Guatemala Scores Big At Pan Am Games

Guadalajara, Mexico, October 23—Guatemala, a country that had never won a track and field gold medal at the Pan American Games, ended that 56-year drought in a big way today, taking gold medals in both the men's and women's 20 Km walks. To make it even better, they also took silver in the men's race. The golds came in the persons of Erick Barrondo and Jamy Franco. (Erick Barrondo was listed as Erick Garcia earlier in the year when he won the Pan Am Cup and finished third in the Dublin Challenge Series 20 Km and Jamy Franco was Jamy Nunez earlier in the year. Perhaps Jamy has been married in the meantime to explain the difference in her name. Anyway, on with the story.)

For the 20-year-old Franco, it was a family redemption as she made up for her mother's (Evelyn Nunez) DQ at the last Pan Am Games in 2007. Franco, who was 19th in the World Championships in the recent World Championships, led from start to finish and set a personal best by 10 seconds as she crossed the line in 1:32:38. That bettered the Games record of 1:34:19, set by Mexico's Graciela Mendoza in 1999. Mirna Ortiz also walked a personal best of 1:33:37 to secure an unprecedented one-two for Guatemala. Colombia's Ingrid Hernandez also bettered the previous record with a 1:34:06 for third.

"I was very confident and conditions were excellent today. All the sacrifice has been worthwhile. We want to take Guatemala forward. One of my dreams has come true and I also broke the record. I now look forward to the London Olympics," said an elated Franco. "I would like to especially thank my mom for today's win. She initiated me in the sport. She is my guide in everything else."

The first three separated themselves from the field on the first 2 Km lap that saw Franco and Ortiz together in 8:46 with Hernandez 3 seconds back. Two others were at 8:50 and the rest of the 7 starters were already 13 seconds or more behind. A Lap later, Franco and Ortiz were moving away, with Hernandez now 11 seconds back and the others fading away. Franco started to move away after 8 km and when she reached 10 Km in 46:12, she was 3 seconds ahead of Ortiz and 34 seconds ahead of Ortiz, now all by herself in third. From there to the finish it was only a question of how wide a margin Franco would open.

For the U.S., Maria Michta started conservatively and reached 10 km in 48:57 in 11th place. From there, she walked steadily at a pace a few seconds one side or the other of 10 minutes per lap and moved up to ninth place at the finish in 1:38:47. Lauren Forgues was in 13th place in 61:31 at 14 Km, but dropped out of the race at that point.

Lopez went into the men's race as favorite off his third place finish in the World Championships four weeks ago, but Barrondo's win certainly was not a big surprise. Although only tenth in that World Championship race, he had, finished second to Lopez in the Pan-Am Cup in the spring (52 seconds back) and had beaten him in an IAAF Challenge Series in Dublin in June.

Here, Barrondo was leading a pack of seven through 12 Km after reaching 10 in 41:13. At the 12 Km mark, Barrondo, Lopez, another Colombian, James Rendon, and Mexico's Eder Sanchez made a move and reached 14 km in 49:22, with the other three rapidly
Serianzi Wins Two Nationals; Vaill Adds 39th

Dan Serianzi, 21, from Rochester, N.Y. and representing World Class Racewalkers, won the National USATF 5 Km in Kingsport, Tenn. on October 1 and 8 days later added the National 1 Hour title in Waltham, Mass. In Kingsport, it was a close win over Ohio’s Michael Mannozzi and in Waltham it was an easy win over a field of primarily aging men, as Dave Talcott, 51, took second, nearly a full kilometer behind.

