National Titles To Vaill (2), Swarts, and Serianni

National 5 Km, Kingsport, Tenn., Sept. 30: Turned out to be primarily a senior citizens race, with only three men and four women under age 40. However, although the results I received do not show it, Dan O’Brien informs me that both Mike Mannozzi and Dan Serianni, young gentlemen in their 20s, were DQ’d. Presumably, they were battling for the lead before their dismissals. Thus, they handed over team title to Pegasus AC by leaving Miami Valley TC and World Class RW without sufficient finishers. The highlight was Teresa Vaill’s 40th National title. Also of note was Chris Schmid’s U.S. age 65-69 record of 25:05 as he finished fifth overall.


National 1 Hour, Waltham, Mass., October 7—Make that 41 National titles for Teresa Vaill as she came back a week later for an easy win at 1 Hour covering just over 12 kilometers. Colorado’s Francisco Pantoja, a 36-year-old who has been walking fast times in the Rockies for
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a few years, took the men's race covering 13,453 meters to beat Dan Serianni by more than a lap. Serianni, 22, was only 47 meters ahead of 19-year-old Jonathan Hallman who set a U.S. Junior Record.

Women:

Teams:

Men:


Takay Tanii 41:30.89 S. Okuma Samurai 41:52.45 6. Isami Fujisawa 41:57.05 Women: 1.
Mayumi Kawaski 44:22.97 2. Kumi Ori 44:45.53 3. Onoe Urara 46:37.10 8 Hours, France,
Oct. 21. Philipise Morel 75,400 meters in 8:00:02. Cedric Varrain 72,500 in 8:01:21.3.
Philipse Thibaux 2,500 in 8:03:19.

**Races, Races, Races**

- Sat. Nov. 10: 1 Hour, Virginia Beach, Va 8 am (W)
  - 5000 meters, League City, Texas (G)
- Sun. Nov. 11: USATF National Masters 20 Km, Coconut Creek, FL (B or D)
- Sat. Nov. 17: 5K and 10 Mile, Manchac, Louisiana (E)
  - 11,500 meters (?), Austin, Texas (G)
- Sun. Nov. 18: Coney Island Boardwalk 5 and 10 Miles, Brooklyn, N.Y. (P)
- Thur. Nov. 22: 5 and 10 Km, Wilmington, Del. (T)
  - 5 Miles, New Orleans (E)
- Sat. Nov. 24: ½ Marathon, Stennis AFB, Mississippi (G)
- Sat. Nov. 24:
  - 5K, Milford, Del. (T)
- Sat. Dec. 1: 5K, Dover, Del. (T)
- Sat. Dec. 15:
  - 5K and ½ Marathon, New Orleans (E)
- Fri. Dec. 28: 1500 and 3000 meters, Pharr, Texas (D or O)
- Sat, Dec. 29: **Pan Am Cup Jr. 10 Km Qualifiers, Pharr, Texas (D or O)**
- Sun. Dec. 30: 10 Miles, Asbury Park, N.J. 10 am (A)
- Tue. Jan. 1: 5K, Dover, Del. (T)
- Sat. Jan. 5: Southwest Region 50 Park and 20 Km, Houston (G)
- Sun. Jan. 13: **Pan American Cup 20 Km Qualifiers, Huntington Beach, Cal. (D)**
- Fri. Jan. 25: Millrose Games Indoor 1 Mile, New York City (D)

