Michta, Barron, Sorensen, Shaver Winners At Pan-Am Cup Trials

Coconut Creek, Florida, Feb. 13 – Breaking away from Teresa Vaill and Rachel Seaman after the first 12 Kilometers, Maria Michita won the Women’s 20 Km Pan Am Cup Trial 20 Km today. The 24-year-old post-graduate student at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine finished in 1:36:30, more than 3 ½ minutes ahead of Canada’s Seaman, representing the New York AC. Michita not only won a spot on the Pan Am Cup team but went well under the Olympic “B” qualifying standard of 1:38:00. The 48-year-old Vaill, a member of many, many U.S. international teams over the past quarter century, missed out on another as she failed to finish. Erin Grey finished just 8 seconds behind Seaman in third, with Miranda Melville another minute-and-a-half back in fourth. With Melville unavailable for Pan-Am Cup action, Solomiya and Erin Talcott, who finished fifth and sixth, will fill out the U.S. women’s team.

In the men’s race, Trevor Barron, who qualified for the Junior Men’s 10 Km team on his way, hung on to edge Patrick Stroupe for the win in 1:27:32. The 18-year-old Barron was well off his personal best of 1:23:49 last fall, but was still quick enough to best his senior competitors. Stroupe was just three seconds back at the finish. He equaled his second best time ever, which, coincidentally was in these same trials two years ago. Later that year, he had a 1:26:42 in the National title race.

The U.S. Army’s John Nunn, a veteran of tough competitions at 33, was third in 1:29:8. The 2004 Olympian, who had a best of 1:22:31 that year, continues to be a factor on the national scene. Dan Serraunni, 20, continued to improve with a personal best 1:32:57 in fourth, just ahead of Canada’s Creighton Connolly. Michael Manoni also had a personal best to capture sixth in 1:37:32.

With Barron opting for the Junior team, Stroupe, Nunn, and Serraunni will represent the U.S. in the Pan-Am Cup.

In the Junior Men’s 10 Km, which started at the same time as the 20, 16-year-old Tyler Sorensen, continued to improve on his already impressive performances with a personal best of 42:54 to beat his New York AC teammate, Barron, in 42:54. Barron, on his way to 20, was content to let Sorensen go, as he passed the 10 Km mark in 43:12 for second place. It’s certainly going to be interesting the next few years as these two move into the senior ranks. Another comer is 17-year-old Alex Chavez, who finished third in 46:55. These three, who also represented the U.S. in last year’s World Cup Junior 10, will form the Pan-Am Cup team.

In the Junior Women’s 10 Km race, 18-year-old Erika Shaver, formerly of Ohio’s Miami Valley TC, now representing World Class Racewalkers, was an easy winner in 52:36.5. She will be joined on the Cup team by two 15-year-olds, Nicolette Sorensen (Tyler’s sister) and Maile Moscoso, who finished close together in second and third.

Filling out the Pan Am Cup team is Jonathan Matthews at 50 Km. Ben Shorey and Tim Seaman, who finished one-two in the National 50 last month, are apparently not available for the Pan-Am Cup, and Patrick Stroupe, third in that race, is opting for the 20. The Cup competition will be held in Medellin, Colombia in late March. Both men’s and women’s 20
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Km are scheduled for March 25 and the 50 Km for March 29. The Pan Am Cup is held every two years and this will be the 16th edition. It returns to Colombia for the second time with the first edition having been in Bucaramanga, Colombia in 1984. (The competition switched from even to odd years with the 2001 edition.)

Results:

**Women’s 20 Km:**

**Men’s 20 Km:**

**Jr. Men’s 10 Km:**

**Jr. Women 5 Km:**

**Other Races at same time and place:**
**Women’s 10 Km:**

**Junior Men Rule At National 1 Mile**

New York City, Jan. 28—New York’s fabled Madison Square Garden and the annual Millrose Games provided the stage for the USATF National Indoor 1 Mile races. In the men’s race, it was a junior show as Trevor Barron (18), Tyler Sorense (16), and Alex Chavez (17) swept the medals. They were well of the meet and Garden record of 5:33:55 set by Tim Lewis in 1988 and Tim Seaman was not on the track, but it was an impressive display nonetheless.