In the 5 Km, the women’s title went to 39-year-old Maite Moscoso, who easily beat Ohio’s Erika Shaver, as well as her 16-year-old daughter, also Maite, who finished fifth. In the women’s 1 Hour, Teresa Vaill, 48, won her 39th National title, the first having come in 1984, as she beat Katie Burnett by more than 500 meters. The results:


**Men:**

**USATF National 1 Hour, Waltham, Mass., October 8: Women—**

**Men:**

Other Results

**8 Km, South Florida, Oct. 15—** Henrik Parvianen (14), Finland 45:29 2. Erika Parvianen...
**OCTOBER 2011**

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Z--www.rwann.com

2012 IAAF Challenge Racew

March 3 Chihuahua, Mexico
March 29-31 Taichung, China
April 14 Rio Maior, Portugal
May 12-13 World RW Cup, Saransk, Russia
May 26 La Cornu, Spain
June 2 Sesto San Giovanni, Italy
Aug. 3-12 Olympics Games, London
Sept. 15 Challenge Final, Erdos, China

From Heel To Toe

Comment on DQ’s. This from Bob Bowman: “The summary of DQ’s in World Championship 50 Km races by Brian Huntley is quite misleading. (Referring to our Sept. issue.) Looking at the red cards never has there been such a one-sided number of bent knee calls. Loss of contact still should be the main violation, not a 12 to 1 ratio in favor of bent knees. The historical ratio is around 2 to 1 in favor of loss of contact for this level of athletes. A ratio of 1 to 1 is a bit unusual, but still possible. However, with only four red cards for loss of contact and 49 for bent knees, this panel of judges had no clue what they were doing. Only Maryann Daniel with two red cards for each violation appears to be in line with historical averages. She is a good prudent judge, so I believe she was close to being right on the money. As to the large number

**Compete with your feet at a racewalking meet**

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**From Heel To Toe**

Comment on DQ’s. This from Bob Bowman: “The summary of DQ’s in World Championship 50 Km races by Brian Huntley is quite misleading. (Referring to our Sept. issue.) Looking at the red cards never has there been such a one-sided number of bent knee calls. Loss of contact still should be the main violation, not a 12 to 1 ratio in favor of bent knees. The historical ratio is around 2 to 1 in favor of loss of contact for this level of athletes. A ratio of 1 to 1 is a bit unusual, but still possible. However, with only four red cards for loss of contact and 49 for bent knees, this panel of judges had no clue what they were doing. Only Maryann Daniel with two red cards for each violation appears to be in line with historical averages. She is a good prudent judge, so I believe she was close to being right on the money. As to the large number
of DQ’s in 2005, you can totally ignore that in the comparison. That number is mainly the product of one judge (the cheating judge from Italy—see Bob’s letter below) putting in a large number of third red cards. He got the info off the posting board from a colleague who was stationed near the board. His large number of third red cards was not the result of actual judging, but cheating. Ron Daniel is researching the 2003 situation.

Walter M. Brugnetti, 2004 Olympic Champion in the 20 Km and 199 World Champion in the 50, has retired from the sport at the age of 35. He retired due to his desire not to be able to compete at the highest level, and he is now spending his time on coaching. Ron Daniel's research has revealed that the number of third red cards was not the result of actual judging, but cheating.

As a follow-up to discussions in the last two issues regarding judging and IAAF RW Committee matters, Bob Bowman has suggested that we publish a letter he sent to IAAF President Lamine Diack in July in order to “give supportive information and to give readers a clear picture of what we have been up against in the sport internationally.” Here is that letter:

July 30, 2011
Mr. Lamine Diack
President, IAAF
Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your quick response. I fully appreciate your desire to be fair and in compliance with the provisions of the IAAF Constitution. Unfortunately, the IAAF Constitution lacks any provisions that formally addresses such matters.

I would never have brought this matter to your attention unless the evidence in support of the allegations of ethics violations was substantial. There are many witnesses to these events, including myself. There is video clearly showing these violations at IAAF competitions. One such video was shown to Race Walking Committee members by the member from Finland, also a member of European Parliament, at last year’s IAAF Race Walking World Cup.

The judge in question, Nicola Maggio, is shown comparing his judgment sheet with another judge during the competition (Dudine 2010) in violation of the rules.