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**From Heel To Toe**

**Correction.** How unusual that the Ohio Racewalker would be making a correction because of something typographical. But here we are doing it. Beginning with the March issue, our issue numbers have been incorrect. That issue should have been Vol. XLVIII, No. 1, but we labeled it as No. 12. Talk! Talk! So each subsequent issue has been a number short, until this one which is now properly designated as No. 8. Not earth shattering but it might confuse archivists in the next century... **Apologeties to the New Jersey Striders—and three cheers to boot.** Subscriber Ed Koch wrote to me as follows: While I always enjoy and learn much from my monthly issue of Ohio Racewalker, one small nit—pick. The Sep. issue lists the results from the National Jr Olympic Games in Baltimore. While it lists the club affiliations from many deserving clubs, for several members of the New Jersey Striders, you only list “New Jersey.” In fact, the New Jersey Striders offer about the only youth racewalking competition in our state. Shore AC has a good adult program but not much for the kids. The Striders have developed many young racewalkers over the years, including most notably Sean Albert and Zach Pollinger. It would be nice to give us our due. I know you have space limitations, but NJ Striders is almost as short as New Jersey.” I am glad to give the Striders their due here and now. My reply to Ed was: “Thanks for your comments, which I don’t regard as nit-picking. It’s a valid point. But it had nothing to do with space limitations, at least on my end. I got the results from the USATF Jr. Olympics website. For whatever reason, their affiliations column seemed to accommodate only nine characters (in most cases—there were exceptions) even though there was much more space before the “time” column. Thus all the New Jersey Striders athletes were shown as “New Jersey.” I could easily assume there was a “y” missing, but couldn’t assume the Striders. There were many other cases, I am sure, where the affiliation I showed is incomple. I will certainly note the omission of “Striders” in my next issue. And if the same thing should occur next year, I might remember it’s New Jersey Striders. But no guarantees with my fading memory... **The Schwazer saga.** AP press release from Rome, Oct. 10: Former Olympic racewalk champion Alex Schwazer will be questioned by the Italian Olympic Committee on October 16 after being excluded from the London Games for doping. Schwazer won the 50-Km event at the 2008 Beijing Games...
Ferrari is based. Schwazer admitted consulting with Ferrari. The IOC is considering a retest of Schwaizer’s sample from the Beijing Games. He maintains he was clean at the time.

Nostalgia

Just after I had taken my September issue to the printer, with it’s article on Vladimir Golubnichiy, I received an e-mail from Martin Rudow singing the praises of Vladimir. He was wondering if I had competed against Golubnichiy other than in the 1964 Olympics. In my reply, I referred to the 1967 World Cup in Bad Saarow, East Germany, the other time I was in the same race as Golubnichiy—I never really “competed” against him as noted in the tribute to him last month. Martin replied:

“Gee, that reference to the Bad Saarow World Cup brings back some memories so different from the ones you must have. I was in Viet Nam at the time and absolutely obsessed with racewalking, following every step (often a result of a packet of clippings, etc. from Don Jacobs—see September issue for Martin’s memories of Don Jacobs). I was so excited by Laird’s third place there. How did you do in that competition? Why were you unable to make it to the Trials the next year, when you were probably our #2 guy in 1967? Those 20 Km Trials in Long Beach were probably my high-water mark in the sport.”

Bad Saarow is an interesting story. The first World Cup (then the Lugano Cup) was held in Lugano, Switzerland (thus the name) in 1961. Ron Zinn and I heard about it in England 1965. Finally, in 1967, the AAU (then the governing body of the sport) decided to send a team, but it didn’t happen. At that time, they had qualifying meets in Europe to limit the number of teams at the final and welcomed teams from outside of Europe if officialdom to send a team, but nothing came of it. At that time, they had qualifying meets in Lugano City that year at 7000 feet, just the training and the Trials at altitude... Martin finished seventh at Long Beach in 1:35:49 and was fifth in the Final Trial in 1:43:44, but well back of Tom Dooley (1:41:03), who captured the third Olympic spot when third place Larry Young opted to walk only the 50 Km in Mexico City—quite successfully, at that, as he captured the first of his two Olympic bronze medals.

Following is my reply to Martin (with, perhaps, a few changes or additions upon further reflection), providing a small window to a view those long-ago days of our sport.

Ferrari is based. Schwazer admitted consulting with Ferrari. The IOC is considering a retest of Schwaizer’s sample from the Beijing Games. He maintains he was clean at the time.

Walker was not available because of his teaching duties (the meeting was in October). I later heard that Larry’s unavailability may have been an assumption and perhaps he was never actually asked. I never verified that, but when I heard that possibility after the fact, it left me with a bit of a guilty feeling.

