



OHIO RACEWALKER

Ohio Race Walker
3184 Summit Street
Columbus, Ohio 43202

VOLUME XLVIII, NUMBER 8 COLUMBUS, OHIO OCTOBER 2012

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 Mannoizzi and Dan Serianni, young gentlemen in their 20s, were DQ'd. Presumably, they were battling for the lead before their dismissals. Thus, they handed the 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.

Men: 1. David Swarts (47), Pegasus AC 23:16 2. Omar Nash, Miami Valley TC 24:31 3. Ian Whatley (53), S. Car. 24:37 4. Joel Pfahler, Miami Valley 24:45 5. Chris Schmid (65), World Class RW 25:05 6. Dan O'Brien (47) Pegasus 26:27 7. Andrew Smith (63), Pegasus 26:45 8. Rod Craig, (54), Pegasus 27:00 9. Damon Clements (55), Ind. 28:20 10. Larry Windes (54), Tenn. 28:48 11. Max Walker (65), Pegasus 29:14 12. Russell McMahon (58), Ohio 29:48 13. Tom Gerhardt (61), Vir. 30:22 14. John Fredericks (64), Shore AC 30:53 15. James Carmine (69), Penn. 31:30 16. Dave Eidahl (71), Iowa 33:17 (Many, many years since I recall typing Dave's name in race results. Welcome back Dave—if you've been missing from more than my memory.) 17. Robert Nichols (73), St. Louis 33:52 18. Thomas Dunleavy (13), Texas 33:57 19. Steve Shapiro (58), Vir. 34:07 20. Eduardo Alvarez (68) Fla. 34:14 21. John Backlund (72), Cal. 34:55 22. Pat Bivona (71), Shore AC 34:56 23. Hartley Dewey (64), Vir. 35:42 24. Steve Durrant (73), Vir. 36:42 25. Bernie Finch (72), Wis. 37:36 26. David Latterman (56), Tenn. 37:51

Women's 5 Km: 1. Teresa Vaill (49), Fla. 23:37 (Her 40th US title dating back to the Indoor 1 Mile in 1984) 2. Susan Randall, Ohio 24:58 3. Maite Moscoso (40), Fla. 26:28 4. Melissa Moeller, Ind. 26:50 5. Joan Terry (48), Fla. 27:07 6. Debbie Topham (59), Pegasus 29:49 7. Marianne Martino (62), Col. 30:18 8. Irene Fletemeyer (17), Maryland 30:28 9. Sandra DeNoon (57), Fla. 30:34 10. M. Ann Harsh (62), Fla. 30:49 11. Fiona Dunleavy (16), Texas 31:18 12. Rebecca Garson (48), Vir. 31:34 13. Michelle Heister (46), Fla. 31:38 14. Joyce Prohaska (62), Ohio 32:56 15. Leslie Latterman (54), Tenn. 33:15 16. Amy Tonsits (55), N.Y. 33:58 17. Yvonne Grudzina-Glaser (58) Fla. 34:51 18. Kay Brinkley (66), Penn. 35:22 19. Rita Sinkovec (73), Col. 35:28 20. Darlene Backlund (67), Cal. 35:32 21. Kay Overcash-Jenkins (60), N. Car. 35:43 22. Jolene Steigerwalt (68), Cal. 35:50 23. Katherine Fincher (53), N. Car. 36:51 24. Kathy Nash (58), Tenn. 38:10 25. Joyce Curtis (74), Tenn. 38:43 26. Barbara Hensley (68), Ohio 39:42 27. Elizabeth Shepard (47), Col. 39:56 28. Cindy Alexander (51), Vir. 41:35 29. Barbara Taylor (65), Tenn. 41:39

