As we enter a new year, may joy bless our lives, may love and compassion fill our hearts, and may peace, tolerance, and understanding spread across the nations.

2012 Annual Rankings

Yes, it’s the end of another year and that brings the Ohio Racewalker’s 43rd Annual Rankings. We first ranked the World’s male walkers at both 20 and 50 Km in 1970. In 1972, we added U.S. Rankings. And in 1979, we began ranking women racewalkers, both in the U.S. and worldwide. Prior to that year, while we reported on women’s racewalking in our pages, there was so little activity worldwide that rankings were not feasible. The first women’s rankings were at 5 km and 10 km, the primary distances walked by women at that time. We dropped the 5 Km rankings in 1985 when women were racing primarily at 10 Km. In 1999, the women’s rankings shifted to 20 Km when that became the standard distance for women’s competitions. Hopefully, we will be able to add a women’s 50 Km before many more years pass.

The ORW rankings are based strictly on the opinion of your editor; arbitrary, but with close attention to the year’s entire set of performances for each athlete. All gripes are graciously accepted, but once in type, the rankings are most unlikely to change.

2012 World 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Yelena Lashmanova, Russia
   1:26:30 (2) Sochi 2/18
   1:27:38 (1) World Cup 5/13
   1:25:02 (1) Olympic Games 8/11

2. Olga Kanskina, Russia
   1:28:33 (2) World Cup 5/13
   1:25:09 (2) Olympic Games 8/11

3. Shenjie Qielyang, China
   1:27:04 (2) Taicang 3:30
   1:33:00 (15) World Cup 5/13
   1:25:16 (3) Olympic Games 1:25:16

4. Hong Liu, China
   1:25:46 (1) Taicang 3/30
   1:27:32 (1) La Coruna 6/9
   1:26:00 (4) Olympic Games 8/11

5. Anisya Kirdyapkina, Russia
   1:31:00 (6) World Cup 5/13
   1:27:43 (1) Russian Champ. 6/10
   1:26:26 (5) Olympic Games 8/11

6. Xiushi Lu, China
   1:27:01 (2) Taicang 3/30
   1:29:55 (4) World Cup 5/13
   1:27:10 (6) Olympic Games 8/11
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As it turns out, there is little reason to deviate from the order of finish at the Olympics. Certainly, there can be no question about a 1-2 ranking for Lashmanova and Kaniskina. Their one-two finish in both the World Cup and Olympics is decisive. A case could be made for Liu to be fourth as she won two of three races with Qieyang and the latter had a decidedly poor one-two finish at the World Cup, two places behind Lu. In the only deviation from the Olympic finish, we place Li to be fourth as she won two of three races with Qieyang and the latter had a decidedly poor one-two finish.

Certainly, there can be no question about a 1-2 ranking for Lashmanova and Kaniskina. Their one-two finish in both the World Cup and Olympics is decisive. A case could be made for Liu to be fourth as she won two of three races with Qieyang and the latter had a decidedly poor one-two finish at the World Cup, two places behind Lu. In the only deviation from the Olympic finish, we place Li to be fourth as she won two of three races with Qieyang and the latter had a decidedly poor one-two finish.

Wow! These rankings are difficult with two major races (World Cup and Olympics) and
several walkers performing superbly in one and miserably in the other.) Anyway—the first four in the Olympics earn the first four spots. But I rank Wang first ahead of Olympic gold winner Chen. Wang beat Chen early in the season and then won the World Cup with Chen only ninth. Chen’s argument for first would be that he was 39 seconds ahead of Wang in London. I still go with Wang. ...Barrondo suffered a DQ in the World Cup, but was a brilliant second in London and deserves the third spot. ...I rank Cai two, his two impressive early season races and solid fourth in London outweigh his 35th at the World Cup. ...Sanchez was more consistent than anyone other than Wang and Chen in the two big races and had three other very good efforts. ...Krivov’s second in the World Cup earn him sixth, despite his miserable Olympic race. ...Lopez ruined his chances for a higher ranking at Lugano and in the World Cup, but proved his mettle in London. ...Tallent seems to me a clear ninth. ...Heffernan finished one spot behind France’s Bertrand Moulinet in London, but beat him at Lugano and in the World Cup, where Moulinet was only 25th. ...Sergey Morozov, fifth at the World Cup and winner of the Russian Championship, was in my top ten until yesterday when I learned of his lifetime ban for doping, which nullified all of his results since February 2011. (See report of his banishment later in this issue.)

