Barron, Michta Win Senior Titles; Sorensen, Moscoso Rule Juniors At National USATF Meet


Trevor improved on his personal best, a 1:23:48 walked in Italy last fall. Patrick Stroupe also had a personal best of 1:26:29.44 as he finished third. On the way to his win, Barron set American junior records of 21:05 at 5 Km, 41:35 at 10 Km, and 1:02:26 at 15 Km, as well as 20 Km. Barron will be the youngest member of the U.S. Track team. Nunn was also under the “B” standard for the World Championships, but only one “B” can go. The A standard is 1:22:30, and if either he or Trevor had walked that, they could both go.

The case is similar for the women, where Maria Michta defended her title with a 1:34:51.47, a big improvement on her personal best of 1:36:31, but short of the A qualifying standard of 1:33:30. Teresa Vaill, still going strong at 48 was well under the “B” standard (1:38:00) with her 1:35:35.92. Lauren Forgues in third also had a big personal record at 1:37:40.86, more than a 3-minute improvement. All three, as well as Barron and Nunn, now have the “B” standard for the 2012 Olympics. Now they have a year to shoot for the A.

With Barron not competing, 17-year-old Tyler Sorensen had no competition as he won the Junior 10,000 in a quick 42:44.03. But Michael Nemeth was, nonetheless, impressive in second as he made another huge improvement on his personal best with a 45:56.71. After a 49:10 at the Penn Relays in April, he improved to 47:16 at the National 10 in early June, and now this. In the process, he beat Matt Forgues and Joshua Haertel, who had finished third and fourth behind Barron and Sorensen last year.

The Junior women’s 10 went to Florida’s Maite Moscoso in 53:10.79. Defending champion, Nicolette Sorensen, Tyler’s sister, still only 15, improved on her winning time of last year by more than 3 minutes, but was relegated to third this year by Erika Shaver. Shaver led the race going into the final lap, but couldn’t hold off the strong finish of Moscoso.

After the race Barron said: “I’m just happy to be here. I enjoyed the competition I enjoyed my friends. That’s really more important for me than having the national championship. For me, I really enjoy meeting other people, meeting friends from around the world. What’s a medal going to mean.” And Maria Michta weighed in: “It’s huge. I wanted to go to Korea so bad. I made a youth team, a junior championship team. It’s my first senior championship team. (The London Olympics) is what I’m training for every day and that’s what it’s all about.” And Tyler Sorensen: “I am very pleased to get the meet record here. I got a 10 second PR so I’m thrilled for that. I didn’t go all out. I just tried to have a great race. I’m shooting to beat Trevor Barron’s time.” Finally, Maite Moscoso noted: “I was not expecting to
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walk that fast. I was just trying to do what I could do. After eight laps, I felt like I could start speeding it up. On the last lap, I saw Erika slow down and I knew that was my chance."

The results:

**Women's 20 Km:**

**Men's 20 Km:**

**Junior Men's 10,000 M:**

**Junior Women's 10,000 M:**

**10 Km Titles To Luechte and Vail**

Albany, N.Y., June 4—Richard Luechte won his first National racewalking title and 48-year-old Teresa Vail her 40th national in 10 Km races held here. With men and women walking together, Luechte broke away from a pack of five at about 5 Km with only Mike Mannozi staying close. Kris Shear and Teresa Vail worked together and moved clear of the rest of the field. Luechte was able to shake Mannozi eventually and went on to win in 45:04 with Mike finishing in 45:58. Shear was third in the men's race, finishing in 46:40, 15 seconds ahead of Vail who was a very easy winner among the women.