On the women’s side, Canada’s Rachel Seaman won for the third straight year with a meet record of 6:41:32. The 25-year-old Canadian now lives in San Diego with husband Tim. Maria Michita improved from her third place finish of last year to take second in 6:51:04, 9 seconds under her personal best. Erin Bresnahan won a close tussle with Mexican teenager. Nirvana Zelba for the third spot. The results:

**Challenge Kicks Off In Australia**

Hobart, Australia, Feb. 20—The IAAF Challenge Series opened with a C level race held here in conjunction with the Australian 20 Km Championships. Unfortunately, it was not well attended by international athletes, but then Australia is a long way off for most. It provided a good display for Australia’s deep talent.

In the men’s race Jared Tallent won his fourth Aussie title in a row, but in his slowest time, not tat it was slow. After going through the first 10 Km in 39:33 with a solid lead he eased on to the finish in 1:20:19 and a 41 second lead on Luke Adams in second. His wins in the last three years had shown times of 1:19:41, 1:19:42, and 1:19:15. Adam Rutter was third in 1:22:25, well ahead of the first international, Canada’s Inaki Gomez. Gomez finished in 1:24:55, just 17 seconds ahead of Sweden’s Ato Ibne. Australia’s Nathan Deakes, still trying to come back from injuries that have plagued him since his 2007 World 50 Km title, was seventh in 1:25:38.

After the race, Tallent noted: “I’m pretty happy. It was tough out there in quite unusual Tasmanian humidity so I struggled in the last 10 Km to be honest. It’s a good start to my season and I’m now looking forward to upcoming races in Mexico and China before building towards the 20-50 Km double in Daegu. I’ve qualified for both events and came home from Beijing with two medals so that is what I want to see happen at this year’s world championships.”

In the women’s 20, Claire Tallent and England’s Jo Jackson were together at 10 Km.
in 46:00, 15 seconds clear of the field. When Jackson dropped out soon after, Tallent was on her way to a decisive win in 1:33:38. It was an all Australian finish as all four international competitors failed to finish.

Tallent commented: “Jared seems to be showing the way of late and it’s always great to follow him across the line for first shortly after he finishes. Tonight’s time was outside the qualifying mark, but with a few others to my name and now the national championship, I have earned selection and that’s what I was chasing. Like Jared, I will head overseas to compete before coming back to Australia for some basic base training with Daегu in my sights as on now.”

In an Under 20 10 Km Dane Bird-Smith was impressive with a personal best 40:56, finishing with an 8:05 for the final 2 km. He plans to get in a couple of 20 Km races soon and go from there. Trevor and Tyler take note.


The remaining Racewalking Challenge Schedule:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Winners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Chihuahua, Mexico</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Lugano, Switzerland</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
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<td>June 26</td>
<td>Dublin, Ireland</td>
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<td>Aug 17</td>
<td>World 20 Km Championship, Daegu, Korea</td>
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<td>Sept. 4</td>
<td>World 50 Km Championship, Daegu, Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 17</td>
<td>Challenge Final, La Coruna, Spain</td>
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Other Results


FEBRUARY 2011

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Winners</th>
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As You Look For A Race, There's Many A Place