At the 2005 IAAF World Championships in Helsinki, Mr. Maggio is again getting information regarding the number of red cards by mobile phone from a colleague who had stationed near the posting board in violation of the IAAF code of ethics. The Finnish federation complained about this, but nothing was ever done. It was eventually discussed at the 2006 IAAF Race Walking Committee meeting. One of the members, Gabriel Roldan of Mexico, presented an analysis of the judging data which shows that almost all of Mr. Maggio’s red cards were third red cards, thus resulting in disqualifications. The Committee Chairman, Maurizio Damilano, then agreed that Mr. Maggio would not be a candidate again for the Level III International Panel. However, Mr. Maggio showed up at the Level III examinations several months later to the surprise of the examiners, including myself.

At the 2002 Level III examinations, Mr. Maggio was caught with the answers to the oral exam and admitted to the examiners that he had cheated. Only three people had the questions and answers beforehand, the two examiners (Peter Marlow & Rolf Mueller) and Damilano. Again in 2006 at the Level III examinations, Mr. Maggio appeared to have the answers again. The 45 candidates had two hours to complete the examination. Mr. Maggio completed it in 35 minutes with the only perfect score! The next fastest finisher took 1 hour and 5 minutes! That is really unbelievable, especially since he told me he had no time to study for the exam! Apparently he didn’t need to. In the video exam, the candidates watched it three times before completing their papers. Mr. Maggio watched it only once before quickly marking his paper with another perfect score.

Surely you remember the 1993 Stuttgart incident where Mr. Maggio caused a major scandal by unfairly disqualifying walkers by using the posted red card information to put in third red cards, never even looking at the walkers properly! This cost a Mexican walker a silver medal. The later “coverup” of this incident included a signed statement by Mr. Maggio, claiming his third red card was a forgery, even though I and the Recorder, Rolf Mueller, saw him fill it out! We still have that card and a video showing him filling it out! His defenders also changed the recording sheet to show Maggio’s red card was the 2nd red card, not the 3rd! This childish coverup took place in the summer of 1994.

Clearly this matter needs to be resolved in the best interest of the IAAF, honestly and fairly. 18 years is way too long to allow this to continue. And this judge is on the Judging Panel for next year’s Olympic Games!

Yours sincerely,
Bob Bowman
Member, IAAF Race Walking Committee

Growing Our Sport: Commentary from Dave Talcott

How do we grow a sport? Is it by creating interest in the sport, and then by giving every interested individual a chance to develop in the sport—or is it by letting them know we appreciate their interest but placing limits on what they can attain or on what records can be set or on what competitions they can participate in?

I love my sport and have been dabbling in it since 1977 when my track coach asked me to try it. Eight years later the New York State Public High School Athletic Association voted to eliminate the boys’ race walk from their indoor and outdoor track programs. Five or 6 years after that the quality/depth of USA Race Walking began to deteriorate. Approximately 50% of America’s best walkers came out of the NYS High School Program. Interest was not being created and individuals were not being given the chance to develop in the sport. There were fewer venues to compete in for developing young athletes.

While some colleges offered walkers a place to grow and develop (thank goodness for UW Parkside!), opportunities were few and far between.

The number of national championship events also has diminished—partially due to
fewer participants and the work involved. Each and every person who puts on a Race Walking race or who helps out at one of these races should be thanked profusely as they are endeavoring to grow the sport. Athletes, please do your part and participate!

Getting back to the question at hand: How do we grow Race Walking? Let me start out by illustrating how we don't grow the sport.

We don't grow the sport by putting on national championships on courses that are not accurate (certified as required by the bidding procedure). Yes, athletes have proven they will pay the entry fee and participate (as long as they are not told about it before the event) only to find out that they walked an unspecified distance as basically a work out with no chance for a record or even a PR. How are they compensated for that by silence. By no response from the powers that be. While it may be true that the issue is being worked on who knows that they are? All of those complaining about the problem have been left wondering the same way those did when the issue was being 'addressed' in 2006.

