



# OHIO RACEWALKER

Ohio Race Walker  
3184 Summit Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43202

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COLUMBUS, OHIO

NOVEMBER 2011

## Serianni Cops 30 Km Title; Gustafsson in Fast 50

Valley Cottage, New York, October 30—In the year's final National USATF title race, Dan Serianni scored an impressive win at 30 Km in 2:27:54, with Tim Seaman and Patrick Stroupe not far back in 2:29:02. Jonathan Matthews, on his way to 50 Km, finished fourth in 2:32:43, putting him first in the 55-59 age group. On his way he collected age group records at 15 Km (1:11:02), 20 Km (1:35:14, qualifying for the Olympic Trials), and 25 Km (2:02:19). His 30 Km and 50 Km (4:37:05) times were also national age group records. Michael Mannozi came back strongly from his difficult race in the Pan-Am Games only a week before, to take fifth in 2:33:43 well clear of Ray Sharp, who was first in the 50-54 age group.

Several of the competitors besides Matthews went on to 50, all far behind Sweden's Andreas Gustafsson, who easily bettered the Olympic "A" qualifier with his 3:54:08. Second and third in the 50 were Erich Cordero and Yandy Alvarez, representing the Shore A.C. More about them below. In a 20 Km race, Ecuador's Marucio Sanchez copped an Olympic "B" standard with a 1:23:48 effort. The results:

**National 30 Km:** 1. Dan Serianni, World Class RW 2:27:54 2. Tim Seaman, NYAC 2:29:02 3. Patrick Stroupe, un. 2:29:02 4. Jonathan Matthews, World Class RW (1st 55-59) 2:32:43 5. Michael Mannozi, Miami Valley TC 2:33:43 6. Ray Sharp, Pegasus AC (1st 50-54) 2:38:21 7. Erich Cordero, Shore AC 2:42:35 8. Yandy Alvarez, Shore AC 2:42:35 9. Chris Schmid, World Class RW 2:52:56 (1st 60-64) 10. Omar Nash, Miami Valley TC 2:53:40 11. Steve Harper, World Class RW 2:59:07 (2nd 60-64, a faculty colleague of Jonathan Matthews at Carrol College in Montana) 12. Leon Jasionowski, Pegasus (1st 65-59) 2:59:55 13. Max Walker, Pegasus (2<sup>d</sup> 65-59) 3:01:39 14. Andrew Smith, Pegasus (3rd 60-64) 3:10:45 15. Rod Craig, Pegasus (2nd 50-54) 3:17:54 16. Bruce Logan, Park Walkers (1st 40-44) 3:25:39 17. Klaus Thiedman, Chicago Walkers (2nd 55-59) 3:32:27 18. John Backlund, S. Cal. TC (1st 70-74) 3:45:13 19. Patrick Bivona, Shore AC (2<sup>nd</sup> 70-74) 3:50:09 20. Steve Druant, Tidewater Striders (3rd 70-74) 4:08:26 **Women:** 1. Darlene Backlund, S. Cal. TC (65-59) 3:50:15 **Teams:** 1. World Class Racewalking 7:42:32 2. Pegasus AC 8:39:50 3. Shore AC, Alvarez, Cordero, Bivona 9:15:19

**Women's 20 Km:** 1. Mayra Carolina Herrera, Guatamala (Guest) 1:34:39 2. Johanna Ordonez, Ecuador (Guest) 1:36:27 3. Paul Perez, Ecuador (Guest) 1:35:10 (Well, third place can't be faster than second, but these were the times I have been given) 4. Katie Burnett, Champions International 1:40:42 (Olympics Trials qualifier) 5. Maritza Guaman DMaza, Ecuador (Guest) 1:45:43 DNF—Rachel Zoyhofski (1:41:37 at 18 Km)

**Men's 20 Km:** 1. Mauricio Sanches, Ecuador 1:23:54 2. Leonardo Montano, Colombia 1:27:48 3. Bruno Carriere, Canada 1:35:37 4. Nick Christie, San Diego 1:39:05 (Walking for about a year with Tim Seaman.)

**50Km:** 1. Andreas Gustafsson, Sweden 3:54:08 2. Erich Cordero, Shore AC 4:28:57 3. Yandy Alvarez 4:33:26 4. Robinson Vivar, Ecuador 4:37:03 5. Omar Nash, Miami Valley 5:02:02 DNF—Sandor Racz, Hungary (2:22:30 at 27 Km); Francisco Pantojo, un (2:38:42 at 30 Km);

Dave Talcott  
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USA FIRST-CLASS FOREVER



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Patrick Stroupe (2:36:29 at 31.5 Km); Fausto Quinde, Ecuador (2:39:28 at 33 Km); and Tim Seaman (3:08:01 at 37.5 Km)

I questioned Elliott Denman, Shore AC head honcho, about Cordero and Alvarez, neither of them being familiar names and got the following reply:

It is really a wonderful story, a real story of what America is all about, as a welcoming nation, as a nation of opportunity.. Some 10 years ago, not sure exactly of the year, they came to the USA...

They had both been National Champions in Cuba, at early ages, full of great promise. I believe Yandy had a 20K best of 1:24, Erich a 50K best of 4:01. Not sure of the precise details but Yandy was able to leave Cuba through Mexico, where he was for a competition. Not sure if Erich also left at this time, or not. But basic to it all was they wanted to live lives of full freedom, of full expression, of full opportunity. So they did this, leaving behind family and all else, to start new lives...I first met them at the big 20K race in Manassas, Va, the National Invitation.

I had good talk with them after the race, along with Dave Romansky and some others. I invited them to come to NJ and I said I'd try to help them out and extended an invitation to join Shore AC. So they came and were in Elizabeth, NJ for a little while and I (with the help of some Shore AC people, and some members of the N.J. Cuban community) tried to help them out but there was little I could do at that time.

Acquiring English language skill became primary. And so I lost contact for many years. At last, I regained contact and met them at the Feb 2011 Pan Am Trials 20K race in Florida. They told me their story of building new lives -both are now married and Yandy has a young son; both are now USA citizens; both have homes and jobs in Florida, and are doing very nicely and living the American dream.