**As You Look For A Race, There's Many A Place**

**Sat. March 5**
John Evans 50 km, 5 and 20 km, Houston (G)  
NAIA Collegiate Nationals, 3 km, Berea, Ohio

**Sun. March 6**
5 km, Denver, 10 km (H)  
2 km, Salisbury, Md. (T)

**Sat. March 12**
2.8 miles, Seattle (O)  
5 km, Dover, Del. (T)  
1500 meters, Houston (G)

**Sun. March 13**
USATF Masters 20 km and 5 km, Huntington Beach, CA (U)

**Sat. March 19**
1 mile, Houston (O)  
2 mile, Salisbury, MD.

**Sun. March 20**
2000 and 5000 meters, Ypsilanti, Mich. (L)

**Sat. March 26**
3 km, Seattle (O)  
Sun. March 27
Ron Zinn Memorial 10 km, Wall Township, N.J. (A)

**Eun. April 3**
South Regional 5 km and Florida Youth 5 km, Orlando, Fla. (R)

**Sat. April 9**
2.8 km, Seattle (C)

**Sat. April 16**
20 km, Wilmington, Del.

**Sat. April 30**
Penn Relays 5 km Women, 10 km Men, Philadelphia (Z)  
5 km, Seafoal, Del.

**Mt. SAC Relays 5 and 10 km, Walnut, Cal. (U)**

**Sat. May 7**
25th Annual Jack Mortland Walks, 5, 10, and 20 km, Dayton, Ohio (M)

**Sat. May 14**
5 km, Eugene, Oregon

**Sat. May 15**
North Region 10 km, Dearborn, Mich. (F)

From Heel To Toe

Qualifying Standards. The qualifying standards for the Penn Relays are: Men’s 10,000 meters—5:00:00; Women’s 5000—27:15; Junior Men’s 10,000—54:00; Junior Women’s 5000—30:30; Masters Men’s 10,000—54:00; Masters Women’s 5000—30:00. Standards for the USATF Championships in Eugene in June are: Women’s 20 km—1:52:00; Men’s 20 km—1:39:50; Jr. Men’s 10 km—59:45; Jr. Women’s 10 km—55:00. The anticipated prize money for both men’s and women’s 20 km races is $5,000—2nd—$5,000; 3rd—$2,000; 4th—$1,000; 5th—$800; 6th—$500. **Schwazer injured.** Olympic 20 km champion and European 20 km silver medalist Alex Schwazer suffered a serious knee injury while he was skiing near his home village Raanes in the Italian Sud Tyrol region. "I’ll be cash and I went immediately to the Viipiteno’s hospital. In the next few days, I will undergo a scan visit in Padua," Schwazer reported. There is a high risk it may be a knee ligament injury that would sideline him for the World Championships in Daegu. He had originally planned a 20 km test at the European Walking Cup in Portugal in
May... Youth Worlds. The Seventh Annual World Youth T&F Championships will be held in Lille, France from July 6 to 10. The meet is for youth born in 1994 or 1995. Qualifying standards for the races are 48:40 for the men's 10km and 25:30 for the women's 5000m.

Qualifiers for U.S. boys will be the National 10,000 at the USATF Junior Nationals in Eugene, Oregon, June 25. For girls, it will be the World Youth Trials 5000m on June 29 at Mt. Sac. Classic, S.C. U.S. vs. Canada Junior Match. A U.S.-Canada Junior racewalking match is scheduled for Boston on August 14. Athletes will qualify for this meet by finishing in the top six at the USATF Junior Nationals in Eugene and meeting the qualifying times of $80.00 for women and $54.00 for men. The top two finishers in Eugene will also qualify for the Pan Am Juniors meet in Miramar, Florida, July 22-24 if they meet the standards of 44:04 for men and 50:55 for women... Chavez off to college: Alex Chavez, third in both the National 1 Mile and the Junior Pan Am Trials, has signed a letter of intent to race walk for Missouri Baptist University.