Anyway, the AAU did make arrangements for our travel, with Bruce MacDonald (a veteran of three Olympics) as our team manager. So the seven of us (Laird, Dooley, Young, and Mortland) met in West Berlin on Thursday afternoon, after a brief layover in Paris—long enough to sleep and stretch our legs in seeing a few Parisian sights on Thursday morning. We were taken to Checkpoint Charlie and passed through for a brief walk to the East German checkpoint. Fortunately, the arrangements were solid and the East Germans had someone there to give us transport us eastward to Bad Saarow, not far from the Polish border.

Ron had a brilliant race. He had some very good races in Europe earlier in the summer, but not like this—1:29:12.6* and just 15 seconds behind Golubnichiy (see September issue for more on Vladimir) and only 35 behind the winner, Nikolai Smaga, both of the USSR. He was more than a minute ahead of East Germany’s Gerhard Sperrling who was fourth. Tom Dooley had his best race to that point, finishing 16th in 1:37:21.

But I performed miserably. From my training, I knew I should be under 1:40 and expected something like 1:38. An early caution scared me (can’t afford a DQ in a team race) and I never got a good rhythm. Falling steadily back, I was finally passed by a Swede with perhaps a mile to go and really made no effort to go with him—very disappointing that I seemed completely uncompetitive. So, I finished 22nd of 24 in 1:42:13.6, beating only an old friend Gennadiy Solodov, who seemed to collapse over the final 5 Km and an Italian who dropped out. Larry Young also had a decidedly poor race in the 50, like me 22nd. But, it was a gutty performance. In a cold rain, he simply ran out of energy, but refused to stop, struggling through in 5:06:08. Redemption was to follow a year later in Mexico City. So we wound up 6th in the team race, just 2 points behind Sweden. An expected performance by either Mortland or Young would have moved us well ahead of Sweden, but no further as West Germany was some 25 points ahead. East Germany, the USSR, and Great Britain occupied the first three spots. We finished ahead of Hungary and Italy.

Solodov was an old friend to the extent someone you can’t really talk with (the language barrier) can be friend. He was one of the two Russians who beat Zinn and I in Moscow in 1961. He finished just ahead of Ron for fifth place in the Tokyo Olympics and joined Ron in a drunken revelry in our room after the race to the amusement of Mickey Brodie and I. He was also an alternate for the 20 Km in the 1965 USSR-USA meet in Kiev. At that time, he had competed against Goubnichiy other than in the 1964 Olympics. In my reply, I referred to the 1967 World Cup in Bad Saarow, East Germany, the other time I was in the same race as Golubnichiy—I never really “competed” against him as noted in the tribute to him last month.
Then several weeks in to the year, I had some sort of foot injury that limited my training and I dropped thoughts of the 50. When we found that Marty was pregnant with our first child and was due in mid-September, I gave up all thought of the Olympics. I wasn’t about to be in Colorado on the day our first child arrived. As it turned out, Derek was born on September 15, two days after the 50 Trials. But, beyond that, I would not have been able to take the time off work that attendance at the high-altitude camp would have required and there would have been no way to go into the Trials without the acclimation. Since high heat and humidity always worked to my advantage in races, I always had the thought that perhaps I would have adjusted to altitude better than most, but I have no regrets that I was never able to put that theory to the test.

In a final paragraph in my reply to Martin, I noted: And thanks for your service in Vietnam—I didn’t realize that was part of your story. While I didn’t agree with our presence there, I appreciated the sacrifices made. I, of course, lost two friends from racewalking in Vietnam—Ron Zinn and Akos Szekely, both West Point graduates. Ron was anticipating the possibility of service in Vietnam while we were in Tokyo and was dedicated to the possible mission. Ron Laird and I were in Kiev not long after his death in the summer of 1965 and received expressions of sympathy from the Russians who had already heard about the event. No questions of politics, just sympathy.

As a footnote, 1:29:12.6 doesn’t seem a very spectacular time today. But at that time, sub 1:30 and 4:05 were the standards. This was just before the Mexican racewalking revolution. Jerzy Hausleber had moved from Poland to Mexico in 1966 and with a handful of super-fast striding Mexicans, walking as Hausleber taught, turned the sport in a new direction so that by 1980, times under 1:20 and 3:45 became the new standard. Ron Laird and I spent a couple of days with Hausleber in northern Poland in 1965 at a time when he was just developing his concepts. The following article by a New York Times correspondent at the London Olympics provides an interesting look at racewalking in Central and South America.

