Chinese Host and Dominate Challenge Final

Erdos, China, Sept. 14 (IAAF News Release by Mirko Jalava)–The Chinese grabbed wins in both the men’s and women’s 10 Km races at the IAAF Racewalking Challenge Final in this inner Mongolian city. The races went almost as expected, with Chinese men showing their strong position in the racewalking world by bagging the first four places and their women winning the race with a third place as well.

The races were held in sunny weather, but cool with the temperature under 60 F. In the men’s race, it was more or less Olympic bronze medalist Shen Wang against Olympic champion Ding Chen and even though Chen was clearly stronger in London, the more experienced Wang was a bigger favorite to win here. Despite having only turned 21 in August after the Olympics, Wang had won the previous IAAF Challenge Final in 2010 in Beijing with an Asian record 37:44, also the World Junior best, and finished in fourth place at the 2011 World Championships before grabbing the bronze in London.

In this competition, Wang, who also won the World Cup 20 Km in May, didn’t want to leave things late and won his second Challenge Final in 39:27. The course was not fast enough for record breaking this time, but the distance to others says that Chinese men will be a dominant force, along with the Russians, for years to come. All of their top walkers in the 20 Km distance are 20 or 21 and have many years ahead of them. Second in today’s competition was another 21-year-old, Zelin Cai, who finished in 39:44. Cai finished an impressive fourth place in London at his first major championship. Olympic Champion Chen could not answer to Wang this time and finished third in 39:51.

Jianbo Li, seventh in the London 50 Km completed an impressive 1-2-3-4 finish for the hosts with a 39:56 personal best. Surprisingly, the best non-Chinese athlete in the race was 20-year-old Australian Dane Bird-Smith, who clocked 40:32 in fifth. The national 20 Km champion could well be the next Australian medalist in major championships after Jared Tallent, who finished well behind his younger countryman in 11th place today.

The race started rather leisurely, with opening 1 Km laps in 4:20 and 4:08 that left 12 of the 14 competitors in a tightly bunched pack. After a 3:58 on the third laps, Wang sprinted to a 3:43 on the fourth to open a lead he never relinquished. A fifth lap in 3:48 solidified his lead and he was then content to stroll home with his final laps in the 3:54 to 3:58 range.

In the women’s race, the picture was similar to the men’s race as 25-year-old Hong Liu prevailed. She has been the number one since her 2006 Asian Games win, but fell victim to a too fast opening 10 Km in London and finished in a disappointing fourth place behind countrywoman Shenjie Qieyang. But in this competition, Liu was again the biggest favorite and competing in a similar white cap as she did in London and usually does in every competition, was her usual self winning her first IAAF Challenge in a comfortable 43:18. This was the first win in the women’s race to a non-Russian walker since the 10 Km distance was introduced in 2009. Liu had finished in second place twice in a row in 2010 and 2011 after not taking part in 2009.

Portugal’s 28-year-old Ana Cabecinha recorded maybe the best achievement of her career with a second-place finish in 43:31 keeping young Chinese Xiuzha Lu behind her. Cabecinha has been quickly moving up in placings in this race having finished sixth in 2010 and fourth in 2011. Just 18, Lu is the brightest Chinese walking prospect behind Liu and
Columbians Shine As Shorey and Taylor-Talcott Cop 40 Km Titles

Ocean Township, N.J., Sept. 9 (From Elliott Denman)-Guest entries Samuel Babativa and Rodrigo Moreno of Colombia led the way and Shore Athletic Club members Ben Shorey and Erin Taylor-Talcott walked off with American titles in the 74th Annual USA Track and Field National Championship 40 Km racewalk (Ed. Note that in those 74 years it has gone from AAU National to Athletics Congress National, to USATF National as the governing body has changed.)

The event, staged at Joe Palaia Park, attracted 40 competitors representing 14 states and two nations. They ranged in age from 13 to 85. The competitors covered a certified 2 loop course (including an unfortunately flooded seven-meter area) 20 times for the complete 40 Km distance.

Babativa crossed the line in 3:20:14 with Moreno right behind in 3:20:21, after taking over the lead from early pacemaker Shorey midway through the race.