The thirteen-time high school All American and member of the South Carolina Walking Club, is a senior at PSJA High School in San Juan, Texas. The 17-year-old is the top high school senior racewalker in the country who plans to continue racewalking in college. Gordon Reiter, head coach of men's cross country and track at Missouri Baptist, said, "I feel we are planting a seed that will bring great results to our school in the future by recruiting Alex." Alex walked the second fastest mile ever walked by a high school junior in the U.S. last year. Recently he walked the sixth fastest 5km by a U.S. high school student. His high school superintendent, Dr. Daniel King, congratulated Alex for his accomplishments in racewalking and academics. Alex has maintained an "A" average and is a member of the National Honor Society. He has been an All Valley Band member and solo state tuba qualifier for two years. Alex has been a member of the U.S. Junior National Team since he was an eighth grader. He has set three AAI National Junior Olympic records and walks an average of 55 to 62 miles per week. Alex club racewalking coach, A.C. Jaime, said, "Alex has been a tremendous asset to our team and will be that and more to Missouri Baptist University."... Shorey honored. Ben Shorey became the second racewalker to be named USATF Athlete of the Week in the month of January. Ben was honored in the fourth week of the month, Tyler Sorensen, as reported last month, in the second week. A resident of Kenosha, Wis, Shorey won the National 50 km in 4:16 (see January ORW). Now in its tenth year, USATF's Athlete of the Week program is designed to recognize outstanding performers at all levels of the sport. USATF names a new honoree each week and features the athlete on the USATF website. Selections are based on top performances and results from the previous week... Racewalking seminar. Bonnie Stein will conduct a seminar, along with practice sessions, in Wilmington, N.C., on May 13 and 14. Beyond the clinics she conducts, Bonnie has published more than 200 articles on walking and fitness. Her seminars are designed to teach racewalking techniques to both those who want to race and those who simply want to improve their fitness. Cost of the seminar is $95 to $135, conducted a seminar, along with practice sessions, in Wilmington, N.C., on May 13 and 14. Beyond the clinics she conducts, Bonnie has published more than 200 articles on walking and fitness. Her seminars are designed to teach racewalking techniques to both those who want to race and those who simply want to improve their fitness. Cost of the seminar is $95 to $135, depending on when you register. For more information, contact Jeanne Busa, 1107 Island Cove, Wilmington, NC 28412, 910-799-0164, skneeds@hotmail.com... Sanchez moves up. Mexico's Eder Sanchez, a world-ranked 20km walker for the past five years and winner of the IAAF Challenge series in 2009, has planned a move to 50km at the Dudince Challenge on March 26. There he will encounter Australia's Nathan Deakes, the 50km 0rld Champion in 2007, plagued by injury and illness since and finally getting back into racing form. (See results of Hobart 20km Challenge race on page 4.) According to a report from Paul Warburton for the IAAF, Sanchez has said: "The 2011 Challenge is a new phase in my career because I'm trying my first 50, although before that I have to do well in Chihuahua at 20 (March 5) because that will get me a place in the World Championships team. I also plan to race Rio Maior and Tailian in China." According to Warburton, Sanchez is putting the final touches to his training in the northern Chinese town of Ariea, where he has been hanging out 210km a week for the last four months. Deakes, of course, is not stranger to the 50 and was favorite for 2008 Olympic gold medal until, as he put it his "heart was ripped out" by injuries that scuppered racing plans for the last two years. Following up on his 1:25:38 in Hobart he hopes Dudince offers a chance to recapture former glory. Also at 50, as we reported last month, France's Yoann Diniz will go for the world record on the track in Reims in mid-March... More Challenge preview. Warburton also reports on other Challenge contenders. Luke Adams, second in Hobart, needs a second place in the 2011 Challenge to complete a remarkable sequence of firsts, second, fourth, and ninth over the last four Challenge series. His countryman, Jared Tallent, will also be in the mix after winning it in 2008, and fifth and sixth the last two years. Irishman Robbie Heffernan is also in good shape after his 2:07:30 30km reported earlier in this issue. Warburton thinks it will be a major surprise if Portuguese don't hog the early Challenge standings in the women's division. Former World Championship bronze medalist Susana Feitor is now coached by Norway's Stefan Platzer, who guided wife Kjersti Tysse-Platzer and brother-in-law Erik Tysse to a paper trail of Challenge checks during the last five years. Feitor's teammates, Ines Henriquez, Ana Cabecinha, and Vera Santos, who filled up four of the top eight places in 2010, are all in good shape and certain to race at home in Rio Maior on April 2. A new role as mother will deprive the Challenge of Sabine Krautz (nee Zimmer) in the early stages. But while the German rocks the cradle, Italian Elisa Rigaudo is ready to roll back into Challenge action after giving birth last September. Mum's also the word for title holder Melanie Seeger who wrote she was down in the dumps around Christmas-but got a belated gift in the return of a nippy 12:39 for an indoor 3000 in January. "Because of my poor form in training, I had concerns about racing," she said. "But despite the burden of teaching, looking after my daughter, as well as training, it went well at a time when I had not expected much. Now I need to qualify Daegu."... A New Face On the Women's Scene

