Chen, Lashmanova, Kirdyapkin Mine Gold In London

The London Olympics saw Russians Elena Lashmanova at 20 Km and Sergey Kirdyapkin at 50 repeat their World Cup wins of last May, while China's Ding Chen, only ninth at the World Cup, captured gold in the men's 20. Zhen Wang, the World Cup 20 Km winner, was relegated to third place behind surprising Eric Barrondo of Guatemala. As in the World Cup race, Olga Kaniskina followed Lashmanova over the line after leading most of the race. Australia’s Jared Tallent moved from third in the World Cup 50 to a silver medal here—his third Olympic medal.

The men's 20 was first up August 4. With all of their racewalking prowess through the years, China had never won a medal in the men's events, but here they dominated the race with Zelin Cai finishing fourth behind Chen, Barrondo, and Wang.

The early pace was quick, but not record fast, and a group of nine walkers was still together at 10 Km, reached in 40:08, with Wang and Chen, still a day short of his 20th birthday, at the front. As the pace quickened to sub 4 minute kilometers (15 km in 59:48) the lead pack dwindled to just five—Chen, pre-race Valeriy Borchin, Wang, Barrondo, and Vladimir Kanaykin.

Chen broke away before they got to the final 2 Km lap, where he had a six-second lead over Borchin, with Barrondo 8 seconds and Wang 11 seconds back. Covering his final lap in 7:35, Chen was never challenged as he finished in an Olympic record 1:18:46, 11 seconds clear, of Barrondo, another youngster at just 21. Barrondo showed promise last year with a tenth place finish in the World Championships but had been disqualified at the World Cup in March. His silver here was his first ever Olympic medal for Guatemala in any sport.

Borchin, meanwhile, collapsed on the final lap having expended all of his energy and was stretchered from the course. The defending champion and two-time World Champion suffered his second disappointment of the season, having finished only tenth in the World Cup race.

In the fastest race in Olympic history, the first six finished under 1:20, with Spain's Miguel Lopez in fifth and Mexico's Eder Sanchez in sixth. Australia’s Jared Tallent in seventh was just 2 seconds over 1:20.

The race was an utter disappointment for the Russian racewalking machine as Kanaykin was disqualified just past 16 km and Andrey Krivov, second to Wang at the World Cup, finished a distant 37th.

Trevor Baron walked a steady race, staying within sight of the lead pack through 10 Km, which he reached in 40:41. But a second red card made him walk more conservatively from there and he finished 26th in 1:22:46.

Canada’s Inaki Gomez shattered his personal best and broke the Canadian record with a 1:20:58 in 13th place, by far the best Canadian performance since Guillaume Leblanc’s second in Barcelona in 1992. Leblanc was also fourth in LA eight years earlier.

After that first 10, the first move to break the field open was by France’s Bertrand Moulinet, who along with India’s Kolothum Thodi was a big surprise in the race. They
eventually finished eighth and tenth. At 12 Km, Moulinet led by 4 seconds and Borchin, knowing he needed to cover the move, moved to the front. When Chen made another surge, the pack quickly dwindled to the five mentioned above and the real race was on. When Kaniskina was DQ’d and Borchin collapsed, the medals were decided and even Wang was well back of the first two by the finish.

"I am excited for everybody in China, for my family and my coach," said Chen. "I had good preparation and I executed my plan well. Finally, I have made it!" (An interesting quote from a not quite 20-year-old with, one would presume, most of his career ahead of him.) "I honestly didn’t think I was going to win but was getting better as the race progressed. I felt particularly good with two laps to go, and it felt as if the others were going back a little." Chen was coached for a short time by Italy’s Sandro Damilano but is now looked after by 1984 Olympian Zhang Fuxin who thanked him for getting him to the starting line in the best possible shape.

On August 11, a week after the men’s 20, Russia regained some of their glitter with two golds and a silver. The men’s 50 went off in the morning and the women’s 20 in the afternoon.

Sergey Kirdyapkin, a two-time World Champion and winner of the World Cup earlier this year, went into the 50 as favorite, seeking to atone for his failure to finish the Olympic race in Beijing four years ago. He was highly successful, winning by nearly a minute with an Olympic record time of 3:35:59. This also bettered his personal best of 3:38:08, which he set in Helsinki 7 years ago when winning his first World title.

"I came here to win the gold medal, breaking the Olympic record just happened," said Kirdyapkin, who admitted that he and his colleague Igor Erokhin and Sergey Bakulin intended on competing as a team on what was a hot rooming with the opening temperature of 64 F and rising steadily during the race.