Another way we don't grow the sport is by non-support of the athletes. I am not talking financial support - but by moral support. By doing the right thing no matter what you may feel about the situation - case in point:

A female athlete bests the men's Olympic Trials Standard at a distance that is not currently recognized as a championship distance for women by the IAAF. What is the right thing to do? To support the developing athlete and do everything that can be done to allow her to develop as an athlete. To push for equality; to allow her and any other female who bests the standard to compete with the men until such a time as there is a Women's 50k Race Walk in the World Cup, World Champs, and Olympic Games. There should be no negative side to this.

Only a positive side. Will it grow the sport to disallow participation? There are girls out there right now who could be future Olympic Medal winners for the USA at 50k if we make the right decision and grow the sport. One individual tries to speak for the USOC and the IAAF saying that they would not allow a woman to participate in our Olympic Trials. The bottom line is that women are able to compete in races where IAAF A and B standards can be set (i.e. National 30k and 50k), and it is USATF, specifically the Race Walking Committee who sets the rules as to who may compete in their 'Olympic Trials'-no USOC. Wouldn't it make more sense to let her compete and work at contacting other federations and push for them to join Australia, France, Italy and the United States in having 50k Championships for women so that a woman's 50k in the Olympics will be a reality. (By the way - the world best for 50k by a woman is by Monica Svensson of Sweden who walked 4:10:59. There is no doubt that women are able to compete in races where IAAF A and B standards can be set."

A budding Success Story

This is the Ohio Racewalker so why not an article on one of our state's emerging racewalkers. When Michael Mannozzi was selected for the Pan Am Games team he became, by quick unofficial count, the ninth Ohio racewalker to compete on the senior international level. That's not counting Ron Laird, who has lived in Ashtabula for at least 20 years and spent a few of his formative years in the Columbus suburb of Grandview Heights, but was neither an Ohio native nor an Ohio resident during his competitive years. The following article on Michael is a press release from his alma mater, Notre Dame College in South Euclid, Ohio, a Cleveland suburb.)
accomplishment it itself, especially when you consider how he entered the sport of race walking.

As an average wrestler on Notre Dame's national championship winning team, Mannozzi quickly decided to step off the mat and onto the track instead. The Falcon track and field coaches in 2007 hesitantly welcomed him as a walk-on (Ed. No pun intended), not realizing he would soon racewalk right past his teammates and opponents "I never knew what lay ahead as a walk-on to the track team. I don't think anyone knew," he said.

Mannozzi quickly exceeded everyone's expectations including his own. In 2010, his last season as a Falcon, his meteoric rise culminated in winning the national indoor (NAIA) championship in the 3000 meter racewalk.

"Notre Dame was the first place that really gave me a chance to grow. The opportunity embraced me as a person. It was something that I've never known in my life," Mannozzi says. "Notre Dame helped me chase my dreams."

But his successes didn't end at the College. After graduation, Mannozzi began working with Coach Vince Peters who has trained other Olympic Trials qualifiers in his 20-year-long career. With Peters, whom he calls his "jockey" Mannozzi scored some impressive results. He finished fifth in the 1 Mile race at the prestigious Millrose Games, the most venerable indoor meet in the country, at Madison Square Garden in New York City in January.

Three months later, he won the Ohio 50 Km Championships in Yellow Springs in 4:41:50. The time allows Mannozzi to participate in the 50 Km Olympic Trials in San Diego in January, in addition to the 20 Km trials in Eugene next June.

"The 50 is such a brutal race," Mannozzi says, "there's only five of us presently qualified for both distances."

Mannozzi went a considerably shorter distance on April 30, when he won the bronze medal at the Penn Relays in Philadelphia, the largest and longest-running track and field competition in the U.S. that draws 15,000 athletes. He finished the 10 km in 44:57.

In preparation for the national championships in Eugene, Mannozzi walked the 20 Km at the Jack Mortland Race in Dayton on May 8, winning in 1:36:02 (Ed. And in the process bettering the personal best of Jack Mortland himself.) Mannozzi was the runner-up with a time of 45:57 in the USA National 10 Km in Albany, N.Y. on June 4.

Mannozzi's dream is to qualify for the 2012 Olympics in London, but he knows that he faces a nearly impossible task, as he would have to improve his 20 and 50 Km times by about 12 and 32 minutes respectively.