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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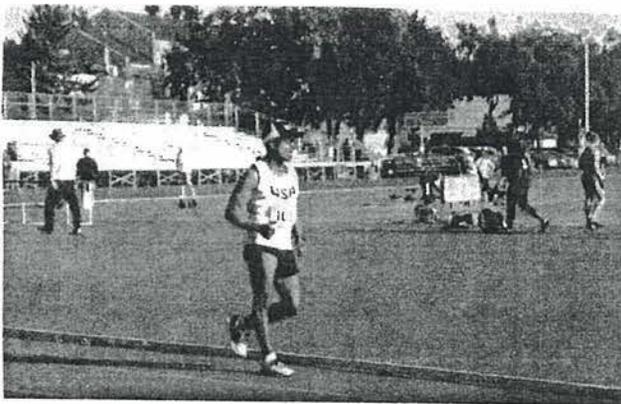


The Ohio Racewalker is published monthly in Columbus, Ohio. Subscription rate is \$15.00 per year. Editor and Publisher: John E. (Jack) Mortland. Address all correspondence regarding both editorial and subscription matters to: Ohio Racewalker, 3184 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43202. E-mail address is: jmortlan@columbus.rr.com. Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 24th of each month.

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: 1. Teresa Vaill, un. 12,053 meters 2. Katie Burnett, un. 11,332 3. Stephanie Saccente (17), Walk USA 10,501 4. Brittany Collins (18), Walk USA 10,335 5. Alexa Kluepfel (16) Walk USA 10,250 6. Gema Wheatley (16), Auburn Parks & Rec. 9338 7. Sydney Sirois (13) Auburn P&R 8377 8. Kayla Allen (13) Auburn P&K 8362 (2 DQ Teams: 1. Walk USA 2. Auburn Parks & Recreation, Maine

Men: 1. Francisco Pantoja, un. 13,453 2. Dan Serianni, World Class RW 12,931 3. Jonathan Hallman, World Class 12,884 4. David Swarts (47), Pegasus AC 12,290 5. Chris Schmid (65), World Class 11,460 (another US age group record) 6. Spencer Dunn (14), Auburn Parks & Rec 11,066 7. Andrew Smith (63), Pegasus 11,064 8. Edward O'Rourke (51), New England Walkers 10,375 9. Ian Marshall (15), Maine Walkers 9989 10. Larry Epstein (53), New England Walkers 9926 11. Bill Reed (60), Pegasus 9850 12. Brian Savilonis (62), New England Walkers 9545 13. Robert Ullman (63), NEW 9512 14. Robert Campbell (67), World Class 9083 15. Bill Harriman (65), NEW 9063 16. Charles Mansbach (68), NEW 8539 17. Tom Knatt (72), NW 8160 18. Gustave Davis (74), Conn. RW 7397 19. Len Hall (59), Gate City Striders 6,195 Teams: 1. World Class RW 2. Pegasus AC 3. New England Walkers



Francisco Pantoja during a 3000 meter race in Colorado

Other Results

Michigan 1 Hour, Madison Heights, Sept. 22—1. David Swarts (47) 12,068 meters 2. Dan O'Brien (47), 11,151 3. Tom Delford (63) 8887 4. Max Green (80) 8432 **North Region 1 Hour, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Sept. 30**—1. Donna Green (60) 8943 meters 2. Ron Winkler (61) 8,024 3. Al Dubois (80) 8024 **5 Km, Bloomfield, Col., Sept. 15**—1. Rita

Sinkovec 36:16 2. Bob Smith 40:03 (Bob is responsible for the little racewalking figure that has graced page 1 of the ORW since July of 1971—more than 41 years) 3. Craig Foreman 41:35 **10 Km, same place**—1. Peter Armstrong 66:40 2. Connie Ruel 72:02 **New Mexico 10 Km, Albuquerque, Sept. 23**—1. Laura Draelos 61:03 2. Mandy Owens 64:25 **5 Km, same place**—1. Kerri Segell 32:24 2. Virginia Myers 34:58 3. Tabitha Cionelo 36:50 (7 finishers) **Pacific 10 Km, Camichael, Cal., Oct. 7**—1. Mark Green (56) 54:27 2. Alex Price 57:31 3. Bill Penner (66) 64:57 4. Joe Berendt (57) 65:24 5. Dick Petruzzi (79) 77:28 **Women**—1. Lila Haba (16) 63:46 2. Susan Mears (57) 66:33 3. Nicolle Goldman (53) 67:36 4. Joanne Figone (60) 67:51 5. Paula Mendell (62) 73:00 6. Trish Caldwell (66) 73:59 7. Doris Cassels (73) 74:08 8. Helen Storrs (46) 79:28