Olympic Racewalking Is More Than Just A Stroll


Elder Arevalo is just 19, but he lives in a comfortable apartment in Bogota, Colombia. With a monthly income of about $2500, he earns about twice as much as his father, a construction worker in Pitalito, 233 miles to the south. Arevalo’s ticket to a better life has been racewalking.

Arevalo winning the World Cup Junior 10 Km In Saransk

“I am trying to improve myself because racewalking can open doors for me,” Arevalo, the reigning world junior champion, said a few days before he was to compete in the
One Step at a Time? It's More Complicated Than That

by Ken Belson

London—You would think the racewalking community would embrace the Olympics. After all, the sport is largely ignored and often ridiculed, so getting the chance to race on international television once every four years ought to be cause for celebration.

But when the Games arrive, racewalkers and their judges brace for an onslaught. Television, it turns out, is racewalkers' worst enemy because cameras often zoom in on their feet, and the picture is not pretty. In slow motion, viewers can see racers with both feet off the ground for more than 30 or 40 milliseconds. The idea was scrapped because "To the human eye" is the critical part because it underscores the subjective nature of judging the sport. Unlike television cameras, the human eye has difficulty confirming that both feet are in the air for less than 30 or 40 milliseconds. Racewalkers and judges grasp this, but critics argue that this inability to police the sport erodes its credibility.

A week later, Belson penned another column that presented a fair evaluation of the state of the sport and its judging issues.

Coaches from around the world to improve the host country's medal chances. One of them was Jerzy Hausleber, a young Pole who liked to walk long distances. He saw an opportunity for medals in racewalking, a sport then dominated by Europeans.

The roots of the sport date to late-18th-century England, when footmen who walked astride the carriages of their aristocratic bosses began to travel the country like prizefighters taking on challenges. Their long-distance walking feats became known as pedestrianism.

As with other sports, the English codified pedestrianism by introducing the "fair hell to toe" rule and the imperative that the leg be fully straightened, a cornerstone of modern racewalking. Various forms of racewalking have been in the Olympics since 1980.

The leading English and Europeans were typically tall men with long strides. Unlike Dick Fosbury and his high-jumping flop, Hausleber revolutionized the sport by looking for walkers with a lower center of gravity and quicker leg speed facilitated by more hip movement, which led to a bounce in their step known as floating. Training at high altitudes in Mexico also helped build endurance.

The strategy paid immediate dividends. In 1968, Jose Pedroza won the 20 Km silver medal. Mexico's first medal in track and field, in front of an adoring home crowd. Mexican racewalkers have won nine men's Olympic gold medals over all.

"Hausleber was an innovator by improving the speed and changing the old mentality of our sport," said Maurizio Damilano, who won three Olympic racewalking medals for Italy in the 1980s.

Suspicion followed. Older racewalkers assumed rules were being broken and judges had to grapple with the new style. But the sport coalesced around the new style over the next decade, and Damilano and other younger racers flocked to Mexico to study with Hausleber.

"Floating used to be bad; now it's good," said Gary Westerfield, an international racewalking judge and coach.

The success of Hausleber's Mexican racewalkers was noticed throughout Latin America, where smaller nations want to share the spoils. "There's a lot of jealousy politically," said Tim Seaman, one of America's leading racewalkers. "The Guatemalans don't want Mexico to be the big country, and El Salvador wants to be there, too."

A week later, Belson penned another column that presented a fair evaluation of the state of the sport and its judging issues.

The trouble is that the rules of racewalking are lost in the debate over whether the sport is legitimate or a charade. Rule 230 of the IAAF rule book states that "racewalking is a progression of steps so taken that the walker makes contact with the ground so that no visible (to the human eye) loss of contact occurs."

"To the human eye" is the critical part because it underscores the subjective nature of judging the sport. Unlike television cameras, the human eye has difficulty confirming that both feet are in the air for less than 30 or 40 milliseconds. Racewalkers and judges grasp this, but critics argue that this inability to police the sport erodes its credibility.