Erin Gray, who finished second in the Pan Am 20km Trial, is making rapid progress in a yet brief career in racewalking. The following article from the Feb. 13 edition of the Eugene Register-Guard, written by Curtis Anderson, traces her path to sudden prominence.

Erin Gray just might have found her competitive niche. The former South Eugene standout, who won the 2002 state cross country title, and was a two-state time runner-up in the 3000 meters, placed second at the USATF Pan American Cup race walk trials in Florida on Sunday. Gray, a University of Arkansas graduate, who now competes for the Bowden Athletic Club, covered the 20km course in a personal best of 1:40:11. She set her previous best of 1:45:20 in placing fourth at the 2010 USA Outdoor T&F Championships in Des Moines, Iowa, last summer. "The race itself felt surprisingly easy," Gray said. "Especially considering how big of a PR it was for me."

By virtue of her performance, Gray will be on of four women's racewalkers to represent Team USA at the 2011 Pan American Cup in Medellin, Colombia, March 25-27. New York's Maria Michta won the Trials race by dipping under the Olympic "B" standard at 1:36:30.

Gray, who has only been racewalking for about 16 months, hopes to bring her time down to "around 1:35:00" this season, with next year's goal being the Olympic "A" standard of 1:33:30. "I think that's realistic," said Gray, who turns 24 in May. "I originally decided to switch to racewalking because I had so many stress fractures over the years. I still want to get to the Olympics, so I thought I would try a new event."
Racewalking As A Modern Athletics Event

Even before the professional era of pedestrianism had stimulated the interests of sporting enthusiasts during the 1870s and 1880s, there were racewalk events included in track and field events.

At the time of Canada’s birth as a Dominion, track and field events were vastly popular. All of the great celebrations of the first Dominion Day included some form of track and field events in their program. Field days continued to include a wide variety of events. For variety in the program, the two-mile walk was a favorite. (From “Sports and Games In Canadian Life—1700 to the Present”, by Nancy and Maxwell Howell, 1969)

When the Amateur Athletic Association was founded in Canada during the 1880s, the three-mile walk was always on of the events. Racewalks became a normal addition to track competitions in the United States and Great Britain, as well. However, it was not until the enthusiasm created by the modern Olympic Games that racewalking began to gain some new public interest. The walking events in these track meets were usually “spring” walks and required quick speed on the athlete’s part. Although they were not included in the first three Olympic competitions (1896, 1900, and 1904), there was a 1500-meter walk held in the interim Games that took place in Athens in 1906. The first Olympic racewalk champion was an American 1500-meter and 5-mile runner. George Bonhag entered the walking event as an afterthought when his regular events finished. (Ed. Don’t think you can do that sort of thing today.)

In his specialty, the five-mile run, Bonhag finished fourth. Disappointed because he failed to earn even a bronze medal, Bonhag decided at the last moment to enter the 1500-meter walk, the first walking race to appear on the Olympic program. Bonhag’s decision came as a surprise—both to his teammates and to himself—probably because he had never before competed in walking races.