By 25 Km, the race had boilt down to a tightly packed group of 10 separated by just 6 seconds with the lead at 1:49:21. It was nearly a minute back to the next group. After 30 Km, China’s Tianfeng Si tried to make a break and by 35 Km (2:32:16) had a 6 second lead on Bakulin, with France’s Yohann Diniz, Erokhin, and Australia’s Nathan Deakers another 4 seconds back. Luckily just behind them was 20 Km surprise Erick Barrondo, Australia’s Jared Tallent, and Kirdyapkin at 2:32:27. (Both Diniz and Barrondo were soon disqualified.) China’s Jianbo Li and Ireland’s Rober Heffernan were just 4 seconds behind them, but then it was another 32 seconds back to Australia’s Luke Adams.

At that point, the pack began to break up and Si eventually stretched his lead to 22 seconds over the chasing Russian trio. A strong team effort by the Russians tracked Si down by 38.5 Km and they roared past Si just before the 40 Km mark. A Russian sweep seemed possible.

But Tallent, the silver medalist in Beijing, foiled that effort and Si also rallied as both passed Erokhin and Bakulin before 45 Km, where Tallent trailed Kirdyapkin by just 26 seconds. Over the final 5, Kirdyapkin determinedly increased his lead to nearly a minute at the finish and Tallent was able to draw gradually away from Si, who trailed him by 23 seconds at the finish. A strong finish by Heffernan caught Erokhin right at the finish line, with both given the same time, some 38 seconds behind Si and a minute ahead of Bakulin.

Kirdyapkin noted: "Around the 25-30 Km mark I hit the wall. I had to fight with myself but I found my second wind. If I didn’t have that small problem, I would have done a
of 46:02 and then slowed by just 33 seconds over the second half. She slowed from 12 to 18 km, but then walked her fastest lap of the race at the end with a 9:03.

Despite faltering at the end, Kaniskina walked a remarkable even pace for the entire race and she lost only because Lashmanova was able to accelerate so sharply over the final four laps. Kaniskina lap times were: 8:33, 8:30, 8:29, 8:30, 8:31, 8:32, 8:35, 8:27, 8:31. Lashmanova on the other hand had: 8:38, 8:43, 8:42, 8:41, 8:32, 8:24, 8:23, 8:20, and 8:07.

Here are all the results:

**Women's 20 Km:**
1. Elena Lashmanova, Russia 1:25:02 (World Record)  
2. Olga Kaniskina, Russia 1:25:09  
3. Shenjie Qieyang, China 1:25:16  
4. Hong Liu, China 1:26:00  
5. Anisya Kirdyapkina, Russia 1:26:26  
6. Xiushi Lu, China 1:26:36  
7. Elisa Rigaudo, Italy 1:27:00  
8. Beatriz Pascual, Spain 1:27:36  
9. Ana Cabecinha, Portugal 1:28:00  
10. Maria Vasco, Spain 1:28:14  
11. Masumi Fuchise, Japan 1:28:41  
12. Maria Jose Poves, Spain 1:29:03  
13. Eleonora Giorgi, Italy 1:29:06  
15. Nadiya Borovska, Ukraine 1:30:03  
16. Regan Lambie, Australia 1:30:08  
17. Mayumi Kawasaki, Japan 1:30:20  
18. Laura Reynolds, Ireland 1:31:02  
20. Agnieszka Szwarcow, Poland 1:31:14  
21. Agnieszka Dyzgacz, Poland 1:31:28  
22. Agnese Pastare, Latvia 1:31:54  
23. Hanra Dravenia, Belarus 1:32:27  
24. Brigit Virbalyte, Lithuania 1:33:27  
25. Sandra Arenas, Columbia 1:33:51  
26. Claudia Balderama, Bolivia 1:33:52  
27. Monika Equihua, Mexico 1:33:56  
28. Jamie Franco, Guatemala 1:33:58  
29. Olga Toshitsu, Japan 1:34:00  
30. Yadiar Guanin, Ecuador 1:34:01  
31. Viktoria Madaras, Hungary 1:34:48  
32. Maya Kozhakhmetova, Kazakhstan 1:35:00  
33. Arabelly Orjuela, Colombia 1:35:05  
34. Despina Zapopoulos, Greece 1:35:19  
35. Paulina Buziak, Poland 1:35:23  
36. Mayra Herrera, Guatemala 1:35:33  
37. Semih Mutlu, Turkey 1:35:38  
38. Nastassia Yamevich, Belarus 1:35:41  
39. Vera Santos, Portugal 1:35:51  
40. Olga Shumkina, Ukraine 1:36:02  
41. Yordana Guaman, Ecuador 1:36:03  
42. Viktoria Madaras, Hungary 1:36:48  
43. Maya Kozhakhmetova, Kazakhstan 1:37:02  
44. Claudia Stef, Romania 1:37:54  
45. Ingrid Fernandez, Colombia 1:38:01  
46. Olga Toshitsu, Japan 1:38:01  
47. Kumi Otsuji, Japan 1:38:30  
48. Claudia Stei, Romania 1:38:56  
49. Neringa Aidietyte, Lithuania 1:39:01  
50. Yadiar Guanin, Ecuador 1:39:03  
51. Viktoria Madaras, Hungary 1:39:48  
52. Rachel Tallent, Australia; Johanna Jackson, Great Britain; Mirna Ortiz, Guatemala; and Yeongeun Jeon, Korea. DNF—Sabine Krantz, Germany and Sholpan Kozhakhmetova, Kazakhstan.