2012 Top Performers

(Note: Italy’s Alex Schwazer tops the IAAF list and Morozov is sixth, but since Schwazer was dropped from the Italian Olympic team for doping and has retired, admitting to EPO use, I have omitted both from this list.)

1:17:36 Zhen Wang, China 1:20:39 Erik Tytse, Norway
1:17:40 Ding Chen, China 1:20:41 Christopher Linke, Germany
1:17:43 Yannh Diniz, France 1:20:41 Joao Vieira, Portugal
1:17:47 Andrey Ruzavin, Russia 1:20:42 Dzianis Simanovich, Belarus
1:18:25 Andrey Krivov, Russia 1:20:50 Dawid Tomala, Poland
1:18:25 Erick Barrondo, Guatemala 1:20:51 Piotr Bogatyrev, Russia
1:18:29 Stanislaw Emelyanov, Russia 1:20:51 Andrey Kovenko, Ukraine
1:18:47 Zelin Cai, China 1:20:52 Petr Trofimov, Russia
1:19:20 Petr Trofimov, Russia 1:20:53 Rafał Augustyn, Poland
1:19:43 Vladimir Kanykin, Russia 1:20:55 Jianbo Li, China
1:19:49 Miguel Angel Lopez, Spain 1:20:58 Mariusz Gajda, Poland
1:19:52 Eder Sanchez, Mexico 1:20:58 Grzegorz Sudol, Poland
1:19:55 Nazar Kovalenko, Ukraine 1:21:01 Inaki Gomez, Canada
1:19:58 Qi Zhao, China 1:21:01 Takumi Saito, Japan
1:20:02 Jared Tallent, Australia 1:21:01 Tianlei Li, China
1:20:06 Wei Yu, China 1:21:03 Jakub Jelonek, Poland
1:20:10 Giorgio Rubino, Italy 1:21:03 Dmytro Derenchuk, Ukraine
1:20:17 Bertrand Moulinet, France 1:21:04 Aleksandr Prokhorov, Russia
1:20:20 Radoslav Dmytrenko, Ukraine 1:21:10 Hirooki Arai, Japan
1:20:21 Irfan Kolothum Thodi, India 1:21:12 Lukasz Nowak, Poland
1:20:27 Weiyuan Wang, China 1:21:12 Matthias Thuret, Belgium
1:20:29 Anandh Vinayak Murali, India 1:21:14 Hayato Katsui, Japan
1:20:31 Denis Strelok, Russia 1:21:14 Instituto Weick, Mexico
1:20:38 Irfan Kolothum Thodi, India 1:21:21 Rafael Fedacynski, Poland

* Singh led the 20,000 meter list and I choose to include him here
(Trevor Barron is 74th at 1:22:13. Tim Seaman was at 197 with 1:25:58)

2012 World 50 Km Rankings

1. Sergey Kirdyapkin, Russia 2. Jared Tallent, Australia
3. Tianfeng Si, China 4. Robert Heffernan, Ireland
5. Igor Yerokhin, Russia 6. Sergey Bakulin, Russia
7. Jianbo Li, China 8. Majto Toth, Slovak Republic
9. Lukasz Nowak, Poland 10. Koichiro Morioka, Japan