Ontario Roadwalking Championships, Welland, Ontario, Sept. 30: 20 Km—1. Allen James (48), USA 1:37:40 2. Jianping Xu (46) 1:46:34 **Women**—1. Catherine McCormack (40) 2:11:44 **Women's 10 Km**—1. Lauren Van Leeuwen 55:45 2. Chelsea Rodriguez 56:38 3. Linda Wilson 60:04 **Women's 5 Km**—1. Chris Kozell (59) 31:20 2. Lily Whalen (60) 32:31 3. Anne Fischer (51) 33:30 4. Joanne Gage (57) 33:32 5. Sharon Wright (63) 33:53 6. Niki Stevenson (55) 35:30 7. Lalitha Tella (63) 35:47 8. Eileen Sarkar (70) 35:57 (13 finishers)

10,000 meters, Ogre, Latvia, Oct. 7—1. Edgar Gjacs (junior) 41:11.7 **20 Km, Grodno, Belarus, Oct. 7**—1. Aliaksandr Liakhovich 1:22:55 2. Dzianis Simanovich 1:24:40 3. Andrei Talashka 1:26:14 4. Ruslain Verskiac, Russia 1:26:53 **Women's 10 Km, same place**—1. Marina Pandakova, Russia 43:34 2. Hanna Drabenia 44:31 **Jr. 10 Km, same place**—1. Krill Frolov, Russia 40:49 2. Yevgeniy Salesskry 41:02 3. Yevgeniy Tibiak 43:32 **17 and under 5 Km, same place**—1. Evgeniy Bikov, Russia 20:55 **10 Km, Bacuch, Slovakia, Sept. 22**—1. Matej Toth 40:34 2. Jakub Jelonek, Poland 40:40 3. Nazar Kovalenko, Ukraine 41:06 4. Marius Ziukas, Latvia 41:16 5. Anton Kucmin 41:56 **Women**—1. Brigita Virbalyte, Lithuania 45:14 2. Federica Ferraro 45:23 3. Agnieszka Szarnog, Poland 46:54 **French 50 Km, Corcieux, Sept. 30**—1. Johann Augeron 4:06:55 2. Guillaume Dujour 4:40:32 3. Maxime Faileau 4:41:03 (11 finishers, 2 DQ, 3 DNF) **Women's 20 Km, same place**—1. Sevine Lehoue 1:51:02 (Guest—Karolina Kaasalainen, Finland 1:40:22) **50 Km, Copenhagen, Denmark, Oct. 7**—1. Adrian Blocki, Poland 3:54:41 2. Damian Blocki, Poland 3:55:51 3. Havard Haugenes, Norway 3:56:38 (DQ—Lukasz Augustyn, Poland) **Italian 50 Km, Oct. 14**—1. Federico Tontonati 3:51:37 2. Teodorico Caorase 4:00:57 3. Mario Laudato 4:12:45 **20 Km same place**—1. Andrea Adragna 1:28:33 2. Mirko Dolci 1:28:29 **Women's 20 Km, same place**—1. Valentina Traplotti 1:38:33 **1 Hour, Lugano, Switz., Oct. 13**—1. Nazar Kovalenko, Ukraine 12,915 meters 2. Lukas Gdula, Czech Rep. 12,866 3. Sandor Racz, Hungary 12,187 (17 finishers) **Women**—1. Lauri Polli 11,632 2. Viktoria MaMadarsz, Hungary 11,330 **South African 20 Km Capetown, Oct. 13**—1. Lebongang Shange 1:26:17. 2. Wayne Snyman 1:28:21 **Women**—1. Jessica Van Wyk 1:49:38 **50 Km, same place**—1. Siphon Malango 4:44:52 2. Ross McDonald 4:57:51 **Women**—1. Yvonne Imesher (50) 5:35:50 **20 Km, Chiasso, Switz., Oct. 14**—1. Nasar Kovalenko, Ukraine 1:25:39 2. Konstantinos Ntentopoulos, Greece 1:28:39 3. Ruggerio D'Asconio, Italy 1:28:40 4. Zdeno Babik, Slavakia 1:30:05 (14 finishers) **Women**—1. Federica Ferrari, Italy 1:31:45 **Women's 10 Km, same place**—1. Anezka Drahatova, Czech Rep. 44:31 2. Despoina Zapounido, Grece 45:58 **Jr. 10 Km, same place**—1. Patrick Spivak, Slovakia 41:46 2. Aacharias Tsamoudakiu, Greece 42:40 **50 Km, Gleina, Germany, Oct. 13**—1. Grzegorz Sudol, Poland 3:45:06 2. Michal Stasiewicz, Poland 3:52:45 3. Carsten Schmidt, Germany 4:14:32 (for the German championship) **Jr. 30 Km, same place**—1. Carl Dohman 2:15:02 2. Hagen Pohle 2:17:41 3. Marcel Lehmborg 2:19:46 **10 Km, Japan, Oct. 13**—1. Yusuke Suzuki 40:10.16 2. Takumi Saito (Junior) 40:11.71 3. Ichiro Hiroshi 40:34.04 4.