**Men's 20 Km:**
1. Ding Chen, China 1:18:46 (Olympic Record)  
2. Erick Barrondo, Guatemala 1:18:57  
3. Zhen Wang, China 1:19:25  
4. Zelin Cai, China 1:19:44  
5. Miguel Angel Lopez, Spain 1:19:49  
6. Eder Sanchez, Mexico 1:19:52  
7. Jared Tallent, Australia 1:20:02  
8. Bertrand Mounicet, France 1:20:12  
9. Robert Heffernan, Ireland 1:20:18  
10. Irfin Kolothum Thodi, India 1:20:21  
12. Dzianis Simanovich, Belarus 1:20:49  
13. Inaki Gomez, Canada 1:21:00  
14. Erik Tyss, Norway 1:21:00  
15. Alexandros Papamihail, Greece 1:21:12  
16. Ivan Trotski, Belarus 1:21:23  
17. Hyunsub Kim, Korea 1:21:36  
18. Isamu Fujisawa, Japan 1:21:48  
19. Dawid Tomala, Poland 1:21:55  
20. Eider Arevalo, Colombia 1:22:00  
21. Andre Hohne, Germany 1:22:02  
22. Juan Manuel Cano, Argentina 1:22:10  
23. Anton Kucanin, Slovenia 1:22:25  
24. Grzegorz Sudol, Poland 1:22:40  
25. Takumi Saito, Japan 1:22:43  
26. Trevor Brown, USA 1:22:46  
27. Nazar Kovalenko, Ukraine 1:22:54  
28. James Rendon, Colombia 1:22:54  
29. Rafael Augustyn, Poland 1:23:17  
30. Ruslan Smyrtenko, Ukraine 1:23:21  
31. Youngjun Byun, Korea 1:23:26  
32. Mate Helebrandt, Hungary 1:23:32  
33. Gurmeet Singh, India 1:23:34  
34. Isaac Palma, Mexico 1:23:35  
35. Georgiy Sheiko, Kazakhstan 1:23:52  
36. Yusuke Suzuki, Japan 1:23:53  
There were many National records set during the competition, as follows:

**Men’s 50 Km:**
- Sergey Kirdyapkin, Russia 3:35:59
- Jared Tallent, Australia 3:37:26
- Tianfeng Si, China 3:37:16
- Robert Heffernan, Ireland 3:37:54
- Igor Erekhin, Russia 3:37:54
- Sergey Bakulin, Russia 3:38:55
- Jianbo Li, China 3:39:01
- Matej Toth, Slovakia 3:41:24
- Lukasz Nowak, Poland 3:42:47
- Koichi Moroika, Japan 3:43:14
- Andre Hohne, Germany 3:44:26
- Bertrand Moulinet, France 3:45:35
- Chilsung Park, Korea 3:45:55
- Ivan Trotski, Belarus 3:49:07
- Jarkko Kinnunen, Finland 3:49:26
- Horia Nava, Mexico 3:49:56
- Marco De Luca, Italy 3:49:19
- Rafael Sikora, Poland 3:49:33
- Ibor Huan, Ukraine 3:48:20
- Jesus Angel Garcia, Spain 3:48:32
- Trond Nymark, Norway 3:48:37
- Nathan Deakes, Australia 3:48:43
- Omar Zepeda, Mexico 3:48:55
- Chris Erickson, Australia 3:49:14
- Yakov Kotlyar, Russia 3:49:19
- Alexandros Papamihail, Greece 3:49:56
- Christopher Linke, Germany 3:49:59
- Alexey Filippov, Serbia 3:50:37
- Istvan Kollar, Hungary 3:50:50
- Jose Levyer, Mexico 3:51:00
- Marcin Kordas, Poland 3:51:10
- Jian Guo, China 3:51:19
- Mikhail Rodlov, Slovakia 3:52:48
- Oleksiy Kazmin, Ukraine 3:52:50
- Adam Rutter, Australia 3:52:51
- Caio Bonfim, Brazil 3:53:21
- Chilsung Park, Korea 3:53:41
- Serhiy Budza, Ukraine 3:53:55
- Basanta Bahadur Rana, India 3:56:35
- Marius Cocioran, Romania 3:56:34
- Jitangou Zhao, China 3:56:59
- Dong-young Kim, Korea 3:57:33
- Chilsung Park, Korea 3:58:58
- Roman Lytvynenko, Kazakhstan 4:00:32
- Tatsuya Okuda, Japan 4:01:50
- Istvan Farkas, Hungary 4:02:48
- John Nunn, USA 4:03:28
- Maciej Rosiewicz, Georgia 4:03:55
- Pedro Isidro, Portugal 4:08:59
- Antti Kempas, Finland 4:01:50
- Marius Cocioran, Romania 3:56:34
- Serhiy Budza, Ukraine 3:56:35
- Basanta Bahadur Rana, India 3:56:48
- Marco De Luca, Italy 3:49:19
- Mike DeWitt, Parkside AC 30:25:50
- Richard McGuire, un. 31:24:71
- Ron Winkler, Parkside 36:36:36
- Chris Schmid, World Class RW 25:21:32
- Leon Jasionowski, Pegasus 28:09:35
- Peter Armstrong, New Mexico Walkers 32:28:20
- Alaric Molloy, Canada AC 34:04:52
- Joel Dubow, Atlantic TC 34:24:92
- Gary Stack, un. 34:22:15
- David Gordon, un. 34:29:05
- Bernie Finch, SC TC 38:27:02
- Mark Green, Pegasus 35:14:00
- Alberduo, Parkside 36:38:45
- Women’s 5 Km—
- Jeff Michta, US 27:42
- Simrao Rai, Canada 30:56
- Mandy Roach, Canada 31:21