This was Shorey's first National 40 Km title and he did it in 3:29:12, Taylor-Talcott, the 2011 women's winner in 3:41:59, made this her fourth USA 40 Km title, winning decisively in 3:44:59, setting an American 25 Km record of 2:13:22 en route.

The World Class Racewalking team trio of Dan Serianni, Chris Schmid, and Dave McGovern won the men's Masters team crown with Ray Sharp, Max Walker, and Rod Craig. Host Shore AC threesomes placed second in both categories.

Setting National 40 Km age-group records were Ohian Chris Schmid (Men 65-69) with 4:02:10 and Indiana's Cathy Mayfield (Women 60-64) with 4:54:50. In addition, South Carolina's Jonathan Hallman set a U.S. junior men's 25 Km record of 2:13:42; Californians Jonathan and Darlene Backlund set age-group records at 35 Km, and Schmid added records at 30 and 35 Km.

The results:

**Women's 10 Km**

**Men's 10 Km**

**25 Km**

**30 Km**

**35 Km**
1. Harry Wilson, Shore AC 7:18:26

**40 Km**

**45 Km**
1. Erinn Taylor-Talcott, Shore AC 3:44:45 (U.S. record of 3:44:45)

**50 Km**

**Results at other distances:**
25 Km

20 Km

10 Km

Women's 10 Km
1. Lisa Marie Veinucci, East Side TC 1:03:26 2. Pascale Geer, Sore AC 1:08:05

Women's 20 Km

Some additional notes on the race: This was the 48th time in the past 49 years that the Shore AC of New Jersey served as host club of the National 40, and I think Elliott Denman has been the Race Director for all 48 of those. The first National 40 Km winner was John Rahkonen in 1939 with a time of 3:55:57.6. Tim Seaman holds the meet record of 3:06:17 set in 2002. There have been three five-time winners: Ron Laird in 1959-1961 and 1969; Dan O'Connor in 1978-1981 and 1990; and Ray Sharp in 1982, and then in his dotage, in 2006-2009. After Seaman, Carl Schueler had the second, third and fourth fastest winning times with 3:14:03, 3:13:57, and 3:15:04 in 1983, 1984, and 1985.

New Albany Walking Classic

Organized by the New Albany Walking Club and sponsored by The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center this event is the largest walking only race in the U.S. drawing both serious competitors and recreational walkers whose goal is to walk for health and enjoyment. New Albany in a Columbus suburb. The Eighth Annual Event featured both a 10 Km and a Half-Marathon. I must admit that I have never attended the event, but here are this year’s results:


More Results


More Results


More Results


More Results


More Results

**Places To Treasure For Your Racewalking Pleasure**

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<td>Sun. Oct. 7</td>
<td>Half-Marathon, Sandy Hook, N.J. (A)</td>
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<td>Sat. Oct. 27</td>
<td>5 and 10 Km Brevard, N.C. (L)</td>
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<td>Sun. Oct. 28</td>
<td>USATF National 30 Km, Valley Cottage, N.Y. (D) (Also Pan Am Cup 50 Km Qualifier)</td>
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<td>Sat. Nov. 10</td>
<td>1 Hour, Virginia Beach, Va. 8 am (W)</td>
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<td>Sun. Nov. 11</td>
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From Heel To Toe