And, best of all, they are back in serious training and hoping to do well in many upcoming races...Now that they have qualified for the Olympic Trials, this will open many doors for them and gain the recognition they deserve. They have been training hard for quite a while now and, I believe, the times they achieved at Rockland Lake NY State Park, in really difficult conditions, are just the start of much bigger things for both." *(Ed. It turns out, based on a communication from Duffy Mahoney at USATF to Vince Peters, that only Alvarez has attained U.S. citizenship. Cordero is apparently still only a legal resident and would not be eligible to represent the U.S. until two years after attaining citizenship. But, there is still some question about this and th matter is being researched. Alvarez has a personal best of 1:25:48. Cordero has PR's of 1:28:24 and 4:01:15. Alvarez is 32 and Cordero 36.)*

Before we leave the 30 Km National, Jonathan Matthews had this to say about the race:

"Dave McGovern deserves high praise for getting this race staged on the heels of the worst October snowstorm in the northeast in living memory. Conditions were so bad that road and rail travel were banned between New York City and parts north on the afternoon and evening before the race. My NYC flight was diverted to Syracuse because there was only one-eighth mile visibility at LaGuardia airport due to torrential snowfall. I had to bunk at the YMCA in the Big Apple the night before, getting to bed after midnight and then getting up after 5 hours sleep. I arrived by 2-hour bus (which had to dodge snow-downed trees) after 10 a.m. for a race that was scheduled to start at 9 a.m. I had no warm-up in barely above freezing and breezy conditions but was amazed to discover that the road was somehow without snow.

Way to go, Dave!

Temperatures just above freezing, with sun, lots of competition, and a flat certified course actually are nearly ideal conditions, even if all of the events preceding the starting command were extraordinarily poor. Thank you, Dave, for creating the conditions that allowed me to chop some healthy minutes off a slew of records, and -most importantly to me--enabled me to become (by how much?) the oldest qualifier for the USA Olympic Track & Field Trials to be held in Eugene at the end of June. I am a rabid track fan, so I couldn't be happier. Most certainly, this will be my last chance to be a part of it.

Legendary American 50K walker, Curt Clausen, anonymously worked the lap counting table for over 5 hours, along with Dave's marvelous wife, Loretta. Similarly working long hours in the cold were the cream of the crop of American racewalking judges, including 5 with IAAF credentials. Then, the timing crew was so on top of things that it got 3 watches on me at all four record distances, even though these occurred at 3 different certified marks on the 1.5K course! The level of competence displayed by the whole team that Dave assembled was truly extraordinary. Dave's club and business is called World Class Racewalking, and he certainly earned the name with the performance that he and his assembled volunteers delivered. As one who loves to train hard and compete as well as I can, I remain deeply dependent upon, and indebted to, those like Dave who serve our small sport so well."

## Mexico's Nava Wins Pan Am 50 With Strong Finish

Guadalajara, Oct. 29--In the final walking race at the Pan Am Games (Men's and Women's 20s reported last month), Horacio Nave gave Mexico a much-awaited gold in the men's 50 Km. Nava, 2010 World Cup silver medalist, walked side-by-side with his countryman Jose Leyver Ojeda until the 25th and last lap where he made his move and went on to finish in 3:48:58, a respectable time given the high altitude. He was less than a minute off the Pan Am Games record set by Carlos Mercenario, also of Mexico, in 1995..

"Breaking the record was not the top priority. This medal means a lot. It is step a forward going into London 2012. I have qualified. I want to enjoy this result and take some rest", said Nava after th e race.

Ojeda was rewarded with personal best as was Guatemala's Jaime Quiyuch in third, less than a minute off his national record. More than a month after producing the region's best performance and breaking the South American record at the World Championships, Ecuador's Cristian Chocho was disqualified after being in the lead pack until the 28th kilometer. For the U.S., Ben Shorey was on pace for a personal best through 20 Km (1:37:52), but started to feel the effects of the altitude, for which he wasn't prepared, shortly after that. He reached 30 in 2:30:50, but then took more than 60 minutes for his next 10 and about 62 ½ minutes for the final 10 to finish in 4:33:25.

Only 9 of the 16 starters finished the race, with three dropping out and four being DQ'd. One of those four was Dave Talcott. Regarding his DQ, Dave told your editor:

"I felt cheated in Mexico. The race started at 7:30am in the dark and the first two calls I got came from officials that were ahead of me on the course. They ran out of the dark to give me a card (before I got to them) on the first lap. Not one to usually call foul - my seed time was almost 45 minutes behind the next closest competitor and they had a major thoroughfare blocked off for the race. I honestly believe they just wanted me out of the race so as not to hold things up. Walking 4:44 50k pace for the first couple laps and being fresh -getting calls for bent knee was bogus -but it is in the history books now."

Interestingly, another DQ'd walker was Mario Santos of Brazil who led Dave by just 2 seconds and was also tossed after just three laps. A third was Edward Arroya of Chile who was not far ahead of Dave and Santos and got only a lap further before he was removed. So

only Chocho was among the leaders when DQ'd. Perhaps there is some truth in Dave's supposition. Results:

1. Horacio Nava, Mexico 3:48:58 2. Jose Ojeda, Mexico 3:49:16 3. Jaime Quiyuch, Guatemala 3:50:33 4. Fredy Hernandez, Colombia 4:00:12 5. Jonathan Riekman, Brazil 4:04:07 6. Emerson Hernandez, El Salvador 4:12:53 7. Nater Rueda, Colombia 4:17:40 8. Bernardo Aguiler, Costa Rico 4:21:19 9. Ben Shorey, USA 4:33:25 DNF: Eduardo Paa, Guatemala 38 Km in 3:03:38; Jaime Saquipay, Ecuador 32 Km in 2:34:17; Allen Segura, Costa Rico 35 Km in 2:18:50. DQ—Cristian Chocho, Ecuador 28 Km in 2:08:07; Edvard Arroya, Chile 8 Km in 38:48; Mario Santos, Brazil, 6 Km in 34:32; Dave Talcott, USA 6 Km in 34:34

## Ohio Last Chance 50 Km

Yellow Springs, Ohio November 26 (Report from Vince Peters with some additions by your editor, who was also in attendance) As the Ohio State Michigan Football game provided the back ground noise, five stalwart men walked 'round the coned 400 meter track of Yellow Springs HS taking a last chance to endure 125 laps and gain the glory of entry into the 2012 USA Olympic Trials. Dan Serianni took the early lead over a pack of three (Mike Mannozi, Omar Nash, and Dave Talcott) with Chris Schmid trailing. The 64 year old Schmid conservatively walked through 10k in 58:33 and 20k in 1:56:56, but tightened up later and retired at 30k with a 2:59:12.

At 10k Serianni led with a 54:29, followed by Mannozi and Nash at 55:44 and Talcott at 56:11. At 20k it was Serianni at 1:49:54, Mannozi and Nash at 1:51:50 and Talcott at 1:52:11. Serianni split 30k at 2:46:03 with Mannozi and Talcott at 2:48:14. Nash had cramped and backed off to recoup at 2:50:06. But he couldn't recover and at 38 kilometers a final seizure brought him to a standstill.