2012 Top Performers

3:35:59 Sergey Kirdyapkin, Russia 3:45:17 Joao Vieira, Portugal
3:36:53 Jared Tallent, Australia 3:45:35 Bertrand Moulinet, France
3:37:16 Tianfeng Si, China 3:45:55 Chilsung Park, Korea
3:37:54 Robert Heffernan, Ireland 3:46:01 Grzegorz Sudol, Poland
3:38:10 (2) World Cup 5/13 3:47:19 Marco De Luca, Italy
3:37:54 (4) Olympic Games 8/11 3:46:59 Horacio Nava, Mexico
3:37:54 (5) Olympic Games 8/11 3:46:52 Rafal Kikora, Poland
3:36:53 (2) Olympic Games 8/11 3:47:01 Grzegorz Sudol, Poland
3:37:16 (3) Olympic Games 8/11 3:47:03 Marcus Rea, Northern Ireland
3:35:59 (1) Olympic Games 8/11 3:47:16 Anandh Vinayak Murali, India
December 2012

2012 U.S. 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Maria Michta
   1:35:57 (1) World Cup Trials 4/1
   1:34:54 (1) USATF 7/1
2. Miranda Melville
   1:37:08 (2) Huntington Beach 3/11
   1:42:10 (6) World Cup Trials 4/1
   1:39:14 (49) World Cup 5/13
   1:34:57 (2) USATF 7/1
3. Erin Gray
   1:36:57 (1) Huntington Beach 3/11
   1:36:08 (2) World Cup Trials 4/1
   1:42:16 (61) World Cup 5/13
   1:34:57 (3) USATF 7/1
4. Jill Cobb
   1:38:01 (1) Dayton 5/6
   1:37:01 (4) USATF 7/1
5. Joanne Dow
   1:38:21 (5) USATF 7/1

2012 Top 20 Performers

1:32:27 Marie Michta
1:34:57 Miranda Melville
1:35:41 Erin Gray

1:35:31 Jose Leyva, Mexico
1:35:37 Federico Tongdoodni, Italy
1:35:04 Jianguo Zhao, China
1:35:18 David Lu Berdeja, Mexico
1:35:45 Nucak Saeusweczoni, Poland
1:35:47 Horacio Oliva, Mexico
1:35:53 Takaflu Higuma, Japan
1:35:02 Serhly Budza, Braine
1:35:17 Ken Akash, Japan

John Nunn was at 102 with his 4:03:28, Tim Seaman at 112 with 4:05:50, Ben Shorey at 164 with 4:17:30, and Patrick Stoupe at 170 with 4:19:43. Note: Russia and Mexico both have 6 walkers in the top 50, and Poland and Japan each. However, Russia had 4 of the top 8, while Mexico’s first walker was 23rd. Again, I have omitted Alex Schwazer, who was listed as No. 9.

2012 U.S. 20 Km Rankings—Men

1. Trevor Barron
   1:22:13 (3) World Cup Trials (1st U.S.)
   1:25:24 (40) World Cup 5/12
2. Tim Seaman
   1:29:25 Huntington Beach 3/11
   1:25:58 (4) World Cup Trials 4/1
   1:27:30 (2) USATF 6/30
3. Patrick Stoupe
   1:26:20 (5) World Cup Trials 4/1
   1:37:59 (98) World Cup 5/12
4. Nick Christie
   1:38:50 (2) Huntington Beach 3/11
   1:31:33 World Cup Trials 4/1
   1:41:48 (101) World Cup 5/12
   1:29:47 (3) USATF 6/30
5. December 20, 2012an Serianni
   1:32:21 (9) World Cup Trials 4/1
   1:45:02 (103) World Cup 5/12
   1:32:17 (4) USATF 6/30

Congratulations to 52-year-old Ian Whately for being the most active U.S. 20 Km walker and earning a ranking spot. I imagine he might rank even higher in his native England with this set of races.