Nine walkers started the event, and one by one, most of the best were disqualified for improper heel-and-toe walking technique. Prince George, judging the race, banished the favorite with a firm command: “Leave! You have finished!” With his competition stripped away, Bonhag strode to victory. (From “An Illustrated History of the Olympics”, by R. Schaap, Random House Inc., 1963.)

In Los Angeles in 1932, the racewalkers were represented by the “grueling” 50 Km event. Because of his seemingly effortless victories in Antwerp and Paris, Frigerio came to the 1932 Games as the favorite. However, the weather was very warm and many of the athletes either failed to finish or performed poorly. Frigerio finished in third place behind Tom Green of Great Britain and Janis Dalinsch of Latvia. Fittingly, in a walking contest, the two stars were relatively old men. Tom Green, a 39-year-old British railroad worker, won by a comfortably margin in 4:50:10. Frigerio, the sentimental favorite, finished third in 4:59:06 and then collapsed.

The subject nature of racewalking has often been a problem with this sport. It was because of difficulties such as those experienced in the 1906 Olympic Games that many of the early Olympic events were so controversial. This has proven to be a consistent problem with racewalking ever since it was accepted into the track and field program.

From 1906 until 1932, when the Olympic walk program to assume its present form, the conduct of Olympic racewalks was literally veiled in dispute—most commonly over judging decisions. Bizarre and regrettable judging incidents had very significant effects on the results of the 1906 1500 meters, the 1912 10,000 meters (in which all but four competitors were disqualified), and all of the 1920 and 1924 events. These controversies led to the removal of all walk events from the Olympic program in Amsterdam, 1928. (From “A Brief History of Racewalking”, by Robert G. Osterhoudt, 1975.)

Despite these controversies during the early Olympic Games, there were many noteworthy performances by athletes who displayed very “fair heel-and-toe style”. George Larner and Ernest Webb both performed with “impeccable style”. and the generally high standard of performance in London, 1908, did much to bolster the reputation of the walking events.

In the 1908 Games, a young Canadian racewalker finished fourth in the 3500-meter event. After this experience, George Goulding became the dominant force in racewalking until his retirement in 1916. At the Canadian Athletic Championships, which were held in Winnipeg, Manitoba in July, 1900, he established a new one-mile record of 6 minutes 25 1/5 seconds. This was not until Larner’s time of 6:26. On the same day, Goulding set a Canadian 3-mile record with a time of 21:59. Goulding’s record of performances was extraordinary for the early 1900s. During his career, he was to win more than 300 races at distances from 1 to 40 miles.

Goulding won the 10,000 meter Olympic racewalk event in Stockholm in 1912 with scrupulously fair style, as was the custom with him, in world record time—46:28.4. Before retiring he had held Canadian records from 1 to 10 miles. He established a world 7-mile record of 50:40.8 in New Brunswick, New Jersey on October 23, 1915, while winning the national title of the U.S. The record remained unsurpassed for 17 years.

In 1916, Goulding took a director’s position at the Toronto Central YMCA. When the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States questioned this, it affected his amateur standing, the popularity of Goulding as a sports hero became most evident.

“The Globe’s testimony to him at that time bears repeating. To have had Goulding adjudged as a professional would have meant the loss of a man who without question is one of the greatest athletes in the world. He has a style that is an air perfection as may be approached; he has more merits to his credit than any walker in track annals. Goulding, more than other man, has helped the maintenance of at least a passing interest in amateur walking.” (From “Canada’s Sporting Heroes”, by S. P. Wise, General Publishing Co., Ltd, Ontario 1974.)

When the Olympic Games returned after the end of World War I, neither the British stars, (Webb and Larner) nor the Canadian (Goulding) were competing. The racewalking events in Antwerp, 120 (3,000 and 10,000 meters), and those in Paris, 1924, were all won by Ugo Frigerio of Italy. As noted, there were no racewalking events in the 1928 Olympic program.