**Women’s 50 Km:**
- Deirdre Piggott, Canada 2:03:50
- Anna Morse, US 2:06:26
- Amy King, Canada 2:07:04
- Michelle Roach, Canada 2:07:13
- Abigail Dunn, US 2:09:01
- Sarah Young, Canada 2:10:20
- Susan Towell, Canada 2:10:20

There were many National records set during the competition, as follows:

**Men’s 20 Km—**
- Inaki Gomez, Canada 1:20:58
- Juan Manuel Cano, Argentina 1:22:10
- Irfan Kolutodhi, India 1:20:21
- Alexandros Papamihail, Greece 1:21:12

**Women’s 20 Km—**
- Nguyen Thi Thanh Phue, Vietnam 1:33:36

**Men’s 50 Km—**
- Robert Heffernan, Ireland 3:37:54
- Chilsung Park, Korea 3:45:55
- Alexandros Papamihail 3:49:56
- Emerson Hernandez, El Salvador 3:53:57
- Marc Mundell, South Africa 3:55:32
- Bahadur Baratana, India 3:56:48

Finally, an interesting quote from 50 Km winner Sergey Kirdyapkin on being a racewalker: "We are just not right in the head. That’s why we are interested in it.”
Challenge Your Pedestrian Skills At These Venues

Sat. Sept. 1 5 Km Chestertown, Md. (T)
From Heel To Toe

Olympics Opening Ceremonies—a brief observation. The lead article in Sports Illustrated’s pre-Olympic issue—Higher, Faster, Stronger Kicks—echoed what I have been saying for many years regarding the opening ceremonies at Olympic Games. More and more glitz and hoopla that simply draws form attention away from the athletes, who used to be the centerpiece of the ceremonies. I have always felt that I was fortunate to be part of the last Olympics with Opening Ceremonies that truly reflected the purpose of the ceremony—Tokyo in 1964. Things started to deteriorate in Mexico City and got worse every four years. So, I was thinking that I needed to write a letter to Sports Illustrated congratulating them on their astute observation. Then I came to the following, as they described what to expect this time around: “...picknickers families, a troupe of National Health Services nurses, British humor (although probably not Monty Python’s Ministry of Silly Walks; the men’s 20 Kilometer racewalk is not until Aug. 4).” So much for a letter of thanks. Another media putdown. Because of my feelings as expressed above, I skipped most of the telecast of the Ceremonies, but was watching the parade of athletes. And lo and behold, when Ecuador appeared, the commentator referred, respectfully, to their greatest Olympic athlete—Jefferson Perez. And by some miracle, Bob Costas, sitting beside him—he who has denigrated racewalking in the past with his “witty” remarks—kept his mouth shut. Nothing about who can whisper the loudest. Perhaps he was biting his tongue, remembering angry letters in the past, but for whatever reason, he passed on an opportunity to put us down once again. Thank you Bob for what you didn’t say. Maybe in four more years you might even muster up some positive comment. We can hope. Quotes from U.S. Olympians. Trevor Barron: “I felt good. I decided I was going to go with the pack as long as I could. Once they picked up a little faster than I was wanting to go, I started getting a few cards and at that point I started to slow it down. I had two cards by 12 Km, so I had to play the last 8 safely. Overall it was great. This is once every four years that we have a crowd like this and it is motivating. I had people cheering for me that I had never seen before and that was exciting.” Maria Michta: “I think I raced the first kilometer with my head and my last 15 with my heart. It was the best race in every scenario. I wanted to set a 10 Km PR, get the Olympic A standard, set a personal best—everything I wanted and more happened today. It is a dream come true, everything that I did getting to this point has all been worth it to have a race like this.” John Nunn: “There is still a lot of improvement to do, but I was pleased. I went through halfway in 1:58:30, and I was with a good group of guys. It wasn’t too fast for the first half, but I just didn’t have the strength for the second half that I was hoping for. I was just hoping to go a little faster the second half for sure. I just started walking 50 Km 9 months ago, so there is still a lot of room for improvement, but this is good step in the right direction.” (John wasn’t completely new to the 50 this year. In 2007, he finished third in the National race in 4:14:16. But, he has found a new level this year and apparently plans to go sub 4:14.)