2012 Top 25 Performers

1:22:13 Trevor Barron
1:25:58 Tim Seaman
1:26:20 Patrick Stoupe
1:29:48 Nick Christie
1:32:17 Dan Serianni
1:32:25 John Nunn
1:33:41 Michael Mannozzi
1:34:08 Ben Shorey
1:34:25 Tyler Sorensen
1:34:51 Jonathan Hallman
1:35:08 Mike Tarantino
1:35:35 John Cody Risch
1:36:25 Jamie Koetz
1:36:45 Dave Talcott

1:41:19 Katie Burnett
1:41:25 Solomiya Login
1:42:47 Susan Randall
1:46:37 Erin Talcott
1:46:49 Nicole Bonk
1:47:01 Stephanie Casey
1:47:45 Rachel Zoyhoffsik
1:47:47 Erika Shaver
1:50:57 Michelle Rohl
1:53:37 Janelle Brown
1:53:39 Kelly Clark
1:54:22 Rachel Tylock
1:56:25 Jamie Koetz
1:59:27 Kathryn Graves
1:50:57 Michelle Rohl
1:53:37 Janelle Brown
1:53:39 Kelly Clark
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Congratulations to 52-year-old Ian Whately for being the most active U.S. 20 Km walker and earning a ranking spot. I imagine he might rank even higher in his native England with this set of races.
A few results:


Some Races For Early 2013

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, Calif. (D)
Indoor 1 Mile, Hanover, N.H.
Sat. Jan. 19 Indoor 1 Mile and 3003 meters, New York City (C)
Fri. Jan. 25 Millrose Games Indoor 1 Mile, New York City (D)
Indoor 3000 meters, West Long Branch, N.J. (A)
Sat. Jan. 26 H.S. Indoor 1 Mile, Rockville, Md. (E)
Fri. Feb. 1 National USATF Indoor 1 Mile, New York City (D)

From Heel To Toe

Morozev ban. World record holder Sergei Morozov, 24, of Russia has been banned for life for doping by the All-Russian Athletics Federation, as announced on Dec. 18. He was disqualified based on irregularities in blood test results. The Federation reported that all of Morozov’s results from Feb. 25, 2011 on will be annulled in line with the rules of the IAAF. Morozov’s best time of 1:17:45 in February, finished sixth in the World Cup race in May and won the Russian Championships in June with a time of 1:20:48. It remains to be seen if the IAAF will call into question his world record in light of his doping history.

It's a distinct honor and pleasure each year to receive Shaul Ladany's annual holiday letter to relatives and friends. An Israeli citizen, Shaul spent several years in the U.S. as a professor of industrial engineering and won U.S. titles at 100 Km (1974) and 75 Km (1974, 1975, 1976, and 1977). He also became a U.S. Citizen when he finished 100 miles in 19:38:36 in 1973 at Columbia, Missouri. Shaul, a survivor of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp during World War II, was a member of the 1972 Israeli Olympic team and survived the terrorist attack on the Israeli team in the Munich Olympics. He was also a winner of the famous London-To-Brighton race in England. He continues to fill his spare time with participation in various long walks in Europe and Israel. While, circumstances limited his participation in relation to past years, he abd another eventful and interesting year. Here, with some editing, is his report on his walking adventures in 2012, as well as some other significant events:

The racing year started with the Tiberias Marathon in January, followed by the Ein-Gedi Half-Marathon along the Dead Sea, which is the lowest spot on earth. Toward the end of February, I was invited to Munich to participate in the filming of a movie on the story of the seven survivors of the Israeli Olympic Team to the 1972 Games in Munich and the attack by Arab terrorists. It was an Israeli-German co-production, and two different movies were produced. During my brief and busy stay in freezing Munich, I met for the first time face-to-face with my collector friend Claus, with whom I corresponded for over 30 years. At the Jerusalem Marathon in early March, I was again the oldest participant and the only one in the 75+ age group, so that walking I was an age-group category winner.

In October and November, I have walked the "Valley" Ultra Marathon and rode the 65 km biking event around Lake Tiberias, obviously much slower than the more than 10,000 cyclists. Ten days ago, I participated in the Beit-Shean half-marathon and am now training for the early January Kinneret Marathon. Unfortunately, I just recently learned (from the Ohio Racewalker) that my good old and dear friend John Kelly passed away in Arizona.