Kaniskina hints at retirement. This from the European-Athletics web site: One of the greatest racewalkers of recent times, Olga Kaniskina, has informed the Russian media of her plans to quit the sport before the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. After winning an Olympic gold medal in Beijing, silver in London, and three consecutive world titles, as well as the 2010 European crown at 20 Km, the 27-year-old is even cautious about her chances of competing at the IAAF World Championships in Moscow next summer. "The final decision on my future plans has not been taken yet. I cannot even make plans for the year ahead. I was supposed to retire after the Olympics in London, but they have asked me to stay for one more year until the World Championships in Moscow next summer. The final decision on my future plans has not been taken yet. I cannot even make plans for the year ahead. I was supposed to retire after the Olympics in London, but they have asked me to stay for one more year until the World Championships in Moscow next summer. I want to forget my terrible disqualification in the 50 Km race at the London Olympics, where he finished eighth and later was removed from the results because of accepting a bottle of water from the official area. Diniz has not decided about his future and..."
plans and has thoughts of switching his preparations to 20 Km. Racewalking DVD offered; Jeff Salvage and Tim Seaman are well known for their racewalking clinics. Now they have produced a DVD, "Race Walk Clinic-in a DVD," that captures the essence of their live clinics without the travel and expense. Narrated by both Tim and Jeff, this DVD walks you through their classroom sessions; essentially their lectures in a box. They offer a detailed description of correct racewalking technique, discuss Tim's training philosophy (which to lead to four Olympic berths and five of the six US Olympic Trials 20 Km medals), their analyses of "Looking at the Best" racewalkers in the world, a photo story highlighting important concepts related to racewalking, and a 320 fps slow motion video from the 50 Km Olympic Trials showing America's best 50 Km men walking stride for stride when everything was on the line. America's best racewalkers are trained under the TEAMS system and in this DVD you can learn from the best to maximize your performance. The price of the DVD is $39.99 plus shipping and handling. Go to ... for further information. Qualifying standards. Qualification standards for next summers World Championships are Men's 20: A-1:24:00 B:1:26:00; Women's 20: A-1:36:00, B-1:38:00; Men's 50:A-4:02:00, B-4:16. These standards seem to give the US. a shot at sending full teams. It all depends on who is willing to put in the necessary work.

Golubnichiy Named to Inaugural IAAF Hall of Fame Class

(Based on an IAAF Press Release) Ukraine's two-time Olympic Champion and multiple World record breaker Vladimir Golubnichiy is the latest athletics legend to be named as one of the 24 inaugural members of the IAAF Hall of Fame, which has been created to mark the year of the IAAF Centenary. The IAAF is the international governing of track and field. Golubnichiy is the first racewalker named and will undoubtedly be the only racewalker in the inaugural class.

Golubnichiy, who represented the Soviet Union in his competitive days, is one of only a handful of athletes who have competed at five or more Olympic Games and the Ukrainian, who concentrated on the 20 Km event internationally, can look back to a long and illustrious career at the highest level. He set his first 20 Km World Record at the age of just 19 in 1955 but will be best remembered for his two-Olympic titles (1960 and 1968) and the World record he set in 1958 (1:27:05), which was to remain on the books for almost 11 years.

"The incredible career of Golubnichiy made his inclusion in the IAAF Hall of fame unquestionable," commented IAAF President Lamine Cudk. "Not only was he a repeat Champion and World record holder, the span of his international career was truly awe-inspiring. With a silver and bronze (1964 and 1972) giving him a total of four Olympic podium places, he was still good enough for seventh place at the 1976 Olympics.

It would have been six Olympics and, perhaps, five medals, had he not had a serious liver infection in 1956. It took a year for him to fully recover, but in 1958 he was back strong enough to recapture his World Record, which had passed through the hands of three of his compatriots in the three years since he had first set it.

Nevertheless, he was not the favorite in Rome in 1960 after finishing fifth in a trial race. But the Soviet selectors had faith in him and he repaid them handsomely with the gold medal, taking the lead at the halfway point going on to a 9 second victory over Australia's Noel Vickers in 1:34:07.2 in scorching conditions.

Four years later in Tokyo, he had to settle for a bronze medal but in 1968, at altitude in Mexico City, he reinforced his reputation for preparing meticulously for the big occasion when he held off the local hope Jose Pedraza to win by a mere three meters. He finished second at the 1972 Olympics but returned to the top step of the podium two years later, winning his first European title.

Vladimir Goulnichiy during a 1959 race (left) and hitting the finish line (right) just ahead of Jose Pedraza for gold at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

I first saw Vladimir from the stands at the 1959 US-USSR meet in Philadelphia and was duly impressed as he moved strongly back into the Stadium, looking fresh despite conditions of heat and humidity that had other walkers and 10,000 meter runners practically on their hands and knees. His strong, impeccable style impressed me, then a neophyte walker. I would like to say I competed against Golubnichiy twice, but the best I can say is that I was in the same race with him twice—the Tokyo Olympics and the 1967 World Cup in Bad Saarow, East Germany. He was a fierce competitor, a gentleman, and a true sportsman. And he feasted on what appeared a whole chicken for breakfast a few hours before the Bad Saarow race—I peeked into the room where the Soviets were eating. He was second to his teammate, Nikolai Smaga, in that race, in which Ron Laird did compete with him, taking the bronze. And Ron, incidentally, was in four of the five Golubnichiy Olympics, missing only in 1972.