Michael Nemeth, just 18 years old, showed great promise to take fourth in the men's race in 47:16. This was nearly 2 minutes faster than he had walked at the Penn Relays 5 weeks earlier (He showed this was no fluke with his performance in the Jr. Nationals 3 weeks later.) Dave Talcott, going strong and improving, at 51 was fifth in 48:44, better than a minute ahead of wife Erin, who captured second in the women's race, slipping under 50 minutes...
The walkers were aided by cool, windless weather with the temperature in the low 50s. The team title went to Shore AC over Pegasus

**Women:**

**Men:**

**Canadians Sweep NAIA Races**

Marion, Indiana, May 27—The University of British Columbia, scored wins in both the men's and women's 5000 meter racewalk events at the NAIA collegiate championships held at Indiana Wesleyan University. And both established new meet records. In the women's race, senior Nicola Evangelista took nearly 2 minutes off the old record with a sparkling 23:18.91. She was breaking her own record of 25:11.56 set last year. Junior Evan Dunfee had a tougher record to beat, Al Heppner's 20:07.38 when walking for U.W.-Parkside way back in 1997. Dunfee was equal to the task, as he won in 20:02.25.

Dunfee, DQ'd in 2010 when his teammate Inaki Gomez won in 20:30.35 led from start to finish. His only challenger early was Cedevilles' Josh Wiseman who only received a DQ for his early efforts. Concordia's Chris Tegtemier, coming back from two injury-plagued seasons, walked a personal best, but was still 40 seconds back at the finish, but way ahead of third-place finisher, Kris Shear, from Cornerstone.

Evangelista also led from gun to tape, but had a more serious challenger from Lindenwood junior Jessica Ching who stayed close until Nicola unleashed a finishing sprint over the final 400 meters to win by 15 seconds. William Penn's Katie Burnett was also way under the old record as she finished in 23:51.83.

The results:

**Men:**

**Women:**

**Canadian Challenge Series Moves TO Dublin**

Dublin, Ireland, June 26—China's Zhen Wang and Hong Liu won men's and women's 20 Km races and Anti Kempas of Finland prevailed at 50 Km in IAAF Challenge races here. Wang is on a roll. After winning last year's Challenge final at 10 Km in a
blistering 37:44, while stilla junior, he now has three Challenge wins at 20 Km in 2011. Following up on his 1:18:36 win at the Lugano Challenge race in March and 1:18:30 win at Taiceng in April, the year’s two fastest times, he had an easy win in 1:19:46 today. Biding his time through most of the race, Wang exploded over the final 3 Km to win by 37 seconds over Tunisia’s Hassanine Sbei. Italy’s Giorgio Rubino was another 21 seconds back in third.

Hong Liu also repeated Challenge wins at Lugano and Taiceng. Today, she was completely on her own as she eased through a 1:29:44 effort, more than 2 minutes ahead of Ireland’s Olivia Loughnane, who had beaten her for the silver medal at the 2009 World Championships. Loughnane, however, was optimistic after her second place finish: “I’m feeling full of confidence, and I plan to go close to what I did at the last World Championships—or very close”, she said.

Both Wang Liu are coached by Italy’s Sandro Damilano, as is Giorgio Rubino, third in the men’s race. Since coaching his brother Maurizio to Olympic gold in 1980, Damilano has coached athletes to 44 medals at major championships.

It was also a good day for Guatemala, as Erick Barondi, just a month past his 20th birthday was fourth in the men’s race at 1:20:58 and 19-year-old Jamy Franco finished third in the women’s race at 1:32:48. Both took nearly four minutes off their personal bests.

In the 50, Australia’s Jared Tallent, double Olympic medalist three years ago, set off on his own and built a lead of more than 1 kilometer, although only at about a 3:50 pace, compared to his personal best of 3:38:56. However, he was felled by stomach cramps and was out of the race at 25 Km.

The race was then taken over by Italy’s Diego Cafagna who seemed on his way to a win in around 4 hours. Then, at 46 km, he ran out of energy, his knees went out and the judges disqualified him, leaving the 30-year-old Kempas, who was 11th in the 2007 World Championships, with an 8 minute win over India’s Basanta Bahadur.


Nunn and Susan Randall making the trip across the pond to turn in good performances. -!


Want to race? Choose your place.