At 40 kilometers Serianni still led at 3:42:31 but his advantage had narrowed over Talcott, at 3:43:24 and Mannozi at 3:44:06. But Serianni had the misfortune of hitting the wall hardest of the remaining three - and finished in 4:54:03—an agonizing 71 ½ minutes for the final 10. Welcome to 50 Km walking. Mannozi finished strong to win in 4:41:23, a 26-second improvement on his 50 Km debut on the same track in April. And Talcott joined wife Erin (see story on page 11) in the Men's Olympic 50k Trials field as he held on to finish in 4:42:20.

In the accompanying 20k race, there were five starters, Katie Burnett, Jill Cobb, Susan Randall, Erin Taylor-Talcott and Jake Gunderkline. Only Cobb and Randall would finish with Cobb logging an Olympic Trials qualifying time of 1:46:23. Randall, who has previously qualified, finished in 1:48:45. Taylor-Talcott was more concerned with helping her hubby and walked only about 4 Km, mostly with Dave as the two races proceeded together, the 20 starting an hour-and-a-half after the 50. For the 36-year-old Cobb (nee Zenner) it was her first 20 Km race since 2002, when she was fourth in the nationals with a 1:39:46. She retired to motherhood at the end of that year and has returned to sporadic racing at shorter distances only in the last couple of years. With a lifetime best of 1:34:50 dating to 2000 and World Cup, World Championship, and Pan Am experience in the past, she is planning a serious effort in 2012.

## Other Results

**101st Coney Island 10 Mile Handicap, Brooklyn, Nov. 20** (Actual times shown)—1. Lorie Sheinwald (45) 1:41:23 2. Bill Vayo (47) 1:34:28 3. Nikolas Day (48) 1:39:43 4. Dave McGovern (46) 1:30:18 (fast time) 5. John Morrison (63) 1:51:10 6. Panseluta Geer (65) 1:51:15 7. Bruce Logan (46) 1:41:53 8. Ron Salvio (63) 2:16:67 9. Lisa Marie Vellucci (33) 1:44:31 10. Howard Burkhart (68) 2:00:48 11. John Fredericks (63) 1:56:56 12. Patrick Bivona (70) 2:07:27 13. Maria Paul (45) 1:57:40 14. James McGrath (74) 2:13:48 **5 Miles, same**

**place**—1. Maryanne Daniel (53) 48:36 2. Sophia Mahin (15) 48:57 3. Frank Stonitsch (66) 55:59 4. Maria Romano (53) 57:35 5. Avtar Tinna (1) 57:50 6. Sherwin Wilk (73) 57:54 7. Dino Rojas (57) 59:08 8. Gus Davis (74) 63:57 9. Frank Bergson (72) 65:39 10. George Shilling (73) 67:14 (25 finishers) **1 Hour, Virginia Beach, Nov. 12**—1. Rebecca Garson (47) 8805 meters 2. Paula Graham (49) 8653 3. Linda Johnson (50) 8607 4. Heidi Sleasman 7563 Men—1. Tom Gerhardt (60) 9679 2. Hartley Dewey (64) 8384 3. Steve Durrant (72) 7684 **Florida Stage 20 Km, Nov. 13**—1. Maite Moscoso (39) 1:46:16 2. Gerry Gomes (79) 2:29:50 (3 DNF, 1 DQ) **Open 20 Km same place**—1. Chris Schmid (64) 1:54:49 2. Andrew Smith 962) 1:59:43 **10 Km, New Albany, Ohio**—1. Jill Cobb 51:38 2. Emily Belovich 60:16 3. Alexandra Brown 61:07 4. Holly Cush 65:39 5. Donna Graham 65:43 6. Joyce Prohaska 66:15 Men—1. Joel Pfahler 5107 2. Jim Scott 57:39 3. Jay Smith 60:07 4. Vince Peters 61:12 5. Jeff Muser 63:16 ½ **Marathon, same place**—1. Kathleen Pierce 2:19:17 2. Anda Coiner 2:24:05 3. Susan Fassett 2:25:29 Men—1. Josh Wiseman 1:45:50 2. Omar Nash 1:50:29 3. Tim Finkel 2:17:52 **5000 meters, Houston, Oct. 22**—1. Tor-Ivar Guttulrod (45+) 27:38 2. Alberto Medina (50+) 29:40 Women—1. Maryann Ramirez (50+) 34:42 Doc Tripp Memorial 10 km, Broomfield, Col., Sept. 17—1. Francisco Pantoja 50:04 2. Gerardo Pantoja 56:47 3. Marianne Martino (61) 64:43 4. Darla Graff (44) 65:23 **5 Km, Denver, Sept. 24**—1. Daryl Meyers (68) 34:54 **15 Km, Tulsa, Okla., Oct. 29**—1. Daniel Henderson (47) 1:38:19 2. Mimi Tarrasch (55) 1:50:36 **Duke City Marathon, Albuquerque, Oct. 23**—1. Patrick Collier 4:29:52 2. Alexis Davidson 4:48:48 **5 Km, same place**—1. Mandy Owens (45) 30:22 2. Teresa Aragon (50) 30:58 **20 Km, same place**—1. Keneth Fresquez (52) 2:09:22 2. Laura Draelow (49) 2:12:39 3. Lisa Mackey (53) 2:22:19 **3 Km, Salt Lake City, Utah, Oct. 29**—1. Tammy Stevenson (41) 16:4 2. **5000 meters, Los Angeles, Sept. 18**—1. Stan Chraminski (60+) 29:57.01 2. Rick Campbell (65+) 30:12.18 3. Art Morrow (45+) 32:03.07 4. Carl Acosta (75+) 33:43.71 5. Ray Billig (50+) 33:55.05 (8 finishers) Women: 1. Carol Bertino (60+) 34:33.96 (4 finishers) **3000 meters, Moorpark, Cal, Oct. 24**—1. Alex Kazaryan (56) 16:20.82 2. Rick Campbell (65) 17:36.74 3. Margaret Govea (49) 18:00.84 4. Adrian Zamudio 18:07.79 5. Julia Townsend (18) 18:17.0 6. Gina Bentley (12) 18:26.56 7. Yoko Eichel (64) 18:30.82 8. Ray Billig (54) 18:56.78 9. Carol Bertino (64) 19:47.50 10. Carl Acosta (77) 20:17. 11. Jim Bentley (55) 20:31.59 12. Hank Klein (59) 20:46.83 **20 Km, Asian Games, Palembang, Indonesia, Nov. 11**—1. Lo Choon Sieng, Malaysia 1:32:34 2. Hendro, Indonesia 1:33:23 3. Nguyen Thanh Ngeng, Vietnam 1:35:48 Women—1. Nguyen Thi Thanh Phuc, Vietnam 1:43:22 2. Kay Khine Myo Tun, Myanmar 1:45:19 3. Darwati, Indonesia 1:46:04

## To Compete Is A Real Treat

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Sat. Dec. 3   | 5 Km, Dover, Del. (T)  |
| Fri. Dec. 9   | Wisconsin Indoor 1 Mile, Kenosha (I)                             |
| Sat. Dec. 31  | 48th Annual Polar Bear 10 Mile, Asbury Park, N.J., 10 am (A)     |
| Sat. Jan. 7   | 50 Km, Houston (G)   |
| Sat. Jan. 14  | 1 Hour, Pasadena, Cal., 7:30 am (U)                              |
| Sun. Jan. 22  | Olympic 50 Km Trial, Santee, Cal. (4:45 Qualifying standard) (D) |
| Sat. Feb. 18  | 1 Hour, Pasadena (U)   |
|               | 1500 meters and 3 Km, Indio, Cal. (U)                            |
| Sun. March 11 | 20 Km and 5 Km, Huntington Beach, Cal. (U)                       |

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### 2012 IAAF Challenge Races

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

### 2011 Racewalking Award Winners

USATF Racewalking Chairman Vince Peters has announced the 2011 Racewalking Award winners with presentations to made at the USATF National Convention in St. Louis In St. Louis Dec. 2-3.