Don Jacobs

Our racewalking circle is now missing one gentle soul who expressed love for our sport throughout his life. Martin Rudow provides the following eulogy for Don Jacobs:

In memory of Don Jacobs

Long-time racewalker and certified Track & Field nut Don "Jake" Jacobs passed away in late July at age 93. He had been living at the Willapa Harbor Care Center in Raymond, WA. Don grew up in Elma, WA and later worked for the Tigard School District at the Tualatin Jr High School. Don served in the US Army Artillery in the South Pacific in WWII. He was a high school and college sprinter, hurdler and half-miler and began race-walking in 1956. He
developed a passion for the sport of race walking and continued competing until the late 1990s.
Over the years, he raced against the best in competitive walking and at times was ranked among
the country’s best 50K walkers. Don even traveled to England to compete in the prestigious
“Outer Circle” walking event. After retiring, Don moved to Naselle, WA. He is survived by his
companion of 30 years, Diane.

The summary of a man’s life like this tells only a small fraction of the story. Don was
one of the true track nuts. He collected material on track meets and athletes compulsively,
travelled to many meets in the sport’s Golden Era of the 1960s, and was knowledgeable about
the sport locally and internationally. A famous story by those who knew Don was that at a gathering
at his apartment after a walking event, Dean Ingram found a stack of Track & Field News
in Don’s refrigerator! There was no space elsewhere in the small apartment to store them. He
shared news items with the leading track and field publications including Track & Field News
(where for many years he was listed as a senior contributor) and the early Runner’s World A
kind and generous man, Don was liked by all who knew him.

“Half way is no way for Marty in 1968”

That newspaper headline (with a handwritten note from Don) meant a lot to me. While it
was referring to high school runner Marty Liquori, who hoped to make the 1968
Olympic Team, “Marty” was also my name. And I was also hoping, despite all odds, to make
that same team. My friend Don Jacobs sent me that headline with his weekly batch of
newspaper clippings, event programs, and other track-and-field related material.

Since I had entered the Army in May of 1966 Don had sent me packets of such material,
but when I went to Viet Nam in January of 1967 he started sending them weekly. They were an
important and an emotional link to the life I had left when I entered the Army and hoped to
resume when I returned.

I first met Don in July of 1962 at the National 35K Championships in Seattle, where
he beat me soundly on a hot day. Don scored a few more national medals in his career and
continued racing in master’s competition well into his 80s. I’ll never forget him and his
kindness to me in my darkest days.

I sent the following note back to Martin:

Don was a long-time subscriber to the ORW—probably back to its earliest days,
though I have no records to show just when he first subscribed and his subscription currently
runs through March 3, 2013. Beyond that, your mention of his great love for track and
field reminded me of something I had forgotten—I first knew him or knew of
him as TN Don Jacobs.

On July 1, 1954, Track & Field News launched a trial subsidiary publication Track
Newsletter. Initial subscribers were accepted as members of Track Nuts of the World, Uninc.
and forever known as Track Nuts. The first group of TN’s included both Jack Mortland (me)
and Don Jacobs. I still carry my official membership card in my billfold. The newsletter
always carried a section of comments and both Don and I were frequent commentators. I was
then about to enter my sophomore year at Bowling Green State University. So, although I
knew Don through race walking and his communications to me regarding events in the great
Northwest, as soon as I saw your tribute, I thought, “Of course—TN Don Jacobs” an association
I’m not sure I ever made before.

I immediately wrote back to my copyist friend of Track Newsletters and found that his
first published comment came in Vol. 1, No. 6, Oct. 7, 1964. He said: “I wonder if everyone is
not selling Whittfield short in the 800, because it seems to me he runs to win no matter how fast
the race is so these foreign speed demons won’t have it all their way… Down at Pasadena this
summer I saw TN’s H.D. Thoreau, Dick Bank, and Don Potts and we had quite a visit. I have
seen two meets at Muir and each time the javelin record has gone by the boards, first Field, then
Miller.” If the names Thoreau, Bank, and Potts ring any bells with you, you know that Don and...
heading for Russia. "You have to earn everything here. I had to support myself and get a job like everyone else."