Sat. July 2  5 Km, Dover, Del. (T)
Sat. July 9  5 Km, Dover, Del. (T)
Sat. July 16  5 Km, Dover, Del. (T)
Sat. July 23  5 Km, Dover, Del. (T)
Mon. July 11  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)
Mon. July 18  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)
Mon. July 25  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)
Mon. Aug. 1  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)
Mon. Aug. 8  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)
Sat. Aug. 13  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)
Sun. Aug. 14  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)
Sun. Aug. 21  5 Km, Long Branch, N.J., 6:45 pm (A)
Sat. Aug. 27  5 Km, Bear, Del. (T)
Sat. Sept. 10  5 Km, Flint, Mich. (F)
Sun. Sept. 11  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)
Sun. Sept. 18  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)
Sat. Sept. 24  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)
Sat. Oct. 1  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)
Sat. Oct. 8  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)
Sun. Oct. 9  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)
Sat. Oct. 16  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)
Sat. Oct. 23  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)
Sun. Oct. 30  5 Km, Beach, Del. (T)

From Heel To Toe

Another obituary. Sue Blochwitz, a respected racewalking judge and organizer passed away in Wisconsin on June 19 at age 64. Only two weeks earlier, she had helped judge a Wisconsin race. Sue was the wife of Jack Bray, many times national and world masters winner and record holder. Together they had built the Marin Walkers in the San Francisco into a very active club that often dominated the master’s scene. They moved to Wisconsin a few years ago, Sue’s original home, and became active in racewalking activities there. Sue was born in Portage, Wis. in 1946 and married Jack in 1988. She was library science graduate of the U. of Wisconsin and at one time taught English in Taiwan. She was a member of the Parks/AC and in addition to racewalking activities, loved to sing and dance. She was a certified Chi Kung instructor and certified Reiki practitioner. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jack in his loss.

And...Another loss to the racewalking world is Peter Markham. At the time of his death, he was Chairman of the British Race Walking Association. He was a past president of the Association. He had devoted his life to the sport. He did not recover from a heart operation and died not long after the death of his wife just 15 days before their 50th anniversary.

More on Dalins. Last month, we included a picture of Janis Dalins, a Latvian walker of some note in the 1930s together with a brief bio of this great man of the past. Good friend Colin Young (see Looking Back, 40 years ago in this issue) supplies a little more about Dalins: “In
A Voice From the Past; A Challenge For the Future

The following letter is from Charlie Silcock who first developed a very strong racewalking program in Southern California in the early 1960s and also served twice as National Chairman of the Racewalking Committee, then under the auspices of the AAU. I have condensed the letter slightly (omissions indicated by ellipses) and inserted a few of my own comments. Otherwise, it stands as written and your comments are welcome.

I continue to be shocked as our sport (discipline) of racewalking continues to decline in the quicksand of time. I am sure that if I was privy to all the discussions, committee work, and efforts to recruit new walkers, I would feel any efforts continue to be a dismal failure.

From what I have heard and experienced, I have been involved with the Southern California area for a long time. I have seen the sport decline in popularity and numbers. It seems to be a cycle of growth and decline, with little consistency. The decline is not just in numbers but also in the quality of participants. There is a lack of depth and breadth in the sport.

I am concerned about the future of the sport. Racewalking is an important part of track and field, and it deserves to be treated as such. There is a need for more support and resources to help the sport grow and thrive.

I am not sure what the solution is, but I think it is time to reassess the strategies and approaches used to grow the sport. We need to be creative and innovative in our thinking and actions.

I believe that the key to growth is to focus on grassroots development and promote the sport to a wider audience. We need to make racewalking more accessible and appealing to everyone. We need to create opportunities for participants to experience and enjoy the sport.

I encourage everyone to support and get involved with the sport. Whether you are an athlete, coach, spectator, or someone else, your support is crucial to the growth of racewalking. Let’s work together to make racewalking a thriving and vibrant sport for the future.