The \*Ron Zinn Memorial Award\* is given to the outstanding U.S. male and female race walkers to commemorate the achievements of Capt. Ron Zinn, who lost his life in combat during the Vietnam War. A racewalker, Ron was a member of the U.S. Olympic Team in the 1964 Summer Games at Tokyo and his sixth place finish in the 20 km event was considered outstanding for American walkers at that time. The 2011 winners are **Maria Michta** and **Trevor Barron**

The \*Henry Laskau Award\*, commemorating the achievements of Henry Laskau as an athlete and as a person, is presented annually to the USA's top junior athletes in Race Walking. Henry was a member of the 1948, 1952, and 1956 Olympic titles and won 42

National titles during his distinguished career. He was a longtime contributor to the sport following his retirement from competition. For 2011 the award winners are **Erika Shaver** and **Tyler Sorensen**

The \*Mike Riban Award\* is given in memory of longtime supporter and official Mike Riban (Green & Gold AC, Chicago) to the outstanding contributor to the event. In 2011 this award goes to the long serving keeper of the records: **Justin Kuo** (New England Association)

The \*Outstanding Association Award\* for 2011 goes to the **Pacific Association**

The \*Masters Male & Female Race Walker of the Year\* is presented annually to the top master (35 and older) male and female athletes in the USA. For 2011 the top athletes are **Christoph Schmid** and **Maryanne Martino**.

### USA RACE WALK GRAND PRIX AWARD WINNERS

The top three men and women in the Grand Prix will be recognized at the convention in St. Louis: Points are accumulated in designated races, primarily the National Championship races.

(Standings compiled by Dave Talcott):

OPEN DIVISION MEN: 1. Michael Mannozi -Miami Valley TC -42. Dan Serianni -World Class Racewalking -46 3. Patrick Stroupe -Unattached -43

OPEN DIVISION WOMEN: 1. Erin Taylor-Talcott -Shore AC - 48 2. Maria Michta -Walk USA -40 3, Teresa Vaill -Unattached -37

JUNIOR DIVISION MEN:: 1. Jonathan Hallman -Unattached -40 2. Michael Nemeth -Wings of Moon -29 3. Alejandro Chavez -South Texas Walking Club -24

JUNIOR DIVISION WOMEN: 1. Abby Dunn -Maine Racewalkers -46 2T. Molly Josephs -Walk USA -38 2T. Erika Shaver -Unattached -38

MASTER DIVISION MEN: 1T. Andrew Smith -Pegasus AC -59 1T. Chris Schmid -World Class Racewalking -59 3. Mark Green -Pegasus AC -44

MASTER DIVISION WOMEN: 1. Marianne Martino -High Altitude Racewalk Team -50 2. Darlene Backlund -So Cal Track Club -39 3. Louise Walters -Sierra Racewalkers -33

TEAM AWARD WINNERS MEN: 1. Pegasus AC 52 2. Shoare AC 24 3. World Class Racewalkers 20

TEAM AWARD WINNERS WOMEN: 1. World Class Racewalkers 20 2. Maine Racewalkers 10 3. Southern California Track Club 8

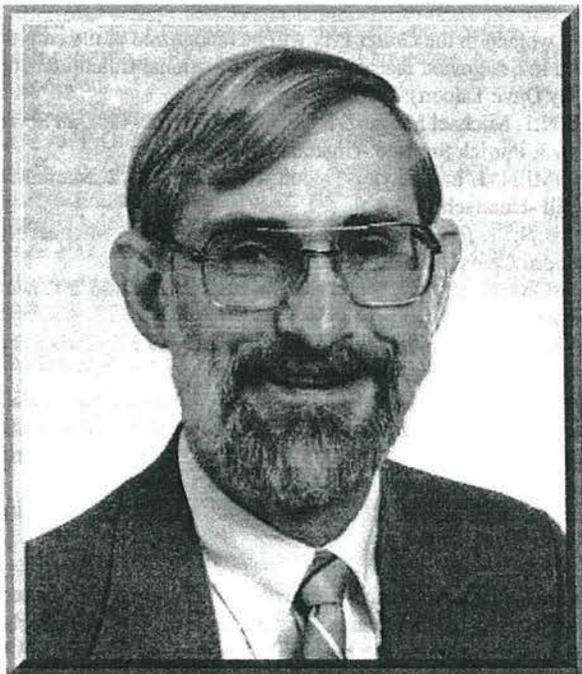
Finally, the following individuals will be recognized as the top Master’s racewalkers in their age group for 2011: 35-39–Tim Seaman and Susan Randall 40-44–Darla Graff (no male qualified) 45-49–Dave Swartz and Teresa Vaill 50-54–Dave Talcott and Vicki Pritchard 55-59–Mark Green and Debbie Topham 60-64–Christoph Schmid and Marianne Martino 65-69–Leon Jasinowski and Jolene Steigerwalt 70-74–John Backlund and Louise Walters 75-79–Alan Poisner 80-84–John Starr and Ruth Ketron.

### Remembering Larry Larson

Two days ago, I received a package in the mail containing a few racewalking mementos and a note: “You lost one of your most faithful readers when Larry died September 14, 2011. Even the last few years when his Parkinson’s made it difficult for him to read, he stopped everything to concentrate on his “Ohio Racewalker”. I thought you would appreciate these things more than anyone else. Remember Larry when you have your next cup of something warm!” Judy Larson. (A racewalking mug, inscribed “Racewalkers always put their best foot forward” was among the items she so thoughtfully sent to me.)

