey
   1:28:47 (1) Kenosha 5/17
   1:27:18 (3) USAFT Nat. 6/28

4. John Nunn
   1:27:43 (4) USAFT Nat. 6/28

Close choice for first as Stroupe beat Seaman two out of three, but Tim won the most important race, the National title, and had the fastest time. The next five rank as they place at the Nationals. Young Trevor Barron earned the next slot with his superb performance (he was just 16 at the time) in his first race at 20 Km. Theron Kissinger with his eighth place in the Nationals takes the ninth slot from Philip Dunn, who was slightly faster than elder statesmen Jonathan Matthews and Allen James as each walked only one race at the distance.

2009 List of Top Performers

1. Tim Seaman
   1:26:15
   1:28:04
   1:41:22
   1:26:15 (1) USAFT Nat. 6/28

2. Patrick Stroupe
   1:27:35
   1:31:00
   1:27:35 (1) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29

3. Ben Shorey
   1:28:47
   1:27:18
   1:28:47 (1) Kenosha 5/17

4. John Nunn
   1:41:38
   1:27:43

5. Stephen Quirke
   1:30:25
   1:29:41
   1:30:25 (3) Kenosha 5/17

6. Stephen Quirke
   1:29:41
   1:32:50
   1:30:25 (3) Kenosha 5/17

7. Chris Tegtmeier
   1:32:50
   1:34:12
   1:32:50 (7) USAFT Nat. 6/28

8. Trevor Barron
   1:37:47
   1:34:12
   1:37:47 (2) Santee 2/11

9. Trevor Barron
   1:40:32
   1:34:12
   1:40:32 (8) USAFT Nat. 6/28

10. Philip Dunn
    1:39:11
    1:40:32

2009 U.S. 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Teresa Vaill
   1:37:13 (1) USAFT Nat. 6/27
   1:40:00 (2) USAFT Nat. 6/27

2. Joanne Dow
   1:46:03 (1) Kenosha 5/17
   1:47:01 (1) Kenosha 5/17

3. Maria Michal
   1:50:21 (14) Amer. Cup 5/1
   1:45:39 (4) USAFT Nat. 6/27

4. Miranda Melville
   1:41:17 (3) USAFT Nat. 6/27
   1:45:39 (4) USAFT Nat. 6/27

5. Solomiya Login
   1:48:43 (1) Santee 2/11
   1:51:47 (3) Amer. Cup 3/29

6. Erin Taylor
   1:51:37 (4) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29
   1:51:37 (4) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29

7. Susan Randall
   1:48:43 (1) Santee 2/11
   1:51:47 (3) Amer. Cup 3/29

8. Le'erin Voss
   1:50:21 (14) Amer. Cup 5/1
   1:50:21 (14) Amer. Cup 5/1

9. Margaret Ditchburn
   1:54:15 (5) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29
   1:54:15 (5) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29

10. Kina Cruz
    2:01:46 (6) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29
    2:01:46 (6) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29

2009 U.S. 50 Km Rankings

There were three 50 Km races in the U.S. in 2009 but just a total of four finishers. So the list and the rankings are as follows.

1. Philip Dunn
   4:28:53
   5:04:32
   4:28:53 (4) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29

2. Theron Kissinger
   4:28:53
   5:04:32
   4:28:53 (4) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29

3. Albert Medina
   5:04:32
   4:28:53
   5:04:32 (4) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29

4. Doug Johnson
   5:04:32
   4:28:53
   5:04:32 (4) Amer. Cup Trial 3/29

Dunn and Kissinger were one-two in the National 50 Km in February. Medina walked a race in Houston in January and Johnson a race in Minneapolis in October. The only other year we were unable to rank the top ten was in 1997 when only seven walkers finished a 50. But at least they were all under 5 hours. Is the race fast fading into oblivion in the U.S.? As early as
1972 there were 20 U.S. walkers under 5 hours and from 1977 through 1993 there were always at least a dozen and as many as 32. And there were always many others completing a 50. We shall who turns up for the National 50 in February. And we didn’t mention above the dearth of women walking the 20. There, we were barely able to rank ten and to have only under two hours is unprecedented. This is a very sudden drop off in participation. Just last year we listed 18 under 1:53 and in 2007 we had 24 under 1:59. Even in 1999, the first year the 20 Km became the official international distance for women, we had 20 under 2 hours. And of course, the 20 Km list for this year is a bit pathetic. Where have all the walkers gone?