"This has become a problem because every four years they'll show athletes off the ground," said Dave McGovern, a racewalking coach and judge and the author of "The Complete Guide to Racewalking." (Ed. And, we must add, an elite racewalker himself in his day as was Gary Westerfield.) It's about threshold that an eye can see it," McGovern said, "but in terms of the public, they freak out."

In a sport that gets more than its share of needling because of the way the walkers swing their hips, racewalkers are understandably sensitive about the scrutiny. They argue, though, that the vagaries of judging racewalking are not different from say, those of determining balls and strikes in baseball or traveling calls in basketball.

Eight judges from different countries are positioned along the two-kilometer loop used for Olympic races. If they see infractions—either a loss of contact with the ground or a bent knee (the other cardinal rule)—they are encouraged to flash a yellow warning paddle at the walker. A judge who sees the same athlete break the same rule again can write a red card. Walkers who receive red cards from three different judges are disqualified.

In the men's 20 Km race last Saturday, 56 athletes started the race. Two racewalkers were disqualified (a Russian and a Colombian), 8 received two red cards, and 15 were given one red card.

To prevent a judge from single-handedly disqualifying a walker, judges can give only one red card per athlete. Once that red card is given, the walker effectively becomes invisible to that judge. Walkers, though, are not told which judge gave them a red card, to prevent them from blatantly breaking the rules when passing a judge who could no longer issue a card.

Athletes, however, can see how many red cards they have when they pass a signboard on the course.

Only the chief judge or his assistants can remove a walker from the course. It takes time, though, for the field judges to notify the chief judge of a red-card infraction. Hand-held devices using technology are constantly used to notify a recorder in the chief judge's station. Bicycle messengers also ferry written red cards to the recorder. Only after the chief judge has confirmed that three judges have given a red card is a walker removed from the course.

This gap has led to some embarrassing gaffes, most notably in Sydney in 2000. In the men's 20 Km race, Bernardo Segura of Mexico crossed the finish line first and was soon speaking by phone with the President of Mexico. While being congratulated, Segura was told he had been disqualified. In the women's 20, the race leader, Liu Hongyu of China, was disqualified. Then the new race leader, Elisabetta Perrone of Italy, was disqualified. That put Jane Saville of Australia in the lead. Heading into the stadium, she was disqualified while 90,000 Aussies prepared to crown her a hometown hero.

"I won bronze in Athens, but everyone knows me for the disqualification," said Saville, who retired in 2008. "Some people who are skeptical have been not out to a race."

In a sport hard to judge, calls for using technology are constant. Racewalking officials have considered using a "shoe alarm" that would be triggered whenever a walker had both feet off the ground for more than 30 or 40 milliseconds. The idea was scrapped because the alarm was battery powered and could malfunction.
The use of high-speed cameras has been debated but never adopted for many reasons, including the cost of installing them at non-Olympic races that operate on a tiny budget. To many, letting racewalkers compete without cameras most of the time and then sing them at the Olympics would be unfair. If cameras lead to more disqualifications, athletes may get discouraged and quit.

"Our job is not to catch the bad guys gaining an unfair advantage, but to protect the good guys complying with the rules," said Pierce O'Callaghan, a former Irish racewalker and an Olympic coach and judge. "Judging with the human eye is the worst form of judging, except for all the others."

LOOKING BACK

50 Years Ago (From the October 1962 American Race Walker, published by Chris McCarthy in Chicago)—In the European Championships, Great Britain's Ken Matthews prevailed at 20 Km in 1:35:55, with Germany's Hans-Georg Reimann (1:36:35) and the USSR's Vladimir Golubnichy (1:36:39) following. At 50, Italy's Abdon Pamich was an easy winner in 4:18:47 as Gregor Panitschkin, USSR (4:24:36) and Don Thompson, GB (4:29:01) followed. Interestingly, both winners repeated in the 1964 Olympics and both bronze medalists had won gold at the 1960 Olympics. Alex Oakley won the Canadian 50 Km title in 4:28:51 and two weeks later dropped down to Providence to win the U.S. 25 Km race in 2:03:14. Ron Laird (2:04:44) and John Allen (2:08:08) followed. Chris McCarthy began to show the form that would carry him onto the 1964 US Olympic team with a 4:49:22 50 Km effort in Chicago.