Takyik Tanii 41:30.89 5. Okuma Samuray 41:52.43 6. Isam Fujisawa 41:57.05 **Women:** 1. Mayumi Kawaski 44:22.97 2. Kumi Ori 44:45.53 3. Onoue Urara 46:37.10 **8 Hours, France, Oct. 21**—1. Phillipe Morel 75,400 meters in 8:00:06 2. Cedric Varain 72,500 in 8:01:21 3. Phillipe 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 5 Km 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 5 Km, Milford, Del. (T)
Sat. Dec. 1 5 Km, Dover, Del. (T)
Sat. Dec. 15 5 Km 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 5 Km, Dover, Del. (T)
Sat. Jan. 5 Southwest Region 50 Km and 5 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, Dew York City (D)

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Of the table moves, move with it.

Keep a green tree in your heart, and one day the singing bird will come.

Just a couple of deep statements for the philosophers among you to chew on gleaned recently from fortune cookies.

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. Tsk! Tsk! So each subsequent issue has been a number short, until this one which is now properly designated as No. 8. Not earth shaking but it might confuse archivists in the next century. . . **Apologies 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 samll nit=pcik. The September issue lists the results from the National Junior Olympics 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 great adult program but no 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 representing "New Jerse". 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 incomplete. 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. He failed an out-of-competition test before arriving in London and was removed from Italy's team before competing. He then admitted using the blood-boosting hormone EPO and said he was quitting the sport. Schwazer was placed under investigation last month by a Rome court and is being investigated by prosecutors in his hometown of Bolzano and in Padua, where an inquiry into banned physician Michele

Ferrari is based. Schwazer admitted consulting with Ferrari. The IOC is considering a retest of Schwazer'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 its 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 very 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—*ed. 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.” (*Ed. The 20 Km Trials in Long Beach in June (actually the National 20 Km) served as a semi-final held with the top 10 qualifying for a final in September in Alamoso, Colorado, following a few weeks training at Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The Olympics were in Mexico City that year at 7000 feet, thus the training and the Trial 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 placer Larry Young opted to walk only the 50 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.

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 in England when we were with the U.S. National team assembled for the annual US-USSR dual meet in Moscow as well as meets in England, West Germany, and Poland. We tried to get U.S. officialdom to send a team, but nothing came of it. 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 any expressed interest. If that had happened, there would probably have been qualifying meets in the Americas or Asia. But with no one else on the continent interested (or, probably even aware of the opportunity), the U.S. could have sent a team to the final.

Nor was anyone persuaded that it would be worthwhile to send a team in 1963 or 1965. Finally, in 1967, the AAU (then the governing body of track and field in the U.S.) consented to send a team, but offered no expenses. If we wanted to go, each athlete had to pay his own way or find someone who would. Everyone managed to do that—I got some of what I needed from the Ohio AAU, over the protest of some swimming officials who thought the money could better go to sending age group swimmers to meets. I’m not sure where everyone else got the money to go, but go we did.