JUNE 2011
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with the Ohio TC's Laurie Tucholski second in 25:56. Susan Liers was third and Carol Mohanco, from Kettering, Ohio, was fourth. Mexican Daniel Bautista walked an impressive 2:22:53 for 20 miles in England, leaving Raul Gonzales nearly 4 minutes back. Gonzales had won a 20 Km in Bergen, Norway a week earlier in 1:25:06.

30 Years Ago (From the June 1981 ORW)—Overcoming a drizzle and Seattle chill, Vince O'Sullivan won the National 30 Km in 4:11:12. He controlled the race all the way. Jim Heiring was a lonely second in 4:15:29 and young Ray Sharp third in 4:21:06. The National Junior 10 Km went to Tim Lewis in 50:56 with both temperature and relative humidity in the 90s in Knoxville. ... In Mexico's Walk Week, Soviet Valery Smitskov won the 50 in 3:54:14 ahead of Soviet Andrei Perlov (1:26:18). ... Italy's Maruzio DaMilano, the 1980 Olympic 20 Km gold medalist, won an international 20 Km in 1:23:26.

25 Years Ago (From the June 1986 ORW)—Canada's Guillaume Lablanc scored an impressive win in the Canadian International Racewalking Classic. He beat Mexico's Ernesto Canto, winner at the 1984 Olympics, 1983 World Championships, and 1981 World Cup, over the final 5 Km to win in 1:23:17. Canto was 15 seconds back at the finish. Tim Lewis was with the leaders at 15 Km, but was beaten for third by Marten Bermudez. Tim finished in 1:23:58.

Bermudez won the 30 Km three days later in 2:14:34, 24 seconds ahead of Felix Gomez. Marko Enotnik was fourth in a sparkling 2:18:06. ... Four weeks later, Lewis won the U.S. title in 1:25:22, but Carl Schueler, in his best ever 20, was closing at the finish to take second in 1:25:45. Ray Sharp had 1:25:46 in third. ... Debbi Lawrence won the women's National 10 Km in 50:28:9 with Teresa Vaill second in 50:56. ... Ron Laird became the first race walker named to the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame, which, with the new class, numbered 118 athletes. Henry Laskau and Larry Young have since joined him in the Hall.

20 Years Ago (June 1991 ORW)—The World Cup held in San Jose, Cal, produced some dramatic races. In the men's 20 on the first day, Mexico's Ernesto Canto tried to break loose from the USSR's Mikhail Schemnikov and France's Thierry Toutain at the start of the final 2 Km lap, establishing a quick 6 or 7 seconds lead. But Schemnikov's finishing speed was too much and he won in 1:20:43, 3 seconds ahead of the Mexican. Toutain had 1:20:56.4, 4 seconds ahead of Daniel Plaza, for third. Tim Lewis led U.S. walkers with a 1:28.04. The women's 10 Km saw Irina Strakhova, USSR, winning in 43:55 ahead of Mexico's Graciela Mendoza (44:09), and USSR's Elena Saiko (44:11). With Olga Kardopoltseva in fourth, the USSR was an easy team winner over Italy and Mexico. The U.S. was sixth, led by Debbi Lawrence (46:13) in 15th. In the 50 on the second day, the USSR met disaster when Andrei Perlov, leading by nearly a minute with a lap to go, was disqualified about 600 meters from the finish, giving Mexico's Carlos Mercenario the win in 3:42:03. Mercenario, who had won the 1987 World Cup 20 at age 19, made a strong international debut at the longer distance. The USSR's Aleksandr Potashov crossed the line after Mercenario, only to find he too had a third red card. Thus, Australia's Simon Baker took second and Germany's Ronald Weigel third. The Soviets seemed to have the team title sewed up at the 45 Km mark, but faded to sixth with the red cards. Italy the surprise leader after the 20, took the title ahead of Germany, who had a three, four, six finish at 50, and Mexico. National titles went to Tim Lewis in 1:29:55, with Gary Morgan second and Dave McGovern third, and Debbi Lawrence in 46:37, ahead of Lynn Weik and Victoria Herazo. ... Lewis (1:02:35) and Herazo (1:11:13) took national titles at 15 Km in Portland, Oregon. Lewis was followed by Andrzej Chylinski and Gary Morgan and Herazo by Wendy Sharp and Debby Van Orden.