A long one. Jack Blackburn is again holding a 12 Hour walk in Troy, Ohio Oct. 6. It’s the third year for the fund raising event, the first one having been at 24 hours. It’s a fun raiser for Jack’s endeavor, Corinn’s Way, a non-profit community social-service agency established to help young women and their families struggling with issues beyond those associated with normal parameters of parenting. For further information contact Jack at Corinn’s Way, Inc., 405 Public Square, Troy, OH 45373, 937-552-9599, corinnswaylive.com. A shoe decision. From my March 1974 issue of this newsletter: “During a recent trip to the shoe store, I was looking at some Hush Puppies high-top shoes, or low-top boots, or whatever you might call them. They had none to fit me, but did have a similar shoe with nice fleecy lining, soft leather uppers, and thick, treaded rubber soles. After purchasing these, I was trying them on at home

Racewalking, What You Need To Know!

By someone who should know!

Following is the text from an IAAF media guide to racewalking prepared before the Olympics and presumably distributed to the press so they might better understand what’s going on. Written by Australian international Jane Saville, it in an excellent, concise description of our discipline. Pass it on to your friends who wonder what you are doing. Note that the IAAF media guide was presented with a color photo and a lot more glitz than just the text, which we repeat here. Jane Saville was a bronze medalist in the 20 Km at the 2004 Athens Olympics after suffering a disheartening DQ in Sydney in 2000. She was shown the red flag as she entered the stadium apparently on her way to gold for a final victory lap.

Actual Rule has two parts both equally important: Basically racewalkers must maintain contact with the ground at all time (referred to as the “contact” part of the rule) and the walker’s knee must straighten (“Knee” part of the rule) when the foot hits the ground and stay straightened until the leg passes under the body. 

Only judged by naked eye VIDEO Replays or slow motion are not used to judge. Course in London is 2 Km long. There are eight judges from eight different countries spread along the course. The Chief Judge supervises all the judges and holds the Red Paddle; he/she does not allocate red cards but merely messengers of DQ’s. Yellow paddles: Shown to athletes when the judge is not completely satisfied the athlete is walking within the rules: they are borderline. Basically, the judge is saying to the athlete “I’m looking at you carefully and you need to improve.” These do not contribute to an athlete’s disqualification. Can receive only one yellow paddle from each judge for each of the two infractions (contact and knees). The yellow paddles have the symbols on them for each of the different infractions: “x” and “y” for contact. Red cards: given by judge if he/she believes athlete is breaking the rules, only once during race by judge for either knees or contact. Never shown to athlete directly; so athletes do no know which judge has written the card. Three red cards from different judges = Disqualification (DQ).
(DQ BOARD) is an electronic scoreboard where red cards and the symbol relating to the offence are displayed for athletes to see. That is, if an athlete receives a red card then beside his/her bib number on the DQ Board will be shown either of the two symbols referring to the offence incurred.

Red paddle is only show to an athlete when they are DQ'ed and is only used by the Chief Judge and Judge Assistants (2) at Olympics.

In the last 100 meters the Chief Judge has to power to show the red paddle to DQ an athlete, regardless of number of red cards, if he/she believes the athlete is obviously breaking the rule. This is to prevent athletes blatantly cheating in last part of race if they don't have any red cards.

DQ doesn't mean you were running! It just means you weren't racewalking according to the rules. 99.9% of athletes who are DQ'd do not intentionally break the rules, but sometimes the pressure of the competition or fatigue brings on technical faults.