I first met Larry and Judy Larson, from Racine, Wisconsin, in Tokyo in 1964 when

they and my wife were together on the *Track & Field News* Olympic Tour. I met them only briefly, but Marty spent a good deal of time with them and has happy memories of that tour (including a couple of days in Hawaii on the way—a bonus that we on the Olympic team didn't get). I'm not sure if it was because of their contact with Marty or just seeing the walking events in the Olympics, but Larry came away from the tour with an interest in racewalking and by the following September he finished 14th in the National 1 Hour in Chicago, covering 6 miles 270 yards, not bad for a beginner. This was before Bob Lawson had developed the strong U. W. Parkside racewalking program carried on so capably by Mike DeWitt, so I think Larry was pretty much on his own. As a racewalker, he never moved into the elite class but was consistent and enjoyed his racing, often showing up at the National 10 in Chicago and usually walking in the 57 minute range, with a best of 57:19 when he finished ninth in 1977. I think his last appearance in that race was in 1979—15th in 57:24.



**Larry K. Larson**

But in the meantime, he became involved in the sport in other ways and became a nationally, and I believe internationally, certified judge. He was involved in various administrative duties on the national level, a faithful contributor to the sport. And he was an early and continuous subscriber and contributor to the *Ohio Racewalker*. His death is a loss to the racewalking world.

The following is from Larry's obituary

Larry K. Larson, age 74, died at home on Wednesday, September 13, 2011, after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson disease. He was born December 11, 1936 in Neenah, Wisconsin, son of the late Emil and Viola (nee Krasin) Larson.

Larry attended a one-room school house in Potter, Wisconsin and graduated from Lincoln High School in Manitowoc. He attended Ripon College, where he earned nine varsity letters in track, cross country, and wrestling. He went on to receive his masters from the

University of Wisconsin-Madison where he met the love of his life Judith a Larsen. Larry went on to teach in Valders and Beloit before coming to Racine where he taught social studies and coached cross country and wrestling at Washington Park High School from 1962 through 1992.

On December 22, 1962 he married Judith Larsen. They became the proud parents of Matthew and Ann. Larry became interested in racewalking and served as coach of the U.S. Racewalking Team that competed in Eschborn, Germany at the World Cup. Athletics were always an important part of Larry's life; among many sports-related achievements, he created the first-ever high school sport history class and was honored as a track official at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Larry was a devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection where he served as deacon, worship assistant and lay minister.

## From Heel To Toe

**Past walking advocacy.** Elliott Denman provides the following historical tidbit from collegiate cross country: 1942--Notre Dame's Ollie Hunter was the individual winner at Michigan State, while Indiana and Penn State tied for the team title. With the U.S. involved in World War II, the coaches adopted the following resolution at the meet: "The National Collegiate Cross Country Coaches Association points out that running is a basic conditioner for all sport activities and is especially timely for all war conditioning activities. It is our recommendation that Cross Country and distance running and hiking be made more use of by high schools and colleges and all other groups in their physical hardening courses". So Elliott surmises that since hiking is obviously a form of walking, NCAA coaches were in a sense advocating for walking back in 1942.....sadly an activity they have totally shunned as the years have gone by....U.S. **racewalker quotes following the Pan Am Games: John Nunn**—"I was hoping to go a little faster. . .be down in the 1:25s, 1:24s. . . I went through the first kilometer in four-flat and I realized at that point that's too fast, so I backed off a little and maintained a 4:15 pace for quite a while. Then the second half, it was hard to stick. everyone seemed to be slow. . .it might have been the altitude. I just couldn't pick it up.: **Michael Mannozi**: "I would liked to have had a better outcome in terms of placing and time. However, I know that the heat was a factor and I tried to prepare the best for the elevation. Regardless of anything, it was an honor to finish wearing the USA jersey. I honestly didn't realize the Mexican people would be cheering for me extremely loud. That was an amazing experience. They kept me going considering I was pretty much solo most of the race." **Maria Michta**: "I'm happy that I was faster than Daegu (1:38:54 at 2011 World Championships). This was my first time racing at altitude, so you don't really know what to expect. I'm a little disappointed because I had beaten most these girls at the Worlds, but I think they trained for this race rather than Daegu. So, hopefully, I will get to compete against them at the World Cup and then the big stage at the Olympics." **Lauren Forgues**: "I feel bad I couldn't finish the race and represent the U.S. But I wanted to make sure I was ready for next year and if that means I had to stop today, then I have to live with that decision. . .I have a preexisting knee injury that hasn't been bothering me, but just going around that corner as many times as I did it was just t beating me up on my left side. With the Olympic Trials coming up and my own personal goals of making the Olympic team, I didn't wan to take any risks with myself." **Ben Shorey**: I have to say this was close to the best crowd I've ever experienced in this event. This course was little longer so they were a little more spread out. By the middle of the race, I'm sure they were four deep all the way down. I think other than cheering for their team--I think they cheered for us second most. It was unbelievable. I was a little under informed--part of the problem is probably my fault. I didn't realize it was at altitude. I had been training pretty well, so I was hoping to shoot for the Olympic B standard and then I found out we were going to be at altitude, but I got