15 Years Ago (From the June 1996 ORW)—The Olympic Trials for both mean (20 Km) and women (10 Km) were held in Atlanta on the same course to be used in the Olympics a couple of months later. On a very warm, humid day, Curt Clausen was a convincing winner in the 20, his 1:29:30 putting him 47 seconds ahead of Tim Seaman. Gary Morgan was another 33 seconds back, and Allen James 17 seconds behind him. As it turned out, Clausen, who already had the B standard of 1:26:00, was the only U.S. qualifier, as no one approached the 1:23:50 A standard. ... The women's race saw a repeat for the three 1992 Olympians as Debbi Lawrence won in 46:05 with Michelle Rohl (46:37) and Victoria Herazo (48:12) following. Debby Van Orden was another minute back in fourth. ... Earlier, Rohl had done an American record 44:06 on the track at UW-Parkside. ... In the Naumberg, Germany 50 Km, which served as the German Olympic Trial, Russia's Viktor Ginko won in 3:42:52 followed by Valentin Kononen, Finland in 3:45:19, and Mikhail Schemnikov, Russia in 3:47:2. Ronald Weigel was fourth in 3:51:46 winning the German Trial. ... Kononen also had 39:24:52 10 Km in Finland.

10 Years Ago (From the June 1996 ORW)—Curt Clausen won the U.S. 20 Km title for the fourth time in six years, easily beating an under-the-weather Tim Seaman in 1:24:50. Seaman, who had won the event in 1998 and 2000, was second in 1:26:15, just 19 seconds ahead of Sean Albert. Al Hepper beat Philip Dunn for fourth. ... In the women's National 20, Michelle Rohl scored as easy win in 1:32:49, nearly four minutes ahead of Amber Antonia (1:36:37). Jill Zniewer (1:37:10), Debbi Lawrence (1:38:41), and Joanne Dow (1:38:52) followed. ... Rohl and Seaman won titles at 15 Km in 1:09:10 and 1:02:17, respectively. Lawrence (1:11:42), Zniewer (1:11:49), and Antonia (1:13:30) followed Rohl. ... Seaman (1:03:00) was second in the men's race ahead of Al Hepper (1:07:11) and Dave McGovern (1:08:22). ... Junior 10 Km titles went to Ben Shorey in 45:18:01 and Robyn Stevens in 53:19:50. Shorey managed to get by Matt Boyles in the stretch drive, winning by just 0.02. ... NAIA titles went to Sara Stevenson in 14:03:59 at 3 Km and Lachlan McDonald in 21:20:11 at 5 Km. ... In Europe, Australia's Nathan Deakes walked 1:18:14 in Ireland, Andreas Erm did 1:19:32 in Germany, and Mexico's Alejandro Lopez did 1:20:59 in Finland.

5 Years Ago (From the June 2001 ORW)—At the National T&F Meet, Kevin Eastler and Jo Ann Dow won 20 Km titles and Jared Swoles and Ketty Hayes won Junior 10 Km titles. Dow walked 1:26:20.06 to beat Teresa Vail by more than 4 minutes with Sam Cohen third. Eastler did 1:25:09.67 with John Nunn (1:27:46.59) and Tim Seaman (1:27:59.04) following. Swoles did 48:47.50 ahead of Roberto Vergara (49:09.95) and Hayes had a 53:27.94, 34 seconds ahead of Lauren Fergus. ... In 10 Km Nationals, Seaman (42:23.2) and Jolene Moore (46:40.2) scored National wins. Matt Boyles (43:05.3) and Maria Michita (48:46) were second.

On the back of the envelope enclosing the Larson's renewal, Judy wrote: "I hadn't seen it. Have You?" Kudos to the USPS.

Years Ago

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