"It's very unlikely to cut off that much time at this level in less than 10 months," Mannozzi says before falling back into his optimism. "But I've shocked people in the track world and myself in terms of the strides I've made. It's never impossible. If I don't make it in 2012, if I stay healthy, I have a shot at 2016."

Whether he qualifies or not, Mannozzi's story is one that exemplifies the mission of Notre Dame College, says Armstrong, who is now Vice President for Advancement. "One of our goals is to provide a private, values-based, Catholic education in the liberal arts to students who might otherwise have access to such an experience," he says. "This is really a Cinderella story that we are proud of at Notre Dame."

Part of that Cinderella story is the light-green suit Mannozzi wore for his admissions interview in 2006. The suit once belonged to his dad who died in 2001 from multiple sclerosis and had been confined to a wheelchair for the last 10 years of his life.

"I race for him," Mannozzi said, "and carry his name."

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**The Right Way To Train for the 50 Km Walk**

by Elliott Denman

Elliott Denman represented the U.S. in the 50 Km at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne. For a zillion years he has conducted races in New Jersey, including the National 40, eternally quartered in that state. After retiring from newspaper writing, he has continued as a free lance sports writer, covering the Olympics along with much else. He is a hero of our sport in many ways. This little tidbit first appeared in the September 1961 edition of the Midwest Walker, edited by Chris McCarthy and was repeated in the September 1971 edition of the Ohio Racewalker. Here it is again in all its brilliance.

As a truly scientific pedestrian I would like to hereby submit my own tried and true training methods for walking races of all distances: 220 yards to London and back and back once more... this is the method that carried me to the very top of the walking world in a brilliant two weeks of 1959 (when he won both the National 2 Mile and 50 Km), but also swiftly brought me down to some slower races afterward.

Briefly then, this is the method which I'm sure will revolutionize the sport. It involves no special tracks, special athletic costume, special shoes, diets, ruddowns, good luck charms, etc, with which certain pedestrians of my acquaintance unduly occupy their minds. The method merely requires clothing of the sort that's suitable for an ordinary day's activities in any field of endeavor (grey flannel suit, blue jeans, overalls, whatever). Shoes are optional. (In fact, many of my followers look upon shoes as an unnecessary expenditure.)

There is only one thing that is really basic. The method must be used in a large teeming metropolis, preferably at rush hours. (Country boys will have to come to the big city to get anywhere.) Once in the city, the hopeful pedestrian meets a delightful sight. People are walking and walking all over the place. Each one is to be considered a rival. Our may merely precede to race anybody he (or she) sees fit. He may, for instance, spot a tall long-legged fellow walking fairly rapidly and thus just spot him one-quarter of a block (to the corner bar, anywhere). If he happens to see a grandmother strolling along, naturally our man will allow her to get, say 3/4 of the way down the block, before breaking out in his heel-and-toe stride in a...
40 Years Ago (From the October 1971 ORW) - The Mexicans, starting a racewalk revolution under new National Coach Jerry Hausleber, from Poland, came north and dominated the National 15 Km in Des Moines. Jose Oliveros won in 1:06:24, 10 seconds ahead of Ron Laird. Following Mexicans Hernandez and Sanchos, Larry Young took fifth in 67:53, with Floyd Godwin sixth, ahead of three more Mexicans, including world future beater, Raoul Gonzales. Rudy Haluza beat Todd Scully for the fourth U.S. spot. Bob Henderson in 24th did 1:14:38. Today, we could invite six Mexicans and our top women and still not be able to match that depth. On the other hand, though most thought the course was accurate, your editor was surprised with his 1:12:09 at a point in his career (age 36 and training in a more leisurely fashion) when he would have been satisfied with Henderson’s time. On the other, other hand, finishing less than six minutes behind walkers of international class suggests I might have been more fit that I thought. The U.S. won a dual meet from Canada in Lake Placid with Laird taking the 20 Km in 1:38:25 over Bill Ranney and Marcel Jobin. Larry Young scored an easy win at 40 Km in 4:28:58. Bill Weigle, destined to make the Olympic team a year later, started to look like a threat with a 4:44:48 for 6 miles and 3:41:45 for 40 Km in Denver’s altitude. East Germany won a dual meet from the USSR, with Gerhard Sperling taking the 20 in 1:28:23 and Veniamin Soldatenko the 50 in 3:59:18 (just 3 seconds ahead of Peter Selzer). Karl-Heinz Stadtmauer won the Junior 10 in 43:49.