The next three Olympic Games saw different champions emerge to win the 50. In 1936, the gold medal was won by the British star, Harold Whitlock. With a style beyond suspicion, he led from 20 miles on to capture the race in Berlin with a new record time of 4:30:31.4. The 1948 walking event (once again the 50 Km) was won by the great Swedish walker, John Jhungren. This athlete’s career was a long and very successful one. Twelve years later, he returned to place second in the Olympic 50 Km. (Ed. And another four years later in Tokyo in the 20 Km, well into his 40s, he finished 19th at 20 Km and 16th at 30 (4:29:09). In the 20, your editor didn’t catch him until just beyond the 15 Km point and beat him by just 18 seconds.)

The gold medalist at 50 in the Helsinki Games (1952) was an Italian, Giuseppe Dordoni, a brilliant stylist who competed in four Olympic Games from 1948 to 1960. He won the 1952 Olympic race in Olympic record time, 4:28:07.8.

When the Olympics went to Melbourne in 1956, there were two racewalking events
and a new national power, which would begin a trend of dominance that lasts, at least to some degree, still today. (Ed. Which remains true today, nearly 30 years after Glenn penned these words.) Russian racewalkers took the first three places in the new Olympic 20Km event and the second place medal in the traditional 50Km event. During the 1960s, and up until the 1976 Games, one Russian athlete stood out as the most consistent Olympic performer.

"With the coming to prominence of Vladimir Golubnichy in the mid-1950s, the Russian epoch came of genuine age. It was with Golubnichy, the most durable and greatest of the Russian champion, that the Russian position of pre-eminence was fulfilled. Though he has taken occasion produced extraordinarily fast times, it has been his numerous international triumphs that provide the mark of his true greatness... He has won two Olympic titles... and Olympic silver and bronze medal... a European title... and European Championship silver and bronze medal as well..." (From the Osterhoudt book referenced earlier.)

There have been many other great Russian athletes who have competed internationally since the mid-1950s. Nikolai Smaga was a dominant 20Km racewalker in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Veniamin Soldatanko was an especially good 50Km performer during the same period that Smaga was successful at the shorter races. Soldatanko's silver medal performance in the Munich Games and his victory in the 1976 World 50Km Championship in Malmo, Sweden, rank as two of his superior performances. (Ed. The 50Km was dropped from the 1976 Olympic program, but a world Championship race was held. It was reinstated in 1980 and remains along with the 20.)

During the past 25 years, there have been many excellent athletes who have won international laurels in racewalking. Abdon Panyi of Italy, Paul Nihill of England, Berned Cannenberg of West Germany, Peter Selzer and Christoph Holze of East Germany, Raul Gonzales and Daniel Baltius of Mexico, and Larry Young and Ron Laird of the U.S. are only a very few of these great, recent champions. Because of the increase in the number of major international competitions, these athletes have had many occasions to meet outside of the restrictions of Olympic competition. There are international racewalking competitions held in the European Championships, in the Pan American Games, the Commonwealth Games, and in numerous "dual" international meetings of track and field powers. On top of all these events, there is the "Lugano Cup" Championship, a world team championship that is held every two years. The great opportunities offered the athletes encouraged a large number of world class performers. Many new world records have been established and then quickly broken during the last two decades. The competitions that have resulted during this period have been intense and, although these have made the sport more exciting, the judging of these events has become more difficult.

(We will conclude Glenn's interesting treatise next month.)

Racewalking Clinics of Excellence

Tim Seaman and Jeff Salvage have announced a 2011 schedule for their Race Walking Clinics of Excellence. They have a goal of at least six clinics per year, but not all dates were confirmed at the time of this announcement. Many of their clinics sold out in 2010, so they recommend early enrollment. The team of clinicians will teach you to racewalk or show you how to improve your racewalking.