an offer to go to Colorado Springs to prepare for altitude training as much as possible and that was a great experience. . . I felt fine the first 20K, just hitting splits and saying this is easy. But when I hit 21K it literally felt like I threw a 20-pound backpack on and then I actually started having a hard time breathing. And I said to myself 'Yes, that would be the altitude. I still have 30K to go. This is not good'. . . The crowd was awesome. Everybody here has been awesome. This is probably the best I've been treated anywhere." **Dave Talcott:** The course was really nice with wide turns, anything a walker could dream for. The crowd was just amazing. I felt I would do a little better. I was disqualified just once before in high school back in 1977 and since then I've been really clean as far as racewalking technique. So I was shocked when I started getting cards today for not straightening. . . This has been a once-in-a-lifetime dream. . . The people down here are great. They love the sport." . . . **Borchin close.** Valeriy Borchin, Russia's two-time World Champion at 20 Km and 2008 Olympic Champion, was narrowly outvoted by 800 meter runner Yuriy Borzakovskiy for All-Russia Athletics Federation athlete of the year. But his coach, Victor Chegin, was named the Federation's best coach for the third consecutive year. Most of the top Russian walkers, male and female, train under Chegin. . . **2012 World Cup.** A progress from the IAAF on the 2012 World Cup: The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the IAAF World Cup of Racewalking in Saransk, Russia (May 12-13) will be the second time that Russia has held the competition, the first being in Cheboksary in 2008. The construction of new buildings in the competition area, a new competition course, and renovation of surrounding areas began in May 2011 and is well underway with 90 percent of the new competition course with a grainy asphalt specially being laid for the World Cup. The course is in the central part of the city and will be on a closed, flat urban road. The circuit is 2 Km with the start/finish area located at the Mordovian University building. The course will be tested in April 2012 with the championship races of the Mordovia Republic. Overall budget of Saransk 2012 is \$1.5 million. . . **Junior Camp.** The 7th Annual USATF Junior Elite Racewalking Camp will again be held in Pharr, Texas under the direction of U.S. Olympian Tim Seaman, Canadian National champion Rachel Seaman, USATF Racewalk Chairman Vince Peters, Coach A.C. Jaime, and the South Texas Walking Club. Applications may be directed to [www.etamz.com/stwc](http://www.etamz.com/stwc). The camp dates are December through January 1 at a cost of only \$250 per person. The fee includes food and housing at the home of Coach and Mrs. A.C. Jaime for junior girls and at the home of Kevin and Anabelle Jaime for junior boys. Transportation to and from the McAllen or Harlingen airports plus all other local transportation is also included. Free transportation from the Houston Airport with Maser racewalking Judge Dave Gwyn may also be arranged in advance. Senior boys and girls will be housed at a local hotel under the supervision of Janis Bluhm. Contact A.C. Jamie at [acjaimie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:acjaimie@sbcglobal.net) or 956-821-6659 for further information. . . **Euro Cup.** European Athletics has awarded the Slovakian spa town of Dudince, which boasts a rich tradition of racewalking, the 2013 edition of the biennial European Cup of Racewalking. Dudince will stage this event for the time having hosted in 1998 and 2001. . . **Essayah for President.** Sari Essayah, 44, champion racewalker, has announced she will be available for the Christian Democrats as candidate for President of Finland. She was a member of the Finnish Parliament from 2003 to 2007 and was elected to the European Parliament in 2009. Essayah won the 1993 World Championship and the 1994 European Championship at 10 Km. She is also a member of the IAAF Racewalking Committee. She is probably the first first racewalker in history to be a candidate for president of a country. According to Harry Siitonen, the guru of racewalking in the California Bay area, the Christian Democrats are a small fundamentalist party whose support hovers around 4 percent of the vote, so she has no chance of being elected. Harry, who has dual Finnish-U.S. citizenship doesn't plan to vote for her because he totally disagrees with her very conservative political and religious outlook, but says she is probably a nice lady. . . Harry goes on to say: "I don't foresee a racewalker running for U.S. President any time soon. Harry Truman did take a brisk 5-mile walk every morning from the White House, but might have been DQ'd for not keeping form. I

could easily support someone like Jonathan Matthews for president as he's a common sense guy. But, I don't think he's egotistical enough to consider a personal political career." . . . **Hansi Rigney.** And in another note from Harry he relates that Hansi Rigney, (70) was the winner of the Women's Age 70+ division of the New York City Marathon in November (as a runner). Hansi is the daughter of Giulio Di Petra, a top racewalker in Italy in his youth and a long-time promoter of racewalking in the Bay until his death several years ago. Hansi was the coordinator of the now-defunct Monterey Walk Walk Walk Club following her father's death. She finished the marathon in 4:03:51. . . **More Elliott.** In relation to the Elliott Denman treatise on training for the 50 in last month's issue, Curt Sheller notes: "Elliott has some amazing stories and he even has a way to revolutionize baseball that he conveyed to me on many a long morning training walk when I lived in New Jersey a decade ago. His thoughts to add some life into baseball was a simple rules change that a batter could run to any base in any order. The runner just needed to complete all bases before running home. There was more to it that I don't remember, I think there could even be multiple players on the same base. Now, that would add some excitement. I love the training walk routine. I've used variations of it in Valley Forge Park. Problem was runners always stopped running when you caught them." . . . **Go Erin.** A note from subscriber Kiri Schultz in Seattle: "Just filled my 8-year-old daughter in on Erin Taylor-Talcott's provisional entry into the 50 Km Trials. She was utterly confused—she never hears that she **can't** do something 'just because she is a girl.' It's nearing the end of 2011. So we're rooting for Erin Taylor-Talcott every step of the way..."

## Erin Gains Provisional Trial Entry

*(The following, written by Jere Longman, appeared in the NY Times on Nov. 16.)*

Owego, New York--After training along the country road of this village to the south of the Finger Lakes, Erin Taylor-Talcott recently achieved a qualifying time for the 2012 Olympic trials in the 50 Km racewalk. Except for one catch: there is no 50 Km racewalk for women at the trials or at the Olympics.

So, Taylor-Talcott sought for two months to gain entry into the men's race at the U.S. Trials, to be held Jan. 22 in Santee, California. The 50 Km racewalk remains a lingering vestige of inequality in international track and field, a sport that for decades prohibited women from competing in Olympic distance events from the half-mile to the marathon.

Even among American men, the 50 Km race is obscure. Only about a dozen are expected to compete in the Olympic trials, and perhaps one will qualify for the London Games next summer. *(Ed. At present I believe there are just nine men qualified. I understand that John Nunn hopes to make a qualifying time in December and maybe he will drag someone else along. But 12 certainly seems to be a max number. Compare this to the peak year of 1979 when there were 23 U.S. walkers under 4:45 nine more under 4:56. There were at least ten 50 Km races contested in the U.S. that year. Marco Evoniuk and Dan O'Connor both competed in five 50s and Vincent O'Sullivan, Carl Schueler, and Wayne Glusker in four. I don't know if there was so much participation because of the many opportunities, or so many opportunities because there were so many competitors, but it was a rich time for the event.)* Still, Taylor-Talcott, 33, wanted to compete in the trials to bring attention to women's interest in the event. On Wednesday, she finally gained provisional entry into the trials and, according to a spokeswoman for UAA T&F, perhaps became the first woman to do so in a men's event.

Taylor-Talcott can compete in the 50 Km Trials as a so-called guest upon agreeing not to try to participate in the men's event at the London Games, the national governing body said. She said she was willing to sign a waiver this one time, given that her chance of achieving the 2012 Olympic participation standard of 4:09 is remote. Her best time is 4:41:36,

which is under the U.S. men's Olympic Trials standard of 4:45 but nowhere near the top times of male racers from countries like Russia, China, Australia, Ecuador, Italy, Norway, and Spain.

"It's more important to be on the starting line at the trials than to say I should be allowed to go to the Olympics," Taylor-Talcott said. "It's a huge first step to getting a women's 50 added."

Unresolved is what would happen if Taylor-Talcott qualified at the same trials for the 50 Km men's event at the World Cup of racewalking in May in Russia. The standard for that event is considered more attainable, but in that case Taylor-Talcott could find herself challenging track and field's world governing body, the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), whose rules would seem to exclude her. "This is great, but I still want the ability to be named to international teams," Taylor-Talcott said. "That'll be a bigger fight."

Her effort over the past two months to compete alongside men at the Olympic Trials had raised a fundamental question about what should determine an athlete's eligibility: performance or sex?

"Since it is the trials for the men's team, some people think women shouldn't be competing," said Elliot Denman a 50 Km racewalker at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, freelance journalist and founder of the Shore Athletic Club in New Jersey, to which Taylor-Talcott belongs. "But she has that time. She has earned every right to compete is some capacity."