35 Years Ago (From the October 1976 ORW) - The Leicester-to-Skegness 100 went to Derek Harrison in a swift 17:15:50, some 42 minutes ahead of Dutchman J. Vos. Eight competitors finished under 20 hours and 38 beat the 24-hour limit. England’s Olly Flynn won the 20 Km in a dual meet with Italy in 1:27:35, as Mauricio Damilano prepared for his 1980 Olympic gold with a win in the Junior 10 Km in 42:35.

30 Years Ago (From the October 1981 ORW) - A well-balanced Italian team emerged as the

next four spots. Temperature in the 90s did not help the athletes... Three weeks later, Laird beat Zinn in a 15 Km race in New York City with a 1:12:54 effort. Zinn had 1:14:31, just 15 seconds ahead of third place Bob Mimm. In yet another 15 Km race in Chicago, this one on a wet cinder track with muddy patches that forced the walkers into the third and fourth lanes, Jack Mortland won in 1:17:48. Rimas Vaicaitis won an accompanying 5 miles in 40:02.5.

Alex Oakley won the Canadian 50 Km in 4:35:51. Elliott Denman won the Maccabiah Games 3 Km in 15:03 ahead of three Israelis.

45 Years Ago (From the October 1966 ORW) - Larry Young won the first of his eight National 50 Km titles in Chicago. Pulling away from Canada’s Alex Oakley in the final 5 Km, Larry recorded the second best ever by a U.S. walker (to that time) with a 4:38:25. Oakley folded completely and finished nearly 5 minutes back in 4:43:06, less that a minute ahead of fast-closing Shaul Ladany. Ron Daniel, Pat Ferrell (Canada), Jim Clinton, and Karl Menschen (Canada) were also under 5 hours. Your editor, one of his failed attempts at this distance, dropped out at 24 miles in third place. Earlier in the month, Ron Laird won the National 15 Km in Atlantic City with a 1:11:28. Ron Daniel edged Bob Kitchen for second a couple of minutes back, and Bill Kaiser took fourth... In East Germany, Christoph Hohne did a 2:20:36 for 30 Km on the track with a world’s best of 1:50:07 for 15 miles on the way. Gennadiy Agapov covered the 30 Km distance on the road in 2:12:56 in the Soviet Union. Another Soviet walker, Nikolai Smaga, won the Little Olympics in Mexico City with a 1:31:04 for 20 K. Italy’s Vittorio Visini was a minute back... Leading 47 finishers, K Abolin won the Leicester-to-Skegness 100 mile in England in 18:10:46.

Canada’s George Goulding on his way to Olympic gold in Stockholm 1912

LOOKING BACK

50 Years Ago (From the October 1961 Midwest Walker, published in Chicago by Chris McCarthy) - Ron Zinn won the National 15 Km in Atlantic City, beating Ron Laird by 27 seconds in 1:15:03. Rimas Vaicaitis, Bob Mimm, Jack Blackburn, and Ron Daniel took the
The 20 Km race in the U.S.-Romania junior meet in 21:54.68. Curt Clausen was third. The 50 Km in 2:17:25. Victoria Herazo was fourth. The 10000 meter race in 27:38. Allen James was third. The 3000 meter race in 8:31. Allen James was second. The 15000 meter race in 42:57. Allen James was fourth. The 50 Km race in 3:20:47. Allen James was fifth. The 10000 meter race in 27:38. Allen James was second. The 20 Km race in 1:26:33. Allen James was third.