Shaul also sent a letter to Kati Kelly expressing his feelings for John. "When I started to read about John passing away, it struck me very deeply. We were GOOD friends since 1963 when we first met at my arrival in the US. at the National AAU Championship in Atlantic City, and the strong bonds we developed remained rock-hard forever. I never had brothers, but I believe that the feelings I had to John were stronger than a person has to a brother. One of John's unusual characteristics was his love of other people, his unselfish behavior, his natural helping attitude toward others, his simplicity and friendship. My wife Shoshe and myself were deeply moved when during your visit Israel several years ago. You offered us (something we do not need, and hopefully we will never need) as a expression of friendship, that in case of trouble for us in our land, your house is open for us. I will cherish his memory as long as I live!!!"

We reported on John's death last month, but to provide the tribute he most certainly deserves, we must share with you the following from Elliott Denman. Elliott is a 1956 Olympic, a national RW champion (in 1959 he won titles in the longest--50 Kms--and shortest--2 miles--races on the program on successive weekends), a long-time sports editor of the Ashbury Park Press, now an award-winning free lance sports writer, the leading light of the Shore AC for many, many years, the impresario of the National 40 Km for an equal number of years, and probably the greatest friend of racewalking ever. And that's just the start of what we
My Tribute to John Kelly

by Elliott Denman

I am proud to be able to call John Kelly a friend. But, I certainly could not monopolize that status. John Kelly was friend to the world, a truly good guy on a planet we all know could use many more like him. That, however, is impossible. He surely was one of a kind. If only they’d have given him the top job at the United Nations, he’d certainly have found a way for its member states to bury their many hatchets, to look far beyond their ancient animosities, to start the process of getting neighbors to build the bridges that would eventually allow them to co-exist, and share the earth’s abundant bounties, in the truest spirit of full respect and cooperative venture. In short, his special kind of magic.

He was a champion athlete—in every branch of the sport he tried—no but he was ambassador, gentleman, very special human being and loving husband, as well. John and Kati Kelly—what a spectacular team.

He made his mark as a resident—at different stages of this life’s epic journey—on three continents. And he’d been to the others, too; if only they’d have given him a few more years to work up his personal game to get things moving in these distant lands. I know his major cites were to Ireland, Australia, and the United States of America. But, I also know that he’d have helped sort things out in Mongolia and Mexico, Colombia, and China, wherever, whatever, whenever. He worked his wonderful of personal diplomacy with a perennial smile. There were never downsides to any of life’s vicissitudes. Through all his years, which included events that might have forever slowed the pace of others’ enthusiasm, all such things never-ever-ever kept him from looking at the day’s occurrences as single steps on the road to a brighter future.

As an athlete, he’d made his greatest mark in the field of long-distance endeavors, first as a marathon runner and ultra-marathon man, and the as a racewalker. How appropriate. Long distance races are never over in seconds. They take hours and sometimes days. And years dedicated to training first the mind and the body. On the road again/on the road again. John Kelly knew there was no better place to examine life’s long-term implications.

He’d won his first major championship as a racewalker in an event I’d served as organizer. As I recall, this event of many kilometers took place on an extremely warm summer’s day at the Jersey Shore. The weatherman’s warnings bothered him not in the least. He walked on to victory and the famed John Kelly smile was wider than ever. For John, these events that were to be held in the breath-sapping, oxygen-depleted atmosphere and mile-and-a-half altitude of Mexico City. Christoph Hohne of East Germany would win it over Antal Kiss of Hungary and Larry Young of the USA.

In preparation for the Mexico City 50 K, three men I knew so well—Dave Romansky of the U.S., Shaol Ladany of Israel, and John Kelly of Ireland (Ed. Yes, there are connections in our wonderful of racewalking, including those from one story to the next)—had logged training mile together, surely sharing many good jokes and just a few bad ones along the way. On top of it all, there was the matter of Montezuma’s Revenge and a nasty flu bug. The threesome, the good buddies, the essential soul-mates, the delegated of their historic lands, would share the problem of their tummies’ colly-wobbles, too. But even Chief Montezuma could not keep these three from the starting line. With their tummies in turmoil, the two were able to finish, but their times bore absolutely no relation to the times they might have achieved under healthy conditions. John registered a rare and most disappointing DNF. (Ed Note, regarding the times, note that Hohne won in 4:20:13.6, about 20 minutes off his capabilities at the time, and Kiss and Young were both over 4:30, at least 25 minutes off their expectations.)