45 Years Ago (From the October 1967 ORW)—In the fourth edition of the Lugano Cup (now World Cup), the U.S. fielded a team for the first time and finished sixth among eight teams, just 2 points in back of Sweden. The event was held in Bad Saarow, East Germany. Ron Laird finished a close third in the 20 in 1:29:23 behind Soviets Nikolai Smaga and Vladimir Golubnichy. With Christoph Hohne leading a 1,2,4 finish at 50 Km, the host nation won the team title over the Soviets. Others on the U.S. team, apparently the first U.S. athletes ever to compete in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), were Tom Dooley and Jack Mortland at 20, and Larry Young, Goetz Klopfer, and Jim Clinton at 50. Three-time Olympian Bruce MacDonald was the team manager. Laird prepped for the Lugano Cup race with a 1:59:18 in winning the National 25 Km in Seattle. Goetz Klopfer, Bill Ranney, and Jim Lopes took the next three spots to cop the team title for the Athens AC.

40 Years Ago (From the October 1971 ORW)—Larry Young, fresh from winning his second Olympic bronze in Munich, won the National 30 Km in Columbia, Missouri in 2:28:09 with Todd Scully 4½ minutes back. Floyd Godwin and Jerry Brown, in third and fourth, led the Colorado TC to a one point win over the Motor City Striders in the team race. Ben Knoppe won the Columbia, Mo. 100 miler in 22:15:05.

35 Years Ago (From the October 1977 ORW)—Canada's Marcel Jobin was an easy winner of the National 30, again held in Columbia, with a 2:21:03. Augie Hirt was nearly 13 minutes back in second. Jeanne Bocci won the women's National 15 Km title in 1:15:07, with Susan Leirs second in 1:16:56. Liers won the National 20 in 1:57:59 ahead of Eileen Smith's 2:01:26.

30 Years Ago (From the October 1982 ORW)—Ray Sharp survived a strong finish by Tom Edwards to win the National 40 Km in Monmouth, N.J. Ray's 3:27:31 left him 46 seconds ahead of Edwards, who gained nearly 5 minutes in the final 10. Randy Mimm was another 3½ minutes back in third, well ahead of Mike Morris... Ernest Canto was an easy winner of the Alongi Memorial 20 Km in Detroit with a 1:24:59. His Mexican teammate, Felix Gomez, was second in 1:27:23. Tim Lewis edged Ray Sharp for third, with both given a 1:29:11... Alan Price won the Columbia 100 miler for the fifth consecutive time, covering the distance in 19:43:51. Bob Chapin was 40 minutes back in second, with four others finishing under the 24-hour limit... A 100 miler in England saw Mick Holmes winning in 17:21:52. In that one, there were 55 under 24 hours!

25 Years Ago (From the October 1987 ORW)—Dan O'Connor won the National 30, held in East Meadow, N.Y. Dan finished in 2:21:52, leaving another Dan—Pierce—5:25 behind. Ed O'Rourke followed in third, just 6 seconds ahead of Cliff Mimm. Cliff's father, Bob, had a very impressive 2:55:48 and was the first over-60 competitor to finish. A week earlier, Nick Bdera had won the National 40 in Ft. Monmouth, N.J. (He was seventh in the 30). His 3:27:59 put him well clear of Dan Pierce, who finished in 3:29:53, nearly 10 minutes ahead of third placer, Steve Vaetone... Carl Schueler scored an impressive with in the Alongi 20, beating Italy's Sandro Bellucci, who had been sixth in the World Championship 50 Km earlier in the year (Carl was 16th in that one with a 3:37:30). Schueler had a 1:26:30 to Bellucci's 1:27:10. Colombia's Arunicio Cortez (1:27:57) was third, ahead of Gary Morgan (1:28:03) and Steve Pecinovsky (1:28:31).