How fast are they walking?
World record for Men's 20 Km is 1:17:16. Equates to 3:51 per Km and 15.53 Km/hour.
World record for Women's 20 Km is (was) 1:25:08. Equates to 4:15 per Km and 14.1 Km per hour.
World record for men's 50 Km is 3:34:14. Equates to 4:17 per Km and just over 14 Km per hour. Men will go through marathon distance in around 3 hours!

Multiple Olympic Medals
The Track and Field News web site has an interesting feature on Olympic statistics, which shows that repeat medalists in the racewalk events are few and that Larry Young is in rather exclusive company. In the 50 Km, which has been contested 17 times, beginning in 1932 (with no race in '76), only eight athletes have more than one medal. Poland's Robert Korzeniowski with his three golds is joined as a triple medalist by Sweden's John Ljunggren with a gold, silver, and bronze. (So, your editor's claim to fame is that I beat an aging John Ljunggren in the Tokyo Olympics, 16 years after his Olympic gold, albeit by only 28 seconds. But, to keep from getting too full of myself, I must also note that my time in that race would have placed only 50th in London—in the women's race!)

Only six others have won two medals at 50-East Germany's Hartwig Gauder with gold and bronze; Italy's Abdon Pamich with gold and bronze; Russia's Denis Nizhegorodov with silver and bronze; East Germany's Ronald Weigel with silver and bronze; Australia's Jarekd Tallent, who just picked up his second silver in London; and Larry with his two bronzes.

At 20 Km, which has been contested 14 times, beginning in 1952, Russia's Vladimir Golubnichy collected four medals, two gold and one each silver and bronze, and Italy's Mauricio Damiliano garnered three, a gold and two bronze. Only three others have won two medals—Ecuador's Jefferson Perez with gold and silver; East Germany's Peter Frenkel with gold and bronze; and East Germany's Hans Georg-Reisman with silver and bronze. Golubnichy, incidentally, after winning medals in 1960, 1964, 1968, and 1972, added a seventh place in 1976—a record of longevity completely unmatched.

Of these three medalists, only three have collected a medal at both events. Korzeniowski also won a gold at 20, joining Golubnichy as a four-time Olympic medalist; Weigel also won silver at 20, and now Tallent, who had a 20 Km bronze in 2008.

However, when we look at the events that preceded the 20 and 50, we find a third four-time medalist, Italy's great Ugo Frigerio. Ugo won three golds—at 3000 meters in 1920 and at 10 Km in 1920 and 1924. He then added a bronze in the first Olympic 50 in 1932. The first multiple medalists in racewalking events were England's George Larner who won gold at both 10 miles and 3500 meters in 1908 and Ernest Webb with silver in both those events, as well as a silver at 10 Km in 1912. Finally, there was Sweden's John Mikaelsson who won gold at 10 Km in both 1948 and 1952, and Switzerland's Fritz Schweb with a bronze and silver in those two races. So, we have 18 walkers who have won more than one Olympic medal and, in summary, they are:

1—Ugo Frigerio, Vladimir Golubnichy, and Robert Korzeniowski
2—Maurizio Damiliano, John Ljunggren, Jarekd Tallent, Ernest Webb, and Ronald Weigel

ORW Outlasts the Yellow Rags
In the June 1983 issue of this prestigious journal, under the title "What's That We Smell?" we wrote the following:

"Who among us remembers the Guano Press? Launched in 1972 by three young radicals—Greg Diebold, Howard Palamarchuk (the same well-respected podiatrist who now heads racewalking’s subcommittee on sports medicine), and Gerry Willwert—this infamous rag rocked the racewalking world with its scurrilous attacks on the establishment. Nothing was sacred to these purveyors of yellow journalism and no one escaped their barbs. Unfortunately, for those of us who enjoyed their scathing satire (even when directed at our own arch-conservative stance), this scandal sheet was rather short lived as these reckless youths grew up and found better things to do with their lives." (2012 editorial comment: Something that your editor obviously has never done.)

"Well hold hour noses! Another band of renegades with time hanging heavy on their hands has emerged. The Guano Press has been resurrected, rising not from sewers and gutters of the Eastern Seaboard, but from the supposedly clean, pure mountain air of Colorado. Ah, but the stench certainly belies the pristine origins. Volume I of the Face Tight Press (formerly Guano Press) has reached us from Colorado Springs, home of the U.S. Olympic Training Center and some of our nation’s top walkers. The staff remains anonymous—unless you want to accept such names as Human Smurf, Gumby, Mr. Potatoe (sic) Head, and the Fly (alias Hymeto).