Actually, I was on the team by default. At that time, I was only semi-serious in my walking and had finished fifth in the National 20 in McKeesport, Pa. behind Laird, Tom Dooley, Young, and Larry Walker (so obviously I wasn’t the number 2 guy at that time) Larry Young opted for the 50 (as he did the following year) and I was told, when invited, that Larry

Walker was not available because of his teaching duties (the meet 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, Goetz Klopfer, Jim Clinton, Bruce, and myself) left New York on a Wednesday evening and arrived 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 greet us and 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 Sperling 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 22 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 Yong 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 alternated for the 20 Km in the 1965 USSR-USA meet in Kiev. At that one, he took Laird and I to a store to purchase a genuine winter hat. In 1961, he had given me a small plastic replica of the first Sputnik with his name and the occasion scratched on the base.

So, feeling that I simply had not been competitive in that race, I remember telling Bruce afterward that it was the end for me in high-level racing. A positive element, however, was being designated by my teammates to carry our flag in the Opening Ceremonies. I was grateful for the opportunity. The following spring, Sports Illustrated had an article about a U.S. wrestling team competing in East Germany and noted that they were the first U.S. athletes to compete there since World War II. I quickly sent off a letter correcting them on that fact. I can’t recall for sure if they published my letter. But anyway, I know that we were apparently the first, something I wouldn’t have known if SI had not blundered.

You ask about 1968. First, as noted above, I was not our #2 guy at that time. From 1961 to 1965, I guess I would always have been considered number 2 or 3 and in 1966 maybe, although I never thought in those terms. By January 1968, putting aside what I had said to Bruce, I decided that I should give it another go and started serious training to build up to 50.

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 Trial. 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 Trial 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 grads. 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

By Ken Belson, New York Times, August 3, 2012

Eider 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

men's Olympic 20 Km. "You can live like a normal person, though I have to make many sacrifices.

Mocked and misunderstood by outsiders, and largely an afterthought even in the world of track and field, racewalking is a serious pursuit in many parts of Latin America. Races are shown on television, high-profile coaches are recruited, and athletes are turned onto the sport at a young age.

From Mexico to Ecuador, the sport brings athletic as well as economic opportunity. Unlike, say, cycling, racewalking requires almost no equipment, and it can be done on city streets or mountain roads any time of year, and athletes can train alone or in groups.

The sport can also lift athletes out of hardship because of generous stipends and rewards that governments, athletic federations, and wealthy fans often shower on up-and-comers and medal winners. Champions have become politicians and prominent businessmen, and they remain national heroes well after their retirements. For nations like Guatemala, racewalking may also be the best chance to win an elusive Olympic medal.

"Racewalking is safe, very cheap, requires no track, just time," said Cesar Moreno Bravo, who leads the racewalking working group at the International Association of Athletic Federations. "Even if Latin American countries don't have the resources, they have the passion."

The Russians have dominated the sport for decades, funneling millions of dollars into developing athletes and winning titles. Racewalking meets in cities like Saransk draw tens of thousands of fans. Valeri Borchin, the reigning Olympic and World Champion, is one of the favorites in the men's 20 Km race, which will be held on a 2-Km loop near Buckingham Palace.

China and Italy will be represented but so will Latin America. In addition to Arevalo, the Colombian team includes James Rendon and Lusi Fernando Lopez, who finished third behind Borchin and his Russian countryman Valentin Kanaykin at the World Championships in 2011. Guatemala, still searching for its first Olympic medal in any sport, is pinning its hopes on Erick Barrondo, a gold medalist at the last Pan American Games. (And, of course, he came through with a silver in London.) Colombia and Guatemala, among others, also have contenders in the men's 50 Km and the women's 20 Km races.

For walkers raised on Central American farms and in Andean hill towns, the races are the culmination of long years of sacrifice. Some racewalkers started with hand-me-down sneakers and have had to stop training to return to factory jobs so they could support their families. An Olympic medal would provide them with almost unimaginable stability.

"If someone won a medal, they would improve their economic prospects," said Luis Rodriguez, a technical adviser to Guatemalan Olympic team. "It would be something that we can showcase to show that if you work hard and are disciplined, you can achieve great things."