The clinics include hands-on instruction, power point presentations analyzing technique and training philosophy (and more), high-speed video analysis, high-resolution stills that are individually analyzed and annotated, and the privilege of taking all videos photographs with you. Their 2011 schedule, as it now stands:

April 2-3 Albuquerque, New Mexico
June 4-5 Chicago, Illinois (To be confirmed)
20 Years Ago (From the Feb. 1991 ORW)—National Indoor titles went to Doug Fournier (5 Km) in 20:03.74 and Teresa Vaill (3 Km) in 12:49.95. Fournier was 21 seconds ahead of Tim Seaman with Dave McGovern another 10 seconds back. Sara Standley took second in the women's race in 13:09.72, just ahead of Victoria Herazo. Debby Lawrence, sick at the time of the Nationals, bettered the World 1500 meter record earlier with a 5:54.35 win at the Meadowlands Invitational.


10 Years Ago (From the Feb. 2001 ORW)—Curt Clausen won the 1 Mile at the Millrose Games in 5:53.05, just over 2 seconds ahead of Al Heppner. Sean Albert was third in 6:03.63. Down under, Aussie Nathan Deakes blitzed a 10 Km in 38:53.82. Irishman Robert Heffernan did a quick 1:19:27 for 20, 50 Yr ago. . . . In Portugal, Pedro Martins edged Jorge Costa in a 50 Km, 3:55:54 to 3:56:14 to win the National title and Susanna Feiper won the Women's 20 in 1:32:40. . . In Germany, Andreas Erm walked the fastest ever Indoor 3 Km with a 10:54.61.

5 Years Ago (From the Feb. 2006 ORW)—The U.S. 50 Km title went to Philip Dunn in 4:17:18. It was his second U.S. title at the distance, the first coming in 2001 when he walked 3:57:18. After leading for 44 Km, 46-year-old Ray Sharp finished second in 4:21:06, duplicating to the second the time he had walked in finishing third 25 years earlier. Theron Kissinger was third in 4:36:42. Winning ninth straight U.S. Indoor 5 Km title, Tim Seaman also broke Tim Lewis' American record of 19:18.40. Tim walked 19:15.88. Kevin Eastley was second in 19:43.41. Joane Dow won the women's 3 K 3 Km in 12:45.03, 18 seconds ahead of Jolene Moore. Seaman also won the U.S. 1 Mile title at the Millrose Games in 5:47.59, 45 seconds ahead of Dave McGovern. Matt Boyles actually finished in 6:04.06, but was DQ'd. In Australia, Nathan Deakes won the National 20 Km title in 1:22:13, 56 seconds ahead of Luke Adams. The women's title went to Jane Saville in 1:33:19. Mikel Odriozola won the Spanish 50 Km title in 5:35:04, just over 2 minutes ahead of Juan Manuel Molina. In the Russian Winter Championships, Victor Boruyev did a 1:19:27 for 20, with three others under 1:20, and Olga Kaniskina won the women's 20 in 1:26:02, 12 seconds ahead of Irina Petrov. Seven others were under 1:30.

And finally, this item chosen at random from the January 1984 Ohio Racewalker:

Coast-to-coast blind

Baltimore—A man who says "you can do anything you want to do if you try" has become the first blind person to walk from the West Coast to the East Coast the National Federation of the Blind says.

Bill Mangan, 36, blind since the age of 10, finished the journey here Friday, a 11-

1956 Olympic 20 Km race in Melbourne. The walkers are completing a lap on the track before heading out on the road. I believe the leader is Canada's Alex Oakley, who was disqualified 4 Km into the race. He did better four years later in Rome, finishing ninth. No. 20, next to last in the picture, is Henry Laskau of the U.S. who finished twelfth in 1:38:46.8. Soviet Union walkers swept the first three places, led by Leonid Spirin in 1:31:27.

Southern Association 1550 Meter, Baton Rouge, L. A., Feb. 12 (1550 because they couldn't convince meet officials about the right starting line)—1. Troy Williams (17) 8:17.0 2. Gerald Miller (68) 8:30.06 3. Dave Gwyn 10:27.70 (6 finishers)