"But obviously, this vituperative rag is the handbook of walkers in residence at the Center. With nothing to do but racewalk all day, this crew had to turn their foul, fetid minds to something, lest they decay completely. Although some of the three-page issue is devoted to inside humor—or is it that I am too old, out of contact, and reactionary to understand—it is still worth every cent I paid for it. Perhaps not quite up to Guano standards, but a passable first effort."

But Face tight too had a very short life and the racewalking world again had to rely on the tired old Ohio Racewalker to keep abreast of goings on. When is the next Guano Press going to emerge so that we can know what is really happening out there?

So here we are, 24 years later, and the new Guano Press is still awaited and the tired old ORW has stumbled into its 48th year, though probably largely superseded by the very internet that the editor relies on so much.

LOOKING BACK
50 Years Ago (From the August 1962 American Race Walker, published by Chris McCarthy in Chicago)—Ron Laird left the rest of the field from the start and cruised to an easy win in the National 35 Km at Seattle. His 3:20:21 effort left Ed Glander more than 20 minutes back at the finish. Claude Wrathall was third.

From the August 1967 ORW—Ron Laird was the star of the month and then some. He first won the Pan American 2 Km title in 1:33:05, leaving an up-and-coming Mexican walker, Jose Pedraza, nearly 2 minutes behind. Later, Ron did a 43:10.4 10 Km on
the road in England, and a 1:28:19 20 Km to beat 1964 Olympic 50-km gold medalist, Abdon Pamich, in Italy. Larry Young walked the same three European races in 45:19, 46:22, and somewhere in the low 47:30s, after winning the Pan Am 50 K in 4:26:21. With those two in Europe, Tom Dooley had his best ever distance race, to that time, to win the National 40 K in 3:30:10, 2 minutes ahead of Goetz Klopfner. Dooley showed his great promise at the distances with a third place finish in 3:34:04. Dooley was fourth in the 50 and Klopfner third in the 50 at the Pan Am Games.

40 Years Ago (From the August 1972 ORW) - Larry Young completed a busy July with a win in the Senior 40 K in Long Branch, N.J. in what seems a very slow 3:59:54. However with the temperature at 93 F and the humidity high, it was no insignifiant performance. John Knifton was 8 minutes back and Todd Scully was the only other walker able to better 4 hours in the conditions. Jeanne Bocci won the women's National 1500 meters in 6:59:1 over Lynn Olsen and Sue Brodock. A week later, she did 6:50.4 to beat the same two, with Brodock ahead of Olsen this time. The Strasbourg-to-Paris 500 km race went to Luxembourg's Josey Simon in 67:03:28 with Belgium's Robert Schoucken second.

35 Years Ago (From the August 1977 ORW) - Larry Young won his eighth National 50 K title and fourth in a row with a 4:19:58 clocking in Columbia, Missouri. Taking the lead from Dan O'Connor just after 20 K, Young pulled away gradually the rest of the race. Augie Hirt went with Young briefly, but couldn't hold the pace and was soon reaped by O'Connor, who took second in 4:24:06. Hirt had 4:25:30, Tom Dooley 4:26:56, Bob Rosencrantz 4:29:23, and Randy Minn 4:32:01. In the Women's World Championships, Sweden's Siv Gustavsson walked a world best 22:57 to win the 5 K and lead her team to victory. Sweden's Elizabeth Olsson won the 10 K in 31:55. For the U.S., Sue Brodock was third in the 25:27 and Jeanne Bocci fourth at 10:52:53. Maccabiah Games titles went to Bob Rosencrantz of the U.S. at 3 K, 23:45:5 and Israel's Shaula Ladany at 50 K(4:33:58) in extreme heat in Israel. Tom Knutfil captured the National 40 K in 3:32:08 with Carl Schueller 4 minutes back.


30 Years Ago (From the August 1982 ORW) - In the Women's World meeting in Bergen, Norway, the Soviet Union entered as easy winners with Alexandra Devinskaya winning the 10 K race in 48:11.1 ahead of Sweden's Ann Jansson (48:14) and Susen Liess-Westefield of the U.S. (49:25) Australia's Sue Cook won the 5 K in 23:09:2, but the Soviets took second and third, with Ludmila Krustcheva just 4 seconds back of Cook. Teresa Vaill led the U.S. in 7th with 24:28. With 110 points, the USSR finished 32 points ahead of Norway, followed by Sweden, the U.S. and Australia. The U.S. men took third in a five-nation international with races at 20 and 50 K. West Germany's Franz Josef Weyer won the 20 K in 1:24:46 with Great Britain's Steve Barry (1:25:00) and Jim Heirling of the U.S. (1:25:32) taking second and third. Ray Sharp was fourth. The 50 K went to Sweden's Bo Gustavsson in 3:53:22 as Marco Evonlinuk came second in 4:03:13 for the U.S. West Germany had 65 points ahead of Sweden (52), USA (50), Great Britain (45), and Norway (27). Heirling and Sharp tied for first in the 20 K at the National Sports Festival a week later in 1:28:29, more than 6 1/2 minutes ahead of third-place Todd Scully. The 50 K went to Ray Somers in 3:45:37 with Martin Kraft (4:43:10) in second.