15 Years Ago (From the October 1997 ORW)—Gary Morgan won the National 2 Hour title in Worcester, Mass., covering 24,616 meters to beat 59-year-old Dave Romansky by 2,002 meters. Gretchen Eastler-Flishman won the women's 1 Hour with 11,804 meters, beating 58-year-old Elton Richardson, who had 9,443. The top walkers stayed away in droves... At the Alongi Memorial, Jonathan Matthews won a 10 km race in 43:24, a U.S. masters record, with...
Gary Morgan second in 44:05. John Nunn won a Junior 10 in 44:55 and Emma Carter a women’s 5 Km in 24:38. The World University Games 20 Km went to Russia’s Ilya Markov in 1:23:36 with Mexico’s Alejandro Lopez (1:26:00) in second and Italy’s Arturo DiMezza (1:26:12) third. William Van Axen (1:32:59) and Tim Seaman (1:34:41) were 11th and 12th for the U.S. The women’s 10 went to Larissa Ramazanova, Belarus, in 44:01.

10 Years Ago (From the October 2002 ORW) - The World Cup, held in Turin, Italy, resulted in a Russian sweep – team titles in both men’s and women’s 20 and in the men’s 50. Individually, they won only in the men’s 50, where they took four of the first five spots, but they finished 2, 3, 4 in the women’s 20 and second and sixth in the men’s 20. The women’s race went to Italy’s Erica Alfieri (1:28:55), followed by Russians Olimpiada Ivanova (1:28:57) and Natalia Fedoskina (1:28:59). Jefferson Perez, Ecuador, won the men’s 20 in 1:21:16 ahead of Vladimir Andrejev (1:20:50) and Mexico’s Alejandro Lopez (1:22:01). The 50 went to Aleksey Voyevodin in 3:40:59 with his Russian teammate, German Skurygin (3:42:08), and Poland’s Tomasz Lipiec (3:45:37) following. For the U.S., Joanne Dow was 50th in 1:41:00, Kevin Easter 31st in 1:28:18, and Philip Dunn 13th in a personal best 3:56:13. Two weeks earlier, Dunn had won the National 2 Hour covering 26,815 meters, 160 meters ahead of Curt Clausen, who had 140 meters on Kevin Easter. Susan Annenta won the women’s 1 Hour with 12,195 meters.

5 Years Ago (From the October 2007 ORW) - Final IAAF Challenge Races in Saransk, Russia went to Russians – Vladimir Kanaykin in a World Record 1:17:16 and Olga Kaniskina in 1:26:47. Russians took the first six places in the women’s race. In the men’s race, Luke Adams of Australia was a distant second in 1:21:01, following disqualification of three Russians, trying to keep pace with Kanaykin, in the closing stages. The month saw three national title races. In the 5 Km in Kingsport, Tenn., Sam Cohen (23:39) beat Jolene Moore (23:55) for the women’s title and the men’s race went to Ricardo Vergara (23:43) with Ian Whatley second in 24:15. Teresa Vaill prevailed in the 1 Hour in Waltham, Mass, covering 12,501 meters with Maria Michta (11,356) second. Mark Green (51) won the men’s race with 12,225 meters, 131 meters ahead of Mikhail Kazmierczak. Matt Boyles won the 30 Km in Hauppauge, N.Y. in 2:32:17, although he trailed three guests from Ecuador, led by Xavier Moreno (2:21:54). Yariv Pomeranz took second behind Boyles with 2:38:41. Teresa Vaill won the women’s race in 2:32:56 with Jolene Moore (2:40:33) and Maria Michta (2:45:48) following. The World Military Championships 20 Km went to China’s Cui Zhide in 1:23:43. John Nunn was ninth in 1:35:52.


The London Olympics: Top left: Silver medalist Olga Kaniskina and China’s Hong Liu opening up on the field. Top right: Winner Elena Lashmanova, Liu, Anisya Kidyapkina, and bronze medalist Shenjie Qieyang. Bottom: 50 Km gold medalist Sergey Kirdyapkin on the heels of silver medalist Jared Tallent. (Valerie Silver photos.)