He stopped training, began working as a valet parking attendant, and gained weight. A lot of weight. "I ballooned from 165 to 225 pounds, and I grew a few inches, too," he said. "I guess the food here, the vegetables, all the vitamins; it made my grow taller even though I was already in my 20s."

Erich Cordero eventually got a job with a pompano Beach wholesale pharmaceutical company called AC National Pharmacy. He has since become part owner. He became a U.S. citizen three years ago, settled in to his work and figured he would never step on a track again.

Eight months go, while watching a track meet on TV, Cordero got nostalgic. "They showed racewalking and I realized how much I missed it, and how I never fulfilled my goals," Cordero said. "I got a crazy idea to start training again after 12 years, to get my out-of-shape body back to how it used to be. I wanted to challenge myself."

He began setting his alarm clock for 4 a.m., and by 4:30, he was walking or hitting the weights. He typically works out for three hours before work, is in the office from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and then heads to the Aventura Mall, where he parks his car and walks on the nearby trails for 2 or 3 hours. He often works out with his good friend Andy Alvarez, another former Cuban racewalker who defected and lives in South Florida. Alvarez also qualified for the Olympic Trials, but injured a knee and didn't finish.

Over the past 8 months, Cordero slimmed down 55 pounds to 170 and shaved his time down to the 4:28 range—an 8:38-per-mile pace. "People who don't know the sport don't realize how amazing it is what Erich had done," Denman said. "To take 12 years off and then come back and in eight months reach this level by himself is a really incredible story. All the credit to him. He did it all alone, mastered the technique, with no help."

Referring to the Trials, Cordero said: "I was really close, but not quite close enough. It was disappointing. But I felt so good to be back out there again, competing. And I can't even explain the emotion I have heading to Russia to compete as a U.S. citizen for the U.S. team in my USA uniform. It is overwhelming. This will be the most important meet of my life. (Unfortunately, he was unable to finish the race after going through the first 20 in 1:45.)"

"When I first got back into it, I would get really tired, but now, I walk 30 Km and it's like strolling through a shopping mall for me," he said. "I feel totally comfortable again. My goal is to keep competing for the U.S. and make the next Olympics. I'll never know how good I could have been if I hadn't gone through everything and retired. Now, I get a second chance, and I'm going to take it as far as I can."

U.S. Women's 50 Km List
compiled by Dave Talcott

1. 4:33:23 Erin Taylor-Talcott, Santee, Cal., 1/2/12
2. 4:39:45 Susan Armenta, Chula Vista, Cal. 2/17/02
3. 4:41:36 Taylor-Talcott, Asbury Park, NJ. 9/11/11
4. 4:49:57 Armenta, Manassas, Va. 1/23/11
5. 4:57:11 Taylor-Talcott, Surprise, Ariz 2/7/10
6. 5:12:56 Cheryl Rellinger, Hauppauge, N.Y. 1/10/02
7. 5:16:20 Tamara Stevenson, Houston, Texas 1/7/12
8. 5:17:22 Jeannie Bocci, San Francisco, Cal. 8/26/09
9. 5:18:33 Sherry Brosnahan, Ocean Twp., NJ. 9/2/02
10. 5:24:58 Daniela Harabedian, Atlanta, Georgia 4/8/90
11. 5:26:04 Anne Vanderhoff, Seattle, Wash. 2/10/80
12. 5:27:28 Beverly LaVeck, Monterey, Cal. 5/21/83
13. 5:30:46 Diane Mendoza, Monterey, Cal. 5/21/83
14. 5:47:35 Dorit Attias, Clermont, Fla. 2/23/05
15. 5:56:32 Monica Robberts, Manassas, Va. 1/31/01
16. 5:57:48 Jennifer Marlborough, Hauppauge, N.Y. 10/10/03
17. 6:15:23 Jeanne Dorton, Manassas, Va. 1/31/01
19. 6:21:01 Karen Karavanic, Chula Vista, Cal. 1/28/07
20. 6:22:04 Lida Askew, Houston, Texas 11/26/07
21. 6:25:44 Darlene Backlund, Ocean Twp., N.J. 9/12/10
22. 6:31:52 Cathy Mayfield, Houston, Texas 1/6/08
23. 6:33:57 Dora Choi, Chula Vista, Cal. 9/13/09