A 20 Km racewalk became an Olympic sport for women in 1992. (*Ed. Actually it was just 10 Km in 1992 and 1996, with the 20 replacing it in 2000.*) The IAAF said there was insufficient interest among female competitors to hold an Olympic race at 50, calling the event "pretty much nonexistent".

Yet Taylor-Talcott excels at the longer distance, having won first place in the past two 50 Km U.S. championships for women, a race that is contested nationally but not internationally in major meets. Unofficially, she is the 14th-fastest woman ever at 50, recording her best time on Sept. 11 in Ocean Township, N.J. (*Ed. And second fastest American ever, behind Susan Armenta.*) And she is faster than some elite American men in a sport that requires competitors to keep one foot on the ground at all times and to straighten the leading as the body passes over it.

During that same race in September, Taylor-Talcott also won the national women's 40 Km title, bettering the time of her husband, Dave Talcott, who won the men's title by more than three minutes.

The IAAF says there has to be a certain amount of interest before they include a 50 for women, Talcott said. "However, without any races, there's never going to be any participation." In conversations over the past week, Taylor-Talcott had expressed frustration over her inability to get direct answers from track and field officials about the status of her eligibility for the Olympic trials.

"They're afraid I'll beat a bunch of guys, and that'll be embarrassing," she said Tuesday at her home west of Binghamton, N.Y.. "My response to the guys is: Go faster. They should be saying, 'We have a girl that's pretty good at 50 Km; let's be proud.'"

Two obstacles stand in her way. First, USATF generally prohibits athletes from competing in national championships if they are ineligible to represent the U.S. in international championships. Because Taylor-Talcott could not participate in the men's 50 at the London Olympics, her eligibility for the Olympic Trials remained uncertain.

Second, some racewalk officials worried that Taylor-Talcott's participation at the Trials might nullify any qualifying times that men achieved for the London Games. But Nick Davies, a spokesman for the IAAF, said in an e-mail that her presence "would not invalidate men's times."

By early Wednesday afternoon, USAT&F had granted provisional entry into the Olympic Trials to Taylor-Talcott "in recognition of her desire to bring awareness to women's

competitive opportunities in the 50 Km racewalk," said Jill Geer, a spokeswoman for the national governing body.

Vince Peters, chairman of the USATF racewalking committee, said he supported the decision. "If there's ever going to be a women's 50, it has to get started someplace," Peters said. "She had obviously made that mark."

Taylor-Talcott's plans to compete at the 20 Km Olympic Trials in 2008 were canceled by an auto accident. Her career has since blossomed at longer distances. She trains 90 miles a week and supplements her meager racing income—her top prize has been \$5000—by playing the oboe and bassoon in local orchestras. And now she has gained entry into the Olympic Trials at 50 Km, "where you compete against yourself more than your competition."

She has an outside chance of qualifying for the London Olympics in the women's 20 Km race at the trials in June. But it is the endurance of the 50 that most entices her. One of her goals is to reach the men's qualifying standard for the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. "It would be tough; it would take a women's world record," Taylor-Talcott said. "But I don't want to put a limit on myself."

*(Ed. I expressed my own views on this situation when the question of Erin's participation in the Trials arose back in September. In a message to the Yahoo Racewalking list I wrote:*

*I wholeheartedly endorse all that has been said regarding Erin's declaration for inclusion in the 50 Km Olympic Trials. I am also delighted that there have been no negative replies. Now, let's go a step further in the fight for gender equality. Not to sell Erin short, but I think we can assume she will not improve enough in a short time to meet Olympic qualifying standards, so there can be no plea for her competing in the Olympic 50. But, assuming the 50 Km Trial will also be the trial for the 2012 U.S. World Cup team, supposing Erin finishes in the first five, which is not out of the question considering recent national 50s. And if she should, then we can start the process, first with the TAC and then with the IAAF, for her inclusion on the U.S. 50 team, which she will have rightfully earned. I wouldn't be to hopeful that officialdom would comply with such a request, but there is no sound reason to me that they should not, other, perhaps, than their being sexist fools. So, go for it Erin and good luck.)*

## LOOKING BACK

**50 Years Ago** (From the November 1961 Midwest Walker, published in Chicago by Chris McCarthy)—The very first edition of the Lugano Cup (now World Cup) was held in Lugano, Switzerland, hence the name of the Cup, still awarded to the winning men's teams. Back in those dark ages, there were only men's races. The British won the team title by the narrowest of margins over Sweden. Scoring of the places in the two races resulted in a 53-53 tie, but the British won on the basis of the highest placed walker in the 50; Don Thompson finished second, one spot ahead of Sweden's Ake Soderlund. Italy was third and Hungary fourth. Those were the only teams competing, other European countries having been eliminated in earlier zone competitions. Other countries outside of Europe were invited, but none attended. As McCarthy reported, "the USA representatives were stranded in the New World for lack of green stuff". Individual winners were Britain's Ken Matthews, the 1960 Olympic gold medalist, in the 20 (1:30:53) and Italy's Abdon Pamich at 50 (3:45:38). . . And here's a laugh for today's racewalking elite. Walking on his old high school track in Upper Arlington, a Columbus suburb, one of those stranded representatives, Jack Mortland, won the National Postal 20 Km, taking down the American record in the process with a startling 1:40:36.5! (No, not a typo.) And he bettered Ferenc Sipos' old record by nearly 3 minutes. Well, track races were rare and you had to be on a track for a record. There had been many faster times on the road (some, of course on courses of questionable length, those dark days also being void of

course certification.) Rimas Vacaitis, just 19 and walking in Chicago, was second, nearly 3 minutes back and just 10 seconds ahead of Jack Blackburn, also walking in Upper Arlington. (The school is more famous for nurturing Jack Nicklaus than Jack Mortland, the former being in the eighth grade when Mortland graduated in 1953.) Ron Laird was fourth and Bob Mimm fifth. Fame is fleeting and the following year, Laird shattered Mortland's mark. . .Laird won the National 30 Km in Providence, R.I. as he finished in 2:29:40 (uncertified course, of course.). . Canada's Alex Oakley beat John Allen in a Buffalo 15 Km event, 1:12:35 to 1:13:24.