25 Years Ago (From the August 1987 ORW) - U.S. Sports Festival titles went to Marco Evonlinuk at 35 K (2:50:51), Gary Morgan at 20 K (1:31:10), and Maryanne Torrellas at 10 K (47:55). The races were held in very hot conditions in Durham, N.C. Morgan also took 1st place, and Paul Schwartzeg following. The women's 10 K race went to Debbie Lawrence in 48:31, nearly 3 minutes ahead of Torrellas. Mexicans swept the gold in the Pan American Games with Ray Sharp (45:07) and Canada's Michel Fernandez capturing the 20 in 1:24:10, Maria Colon the 10 in 47:18, and Martin Bermeude the 50 in 3:58:53. Tim Lewis was second in the 20 in 1:25:20 and Maryanne Torrellas third at 10 in 48:26, behind Canada's Ann Peel. Italy's Giovanni DeBenedictis previews his Olympic success in '92(bronze) with a win at the European Juniors 10 K in 39:44.71. Spain's Valentim Massana (see below) was second.

20 Years Ago (From the August 1992 ORW) - In the Barcelona Olympics, hometown boy Daniel Plaza was a surprise winner at 20 K. His teammate, Valentim Massana, had the silver in a sprint in sight, but was pulled by the judges as he approached the Stadium. Four years later, Massana got bronze at 50 K in Atlanta. That moved Canada's Guillaume Leblanc, with the fastest race of his brilliant career, into second place with DeBenedictis third. Plaza walked 1:21:45, 40 seconds ahead of Leblanc, who was 46 seconds clear of the Italian. 1980 Champion Maurizio DeMilano was fourth. Humility took its toll in the race. Andrei Perlov got clear of Carlos Mercenario over the final 10 K to win the 50 in 3:50:13. The Mexican was 2 minutes back and well ahead of Ronald Weigel in third. Chinese women took 1,3,5 in the women's 10 K. Yueling Chen (who would represent the U.S. 8 years later) won in 44:32. Yelena Nikolyaveva was just a second back, with Chunzi Li third.

15 Years Ago (From the August 1997 ORW) - Italy's Annarita Sidoti won a commanding race to win the World Championship 10 K in Athens. Her 42:55 left Olga Kardopolitseva of Belarus 35 seconds back and 19 seconds ahead of teammates Valentina Tsybulskaya. The men's 20 K went to Mexico's Daniel Garcia in 1:21:43, 10 seconds ahead of Mikhail Schennikov of Russia. Mikhail Khmelitksky, Belarus, was third in 1:22:03. Curt Clausen had 1:32:05 in 24th. After a race-long battle for the lead, Poland's Robert Korzeniowski outlasted Spain's Jesus Garcia to win the 50 in 3:44:46. Garcia had 3:44:59 with Mexico's Miguel Rodriguez third in 3:48:30. Andrew Herrmann of the U.S. was DQ'd.

10 Years Ago (From the August 2002 ORW) - In the European 50 K Championships, Korzeniowski was unstoppable as he walked the fastest 50 to that time with his 3:36:39. He took a commanding lead by 20 K and eventually finished nearly 4 minutes ahead of Russia's Aleksandr Boyevodin (3:40:16). Garcia was third in 3:44:33. The women's 20 K went to another walk-away win as Russia's Oliamnida Ivanova walked a swift 1:26:42. She moved steadily away from teammate Yelena Nikolyaveva (1:28:20) over the second half of the race.

5 Years Ago (From the August 2007 ORW) - Jeffress Perez, Ecuador, won his third consecutive World Championship, overcoming stifling conditions and the favorite Francisco Fernandez of Spain as he came home in 1:22:20. Fernandez was 20 seconds back with Halem Ghoula, Tunisia, finishing third in the same time. Kevin Eastler was 28th in time. The women's 20 and the 50 were conducted too late in the month to make our August issue, so you will find them in Looking Back next month. National 15 K titles went to Jolene Moore in 1:32:21 and Chris Tegtmeyer in 1:13:58. The races were held in Minneapolis. This issue enjoyed much space to the passing of Corin Blackburn, the mother of our Publisher Emeritus Jack Blackburn and the mother of women's racewalking in Ohio, and perhaps the nation. She died at age 94. Her husband, Dr. John, had died seven years earlier and we devoted much space to this amazing couple and their contributions to our sport and to life well lived.