And now, some results:


Travel Here (and Here, and Here) In Your Racing Gear


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B-Daniel Koch, South Florida Racewalkers, 954-970-9634, racewalker@bellsouth.net
C-Bev McCall, 511 Lost River Road, Mazama, WA 98833
D-www.USATF.org
2009 USA Championships and Racewalking Grand Prix Schedule

Jan. 1 National Indoor 1 Mile, New York City
Feb. 7 National 50 Km, Surprise, Arizona
Feb. 27 National Indoor 3000 m women and 5000 m men, Albuquerque, N.M.
April 11 World Cup 20 Km Trials, Ronkonkoma, N.Y.
June 5 National 10 Km, Albany, N.Y.
June 24-27 National 20 Km men and women, Des Moines, Iowa
Aug. 15 National 15 Km, Minneapolis, Minn.
Sept. 12 National 40 Km, Ocean Township, N.J.
Oct. 3 National 1 Hour, Waltham, Mass.
Oct. 5 National 5 Km, Kingsport, Tenn.
Oct. 24 National 30 Km, Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

Juniors
April 11 World Cup 10 Km Trials
April 24 Penn Relays 10,000 m men, 50000 women, Philadelphia
June 5 National 10 Km, Albany, N.Y.
June 26-27 National 10,000 meters, Des Moines, Iowa
Aug. 15 National 15 Km, Minneapolis
Oct. 3 National 1 Hour, Waltham, Mass.
Oct. 9 National 15 Km, Kingsport, Tenn.
Oct. 24 National 20 Km, Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

Masters
Feb. 7 National 50 Km, Surprise, Arizona

From Heel To Toe

Millrose Games. One of the featured events in the 103rd annual Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden in New York City on Friday, January 29 is the USATF National Indoor 1 Mile Championship for men and women. The fields will be limited to ten athletes in each race. Eligibility requirements for men are a sub 7-minute mile, sub 13:25 for 3000 meters, or sub 22:30 for 5000 meters, and for women sub 7:55, 15:10, or 26:00. For information on requesting entry, contact National Chairman Vince Peters at mvtec@sbcglobal.net.

2009 Ron Zinn Awards. USATF announces that Tim Seaman and Teresa Vaill have been named the 2009 recipients of the Captain Ron Zinn award. The award is presented annually to the top U.S. male and female racewalkers to commemorate the achievements of Zinn, who lost his life in combat during the Vietnam War in 1965. Ron was a member of the 1964 U.S. Olympic Team where he finished sixth in the 20 Km racewalk. (Your editor was honored to room with Ron both in Tokyo and on a three-week tour with the U.S. National T&F team in 1961). Seaman, originally from Long Island now resides in San Diego and represents the New York AC. He is a two-time Olympian. During 2009, he won the USATF outdoor 20 Km and dominated on the USA Racewalk Grand Prix. Tim has won 41 U.S. racewalking titles through the years. Teresa Vaill lives in Tallahassee, Florida and represents Walk USA. She is a 2004 Olympian and winner of both the USATF 20 Km title and the overall Grand Prix standings for women. Vaill has 37 U.S. titles to her credit, starting in 1984. ... Henry Laskau Awards. USATF also announces that Trevor Barron and Allison Chiu have been named the 2009 recipients of the Henry Laskau award, presented annually to the top Junior (19 and younger) walkers in the U.S. Both are 17 years old. Laskau was a 42-time national champion in the 1940s and 1950s and a three-time Olympian. Barron represents the South Park TC in Pittsford and Chiu the Miami Valley TC in the Dayton, Ohio area. Both won the major racewalk competitions for juniors—both the American Racewalk Council Trials and USATF Junior nationals. Barron finished fourth in the IAAF World Youth Championships 10 Km with an American Junior record time and broke two other junior records during the season. ... Mike Ribban Awards. The Mike Ribban Award for outstanding individual contributor was awarded to Jeff Salvage from Philadelphia. Mike Ribban was a long-time coach, official, and racewalk promoter in the Chicago area in the middle of the 1900s. Salvage, a race organizer, photographer, and writer, has tirelessly contributed to racewalking through his coverage of national and international competitions and production of numerous books on coaching racewalking. The Mike Ribban Award for outstanding contributions by an association goes to the South Texas Association. South Texas has strongly supported the Junior Racewalking Camp and conducted the Americas Racewalk Challenge.
races over the years and is also one Russia’s top racewalking training centers. The date of the 2012 competition has not been set. Taicang, China, which had also bid on the 2012 Cup, has been given the possibility of hosting in 2014, pending confirmation of Chinese authorities. Located close to Shanghai, this harbor city has hosted previous editions of the Racewalk Challenge.