U.S. Women's 50 Km List
compiled by Dave Talcott
25 Years Ago (From the September 1987 ORW)–Italy’s Mauricio Damilano won at 20 in the World Championships in Rome, defying high heat and humidity to record 2:04:35. He controlled the pace throughout to beat Josef Pribilince by 22 seconds with Spain’s Jose Marin third. Tim Lewis was the first U.S. finisher with a 2:10:37 in ninth. The Women’s 10 K went to Irina Strakhova, USSR, in 44:12, 11 seconds ahead of Australia’s Kerry Saxby. Hong Yan of China was third. Lynn Weik led the U.S. with 46:41 in 15th. Debbie Lawrence was 20 seconds and five places further back. Just as they had earlier in the year at the World Cup in New York, the GDR’s Hartwig Gauder and Ronald Weigel finished one-two in the 50, but switched positions as Gauder took gold in 3:40:53 ahead of Weigel’s 3:41:30. Vyacheslav Ivanenko, USSR, was third in 3:44:02. Carl Schueler was 16th in 3:57:09 and Marco Evonik in 3:57:43. Jim Heiring had a personal best of 4:03:24 in 22nd, easily the most distinguishing showing the U.S. team had ever made at 50 K.

15 Years Ago (From the September 1997 ORW)–Curt Clausen won National titles at both 50 and 40 K. At the 5 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., on August 24, he scored an easy win in 2:03:33. In the 40, two weeks later at Fort Monmouth, N.J., he was virtually unopposed winning in 3:16:42. In the 5, Jonathan Mathews, tough as ever at 41, was second in 2:31:04 and Dave McGovern third in 2:35:54. Debbi Lawrence won the women’s 5 in 2:39:37, 15 seconds ahead of Joanne Dow, with Victoria Herazo third. In the 40, Chris Knorr, also still going strong at 41, was second in 3:46:17 with John Soucheck third in 3:50:03.

10 Years Ago (From the August 2002 ORW)–Once again, Nationals were held at both 40 and 5 K. Tim Seaman broke Carl Schueler’s at 40 by more than 7 minutes as he won the 40 in a blazing 4:06:01. Phillip Dun was just 2:34 back in second with Curt Clausen third in 4:12:23, still under Schueler. Al Heppner had 3:27:48 in fourth. Susan Armenta easily won the women’s title, finishing fifth overall in 3:32:08, 46 minutes ahead of Erin Taylor (now Taylor-Talcott the proud holder of the U.S. women’s 50 K record, a record she wrested from Ms. Armenta earlier this year…). Heppner won the National 5 in 2:51:31 with Ian Whatley second in 2:52:36. The women’s title went to Marta Gustsche in 2:53:53 with Victoria Herazo second in 2:54:33.

5 Years Ago (From the August 2007 ORW)–In the World Championships Russia’s Olga Kaniskina won at 20 K and Australia’s Nathan Deakes at 50 (The men’s 50 had been reported in the August issue of the ORW.) Kaniskina built an early lead, although her pace wasn’t particularly fast, and coasted to victory in 1:30:09, 33 seconds ahead of teammate Tatjana Shemyakina. Spain’s Maria Vasco was another 5 seconds back to win the bronze, well clear of Norway’s Kjersti Platzer. Deakes also walked virtually by himself after opening a 7 second lead over the first 20 and finished 29 seconds ahead of France’s Yohann Diniz in 3:35:33. Diniz had trailed by 16 seconds at 30 and 39 seconds at 40. Italy’s Alex Schwaizer in 3rd gained 96 seconds on Deakes over the final 10, but was still 45 seconds back at the finish. Ray Sharp noted his seventeenth national title as he won at 40 K in 3:27:59, just 28 seconds slower than he had walked in winning the same race in 1982 at age 22. John Soucheck was nearly 18 minutes back in second with Steve Pecinovsky and Ian Whatley also sneaking under 4 hours in fourth and fifth.