Latin American racewalkers have plenty of role model Julio Rene Martinez, who set a world record in the 20 Km in 1999 and has inspired Guatemalans. The biggest star, though, is Jefferson Perez, who won Ecuador's first-ever Olympic medal, a gold in the 10 Km in 1996. He was given a parade on his return home. A three-time World Champion, Perez is the Michael Jordan of Ecuador, news wherever he goes. Now retired, he preaches the virtues of sport. Arevalo of Colombia followed Perez from the time he started racewalking when he was 11.

"Perez inspired people around Latin America," said Enrique Pena, who coached him before becoming the Colombian racewalking coach this year. (And also spent a few years at the US Olympic Training center in Chula Vista.)

A competitive racewalker in the 1970s, Pena was around when the sport first caught on in Latin America. In the years before the Olympic Games in 1968, Mexico recruited

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 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 cornerstones 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. Not 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 elevations in Mexico also helped build endurance.

The strategy paid immediate dividends. In 1968, Jose Pedraza 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.

One Step at a Time? It's More Complicated Than That

by Ken Belson
New York Times, August 10, 2012

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 of the ground, seemingly breaking one of the sport's two cardinal rules: thou shalt have at least one foot in contact with the ground at all times.

Over the course of a 20 Km or 50 Km race, the sight of racewalkers apparently flouting the rules can lead to howls from the public and the news media, with call for racewalking to be thrown out of the Olympics.

"If you don't like racewalking, it becomes easy to look at these freeze-frame photos," said Gary Westerfield, one of 30 international judges certified to officiate Olympic racewalking

events.

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.

Some of the wounds, though, are self-inflicted because judging the sport is so quirky. 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 sign board 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 are 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, Elisabeta 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."



The U.S. women's 20 Km team at the World Cup in Saransk in May. From left: Solomiya Login, Erin Gray, Miranda Melville, Lauren Forgues, and Katie Burnett. (The banner in the background pictures Olga Kaniskina.) (Steve Vaitones photo.)

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 Golubnichiy (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 Golubnichiy. 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 1972 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 4 ½ 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 tam 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 Colombia, 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 3 ½ 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 Vaitones. . . 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 3:57:30). 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-Fishman won the women's 1 Hour with 11,804 meters, beating 58-year-old Elton Richardson, who had 9443. 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 1:25:36 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 Alfridi (1:28:55), followed by Russians Olimpiada Ivanova (1:28:57) and Natalya Fedoskina (1:28:59). Jefferson Perez, Ecuador, won the men's 20 in 1:21:126 ahead of Vladimir Andreyev (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 Eastler 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 Eastler. Susan Armenta won the women's 1 Hour with 12,195 meters. . .In Italy, Marco Giungi did 15 Km in 59:13 to beat Olympic Champion to be, Ivano Brugnetti by 6 seconds.

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 Micahael 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 Pomeranze 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.

Further back. Although national championship walks date back to 1886 when D. M Stern of the New York A.C. won both the 1 Mile (7:31) and 3 Mile (25:12). There was also a 7 mile that year won by Charles Connor, also of the New York AC, in 58:32.5. Today's primary distances, 20 and 50 Km, were introduced much later. The first 50 was conducted in Philadelphia on May 4, 1929. The results: 1. Mark Weiss, Newark AC 4:52:45 2. Morris Fleischer, 92nd St. YMHA 4:58:55 3. Karl Fischback, 92nd St. YMHA 5:03:00 4. Morris Greenberg, Pastime AC 5:04:43 5. Rudolf Hantke, un. 5:05:30 6. Frank Vasilopoulos, . 5:06:35. It was another 9 years before the 20 was first contested as a national championship event. The results in Boston on October 12, 1938: 1. John Rakhonen, Finnish-American AC 1:51:57 2. Leo Schenpel, Polish Falcons AA 1:55:10 3. Murry Clark, un., Boston 1:55:20 4. Albert Cicerone, un., Newark, N.J. 1:56:39 5. Aiden Burroughs, un. Boston 1:56:59 6. George Latorre, un. New York 2:00:12.



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.)