New book on technique analysis. A new book by Jeff Salvage and Bob Seaman, Looking at the Best, is now available through www.racewalk.com. The authors provide a detailed analysis of racewalking technique through high-resolution, high-speed photography and computer software to arrive at detailed measurements of the body motions comprising ideal racewalking technique. The analysis includes 13 of the world’s elite racewalkers in competition showing every phase of the athlete’s stride. As we know, pushing themselves to world-class speed requires a visible “flight phase”, detected by high-speed photography, but not by the human eye. (Ed. I know that statement raises the hackles of some, but we won’t get into that discussion now.) From their analysis, the authors look at what is the ideal duration of the flight phase as well as the distance traveled during loss of contact; step length, step length’s ratio related to height; the front vs. back distribution of the step; angles between the feet and the ground at various points of the stride, angles of the arms with relation to the body; maximum height of the knee of foot during the stride; pelvic and torso displacement; points in the stride where various actions take place, such as the foot becoming parallel with the ground or the support leg flexing; and body lean. The book is available in full color or black and white.

What is Shaul up to? Every year, we get Shaul Ladany’s holiday letter from Israel telling us of his adventures in ultra-distance walking for the previous 12 months. Always fascinating and worth repeating. Shaul was on the 1972 Israeli Olympic team and won several U.S. titles at 75 and 100 Km when he resided here in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s. So here is what Shaul has been up to since last report. In January, I racewalked the Tiberias Marathon and the Marathon segment of the Israeli Ironman Triathlon in Eliat. In March, we were pleased to host Sue Clements from England (who won a few years ago racewalking the approximate 140 miles Union Canal running competition in the U.K.). She walked with us the 65 Km Lake Tiberias circuit I organize, followed by the Givat HaMore march the next morning, and the following week the Gilboa MLL march (which I walked back and forth.) In between these two events, she participated in the Jerusalem half-marathon, trained with me on the Arad-Massada and back 44 Km long and 1,000 meter altitude difference circuit (where jokers tell that the first landing on the moon was filmed), as well as on my training circuit in Omer, and at my friend Amos’s training circuit in Cesarea, all this in a span of eight days. At the end of May, I completed for the ninth consecutive time the strenuous four-day Paris-Tubize (Brussels) walk relatively easy. Still, this is a grueling event. The summer routine was slightly extended, since every seventh year, it is possible to squeeze in the Appeldoorn event. Hence, this year, the sequence consisted of the 300 Km, seven-day Schlösswig-Viborg (Denmark), the 160 Km Apeldoorn four-day march, the 162 Km, four-day Nijmegen (Holland) marches (for the nineteenth time), mountain training around Zermatt (Switzerland) with climbs to above 3000 meters altitude, followed by the Austrian mountain walks consisting of the 120 Km, three-day event in Kitzbühel, the 173 Km, four-day walk in Tnpplitz, and ending with the three-day march in Moeding. These were an enjoyable 1400 km during our seven week outing in Europe. In Europe, I tripped only twice, injuring my knee on the second day in Appeldoorn, and on the second day in Moeding, injuring both knees and hands. But, luckily I survived injury free the October bicycle event—in which I walked along the Lake Tiberias 65 km circuit. (Where last year I was seriously injured from bikes knocking me to the ground.) Three weeks earlier I was at the Lake Tiberias (“Kinneret”) swim. This was my 49th completion of the 4.2 km “long route” swim, without any preparation since last year’s participation in the same event.