**45 Years Ago** (From the November 1966 ORW)—Don DeNoon won the National 1 Hour in San Diego from favored Rudy Haluza, covering 8 miles 138 yards. Rudy trailed by 112 yards. Ron Laird was third with 7 miles 1430 yards, 69 yards ahead of Lary Walker. . .In the Ohio TC Distance Carnival "A gutsy Jack Blackburn, showing the zest of his long forgotten youth, moved easily away from Jack Mortland in the last 5 miles of Sunday's 15 miler to cop individual walking honors." Blackburn took that one in 2:04:31 to Mortland's 2:07:38. The day before Mortland had won a 7 miler in 55:57, but then succumbed to a fresh Blackburn in the 2 mile, 14:16 to 14:56. In the women's 5 Mile, Jeanne Bocci turned in an excellent 43:54. Still in the dark ages, this was one of the rare women' races to be found in the country, and only in Scandinavia was there anything approaching a solid program

**40 Years Ago** (From the November 1971 O RW)—Ron Laird won a fast 15 mile in Long Branch, N.J. with a 1:58:27, just over 2 minutes ahead of Todd Scully. . .Bill Weigle did 50 Km in 4:40:59 on the track in Boulder, Colorado. . .In the ORW Racewalking Orgy (replacing the Distance Carnival), which had also included running races), three races saw three winners. Phil McDonald walked a classy 10 mile on Saturday morning—1:20:12. Jack Blackburn, recovering from the flu, was more than 20 minutes back. However, a few years later, he took to the track and matched a fresh Jack Mortland stride for stride as they walked a dead heat in 14:58.4 for 2 Miles. The next day, Jerry Bocci captured the 20 Miler in 2:59:26 with Blackburn struggling through in 3:29. Mcdonald stayed with Bocci for 12 miles, then called in a day. Mortland stopped at 14 miles, some 6 minutes behind Bocci.

**35 Years Ago** (From the November 1976 O RW)—John Knifton was an easy winner in the National 35 Km in Pittsburgh with a 2:59:52. Detroit's Bill Walker and Martin Kraft followed in 3:06:20 and 3:07:29. Ray Somers, Ray Floriani, and Tom Hamilton rounded out the top six. . .Locally, the rapidly aging Jacks (having entered their fifth decade) engaged in a 2 miler, and Mortland prevailed by 0.6 seconds in 15:57.5, with Laurie Tucholski not far back in 16:31. . .Bob Rosencrantz did a 4:29:48 for 50 Km in Seattle. . .In the ORW's Annual World Rankings, published a month ahead of the usual schedule, Daniel Bautista, the Olympic champion was ranked first at 20, followed by Perer Frenkel, East Germany, and Raul Gonzales, Mexico. Soviet Veinimin Soldatenko led Mexico's Enrique Vera and Finland's Reima Solonen at 50. In the U.S. rankings, Ron Laird was placed ahead of Todd Scully, Larry Walker, and Larry Young at 20, and Young led Augie Hirt, Dan O'Connor, and Floyd Godwin at 50.

**30 Years Ago** (From the November 1981 ORW)—Dan O'Connor easily won the National 40 Km in Long Branch, N.J. His 3:21:51 left him 8 minutes ahead of Ray Sharp. Randy Mimm and Brian Savilonis followed. . .In Can-Am Cup races at Niagara falls, Quebec was an easy winner over Wisconsin, Ontario, and the Niagara Association. At 20 Quebec's trio swept honors, led by Guillaume Leblance at 1:26:3. Marcel Jobin had 1:27:22 and Francoise LaPointe 1:27:39. Jim Heiring, walking for Wisconsin, was fourth in 1:28:04—a very classy race. The women's 10 Km went to Ann Peel, Ontario in 50:54 with Jeanne Bocci second in 52:31. . .Alan Price won his fourth straight 100 miler in Columbia, Missouri, finishing in

20:24:45. Bob Chapin was nearly 1 ½ hours back and Leonard Busen also completed the distance within the 24-hour limit for Centurion status.

**25 Years Ago** (From the November 1986 ORW)—Jon Slavonic won his first National title, taking the 40 Km at Ft. Monmouth, N.J.. His 3:29:01 put him well clear of Steve Pecinovsky's 3:30:47. Curt Clausen took third, 2 ½ minutes ahead of Steve. . .In an International race in Los Angeles, Mexico's Maria Colin beat Debbi Lawrence over 10 Km, 47:42 to 49:28. Mexican Junior Carlos Mercenario won an accompanying 20 Km in 1:24:25, a prelude to his World Cup win the next year. Mexico's Martin Bermudez was second in 1:24:54 and Carl Schueler surprised by beating Canada's Daniel Levesque and Guillaume Leblanc, as well as Tim Lewis (sixth in 1:29:42). . .Canadian Francois Lapointe journeyed down to Columbus from Quebec for a 50 Km race and whipped through an impressive 3:58:45, beating countryman Martin Archimbault by nearly 11 minutes, both no doubt inspired by spending the previous night at the Mortland residence—home of the ORW.

**20 Years Ago** (From the November 1991 ORW)—In Atlanta, Jonathan Matthews turned in 4:23:35 for 50, beating Paul Malek by just 44 seconds. At the same site, Dave McGovern blitzed a 20 in 1:29:12, with Ian Whatley second in 1:30:56.

**15 Years Ago** (From the November 1996 ORW)—The National 2 Hour, held in Cambridge, Mss., sent to 46-year-old Brian Savilonis, who covered 22,271 meters. Bob Keating was 183 meters back in second with Doug Johnson third. . .In September, Frenchman Thierry Toutain had bettered the World Record for 50 Km with a 3:40:57.9 effort on the track. That bettered the old record, set by his countryman Rene Piller, by 30.4 seconds. At that time, there had been 14 faster times on road courses.

**10 Years Ago** (From the October 2001 ORW)—Mexican walkers dominated the Pan-Am Cup races, winning all three events. In the 20, Alejandro Lopez upset Ecuador's Jefferson Perez, winning by nearly a minute in 1:25:25, with teammates Jesus Sanchez and Claudio Vargas third and fourth. Sean Albert finished seventh for the U.S. in 1:33:22. The women's 20 went to Guadalupe Sanchez in 1:38:03, 24 seconds ahead of teammate Victori Palacios. Jill Zenner was ninth in 1:48:24. The Mexicans took the first four spots in the 50, with Edgar Hernandez winning in 4:05:24, but not without some controversy. Curt Clausen took the lead at 42 Km and moved out bny about 40 meters. Maintaining that lead, he seemed in control of the race, until a DQ with about 3 Km to go, a DQ questioned by most of those present at the race in Ecuador. . .In the Chinese National Games, Zewen Li won the men's 20 Km in 1:20:49, with four others under 1:22 and Yan Wang took the women's race in 1:26:22, with another seven under 1:30.

**5 Years Ago** (From the October 2006 ORW)—In Nordic championship races, Norway's Erik Tysse won the 50 in 3:54:37; Norway's Kjersti Platzer won the women's 20 in 1:28:23 and Ireland's Robert Hefferman, a guest, the men's 20 in 1:22:24. In China, Y. Han did 1:19:35 for 20 Km, just 9 seconds ahead of G. Li; C-Yu did 3:43:58 for 50, with four others under 3:50; and H. Lou won the women's 20 in 1:28:58