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Recently I walked a few 10 Km events, the best result, achieved on a hilly course, but in good weather, in Tivon in a time of 1:07...

Ward Honored by NARI

The governing Board of the North American Racewalking Institute (NARI) has announced that its youth development fund will now be known as the Elaine Ward Youth Racewalking Development Fund. The fund is earmarked for assisting youth in their development as racewalkers toward both national and international success. NARI is the original philanthropic arm of the North American Racewalking Foundation (NARF) founded in 1956 by Elaine. Many individuals and groups have learned to racewalk as a result of the numerous books, tapes, and internet web pages produced and/or sponsored by NARF. Thousands of athletes have been touched in one way or another by the funding offered by NARI. The NARI Board notes that the great judgement and common sense approach offered by Elaine to developing youngsters and oldsters alike worldwide have helped this athletic endeavor become known as the one track and field and long distance event that is more closely related to what roughly 7 billion people worldwide do every day. Furthermore, the Board feels that those touched by Elaine’s labor of love have become fit and healthier, while others have moved even higher on the fitness scale to become Olympians in the racewalking events.

Allen James, 1996 Olympian and winner of 15 U.S. racewalking titles, offers this assessment of Elaine’s efforts:

“I owe much of my initial success to Elaine. Moving to Southern California in 1989, I began to race at the events that Elaine and others conducted. If we needed a race for a qualifying time, she’s put one on with usually 10 or more participants. I had a vision for U.S. walkers to begin to compete more in Europe after the 1991 season. Grabbing the bull by the horns, Elaine started selling tickets to some items she managed to come up with. In May of 1992, I was off the Bergen, Norway to compete in the fastest walk competition in the world. While I had a very disappointing race (DNF), it was a huge springboard for me not only seeing some world records being set, but also the contacts I needed to propel my next four years of success. It was Elaine’s fund raising efforts that paid for my trip.”

And Bob Bowman, a national class walker in an earlier era and former Chair of the IAAF Racewalking Committee (still a member of that international body), notes: “From a very humble beginning, Elaine has reached countless people with the benefits and rewards of this great athletic event. She overcame many challenges to further the goals of NARF and has done so in a most unselfish manner. It has been my honor and pleasure to have known her and to be counted as her friend and colleague.”

LOOKING BACK

40 Years Ago (From the December 1969 ORW) — The ORW presented a Man of the Decade Award to Charlie Silcock, who did so much to promote the sport in those years, and Walker of the Decade Award to Ron Laird. Ron Laird, Rudy Haluza, and Larry Young ranked behind Laird for the latter award. Goetz Klopfer did 20 Km in 1:32:24 on a San Francisco track.

35 Years Ago (From the December 1974 ORW) — Jack Boitano, the National Racewalking President of the Month, won the Conwy Island 10 Mile Handicap in 1:34:43. Fast time honors...
went to Ron Laird with a 1:13:29. Laird also scored a 1500 meter, 2 Mile double at an indoor meet in Pittsburgh with a 6:06.7 and 14:05.

30 Years Ago (From the December 1979 ORW)—Mexico’s Daniel Bautista, winner of the World Cup in a blazing 1:18:49 and with a world record of 1:20:07 on the track, led the ORW World 20 Km rankings. His teammate Domingo Colin was second ahead of three Soviet walkers. Mexican Raul Gonzales, Martin Bermudez, and Enrique Vera were ranked 1-2-3 in the 50. Great Britain’s Marian Fawkes was ranked number one in the Women’s 10 Km. Leading the U.S. rankings were Neal Pyke at 20, Marco Evoniu.k at 50, and Susan Liers at 10.

Canada’s Marcel Jobin led the National 25 Km race in Las Vegas with a 1:52:27 as Jim Heuring claimed the national title in second (1:57:28). Marco Evoniu.k, Ray Sharp, Dennis Reilly, and Tom Dooley followed. Jobin also won the National 35 Km in Houston, his 2:37:16 leaving John Knifton better than 18 minutes back. Dooley and Bill Ranney were next. Chris Hansen stromed through 10 Km in 43:06 in Seattle, with Steve DiBemardo second in 44:29.

25 Years Ago (From the December 1984 ORW)—Leading the World Rankings for the year were Mexico’s Ernesto Canto 20, the GDR’s Ronald Weigel at 50, and the USSR’s Olga Kristo at 10. Top ranked in the U.S. were Marco Evoniu.k at 20, Carl Scheuler at 50, and Ester Lopez at 10. The issue included a report by Dr. Howard Palamarchuk on The Athletics Congress’s (predecessor to USATF) first Racewalk Sports Science Seminar.

20 Years Ago (From the December 1989 ORW)—Kerry Saxby, Australia; Ileana Salvador, Italy; and Beate Anders, GDR, were 1-2-3 in the ORW World 20 Km rankings. Lynn Weik, Teresa Vaill, and Debbi Lawrence topped the U.S. rankings. In the World 20 Km rankings, it was Franta Kostyukovich, Yevgeniy Misyulya, and Mikhail Schennikov, all USSR. In the U.S. rankings, Tim Lewis, Gary Morgan, and Mark Manning were on top. At 50, we ranked Simon Baker, Australia; Andrei Perlov, USSR, and Stanislaw Vezhel, USSR as the top three in the world, and Paul Wick, Herm Nelson, and Tim Lewis as the top three in the U.S.

Mexico’s Carlos Mercenario blistered the New York City Marathon in 3:11:56, beating UK’s Chris Maddocks by nearly 2 minutes and Sweden’s Bo Gustafsson by 6 1/2. Perlov was fourth a star-studded field.

15 Years Ago (From the December 1994 ORW)—Gustafsson topped the New York City Marathon this time in 3:33:28, 31 seconds ahead of Allen James. Dave Marchese was third. Sari Essayah, Finland; Anna Rita Sidoti, Italy; and Yelena Nikolayeva, Russia were ranked 1-2-3 in the World at 20, with Michelle Rohl, Teresa Vaill, and Debby Van Orden atop the U.S. rankings. At 50, Mikhail Schennikov, Russia, Bernardo Segura, Mexico; and Yevgeniy Misyulya, Belarus were the World leaders and Allen James, Johathan Matthews, and Andrzej Chylinski the U.S. leaders. The 50 Km World rankings saw Valeriy Borchin, Russia; Thierry Touton, France; and Giovanni Perricelli, Italy on top, while Allen James, Jonathan, Mathews, and Herm Nelson led the U.S.

10 Years Ago (From the December 1999 ORW)—World 20 rankings for women saw the Chinese duo of Hong Iiu and Yan Wang at 1-2 ahead of Susan Feitor, Portugal. In the U.S. it was Michelle Rohl, Joanne Dow, and Susan Armenta. In the men’s 20 Km, it was Ilya Markov, Russia ahead of Bernardo Segura, Mexico and Daniel Garcia, Mexico. Curt Clausen, Tim Seaman, and Johathan Matthews headed the U.S. rankings. 50 Km World rankings saw German Skuring and Nikolay Matyukhin of Russia ahead of Kazakhstan’s Sergey Kieopanov. However, Skuring’s subsequent disqualification from his World Cup win (which didn’t come until two years later) also means a belated No. 1 for Matyukhin and moves Italy’s Ivano Brugnetti to third and Curt Clausen to fourth. Clausen, of course, toppled the U.S. rankings ahead of Al Heppner and Andrew Hermann. In Australia’s 50 Km trial for the 2000 Olympics, Don Russell and Nathan Denke finished together in 3:53:53, with Duane Cousins third in 3:59:54.

5 Years Ago (From the Dec. 2004 ORW)—The World 20 Km rankings for women were led by Greece’s Athanasia Tsoumelekas, Russia’s Olamiada Ivanova, and Australia’s Jane Saville. In the U.S. it was Teresa Vaill, Joanne Dow, and Michelle Rohl. Ivano Brugnetti, Italy; Jefferson Perez, Ecuador, and Francisco Fernandez, Spain led the World 20 Km rankings for men with Tim Seaman, Kevin Bestier, and John Nunn the top three in the U.S. The World 50 Km rankings saw Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; Aleksey Voyevodin, Russia; and Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia on top. In the U.S. it was Curt Clausen, Philip Dunn, and Tim Seaman.