Fast forward now 16 years—to the Los Angeles Olympic Games. And there was John to serve—with a remarkable committee organizing the biggest racewalking events in the United States in 52 years—and guarantee that these races were total successes. I hope that Raul Gonzalez and Ernesto Canto, the champions, got to say their thank you. Along with everyone else, of course.

Never a man to thrust himself into the spotlight, those LA years also demanded of John a few moments of exception. And so Johnny Carson and Julie Andrews, et al, got to experience the pleasure of John Kelly’s company, too. It surely was warm under those bright lights of the show-biz universe, but nothing compared with the heat of another John Kelly adventure.

Death Valley is surely no place for the weak of will, for the weak of foot, for anyone not assured of a week’s supply of liquid refreshment in North America’s sizzling venue. No problem, he reckoned. And then he set out on the walk that set a record for that supreme test of mind and body—and faith—that is never likely to be challenged. His goal in this endeavor was to free five men of Irish decent, who were wrongly imprisoned in a Ft. Worth, Texas jail. With world attention focused on the man they called “Hot Foot” Kelly, and the exposure of appearing on Johnny Carson’s TV show (and teaching him how to Racewalk) as well as help from politicians like Edward Kennedy, John won the most rewarding of all his victories: the five men were immediately freed with no charge. (See the Nov. 2012 issue of the Ohio Racewalker for a description of John’s ordeal in the desert.)

John Kelly’s 50 Km mission to Mexico in 1968 and Death Valley success would also serve as the birth of Ireland’s remarkable rise to world excellence in walking. Some of Eire’s speediest pedestrians were often in need of winter training bases. And there were John and Kati Kelly to get it all settled and offer their personal brand of world-class hospitability. The Kellys traveled the world to many lively locations. But topping them all were expeditions to Olympic Games and World Championships. And what perfect sites these big-Games locations provided to extend this personal ambassadorship. With portfolio or without.

John and Kati weren’t able to travel to London’s brilliant Olympics in the summer of 2012. But we know that they were, in spirit and in Arizona, cheering their lungs out for the world’s finest walkers taking their 2 Km loops along the course situated just beyond the most real gates of Buckingham Palace. The 50 Km medals would go to athletes from Russia, Australia, and China—three countries, three cultures, three diversities; surely right up John Kelly’s international alley. The performance of Robert Heffernan, beyond the long shadow of any doubt, broke all applause decibel records out in Arizona. Ireland’s own star would set a national 50 Km record, would surely extend himself to the ultimate limits of his energy supply, but would ultimately place fourth. After the 31-mile assignment, a mere matter of 38 seconds kept him from climbing to a position on the medal’s podium. Robert Heffernan would forever be Ireland’s athlete of the year for this performance.

Through his 83 remarkable years on the planet, John Kelly, a blessed man, walked with greatness, forever on the personal ambassadorial assignment that defined his magnificent stay among us.

He may have reached one finish line, but he’s surely organizing things—the starts, the routes, the miles, and the smiles—we’ll all again get to share once we get “up there” with him.

Au revoir, dear friend.

LOOKING BACK

50 Years Ago (From the November 1962 American Race Walker, published by Chris McCarthy in Chicago)—Ron Laird was awarded the Mike Ribao trophy as the Outstanding US
Racewalker for 1962... Laird also turned in a 6:49.3 mile in Chicago, his home at that time, and recorded the first time in an 10 Mile handicap race with 1:19:27, followed by McCarthy’s 1:21:03 and Ron Zinn’s 1:21:08. Martin Rudow won a Portland, Oregon 10 Km in 52:11. Fastest mile of the early season was 6:45.3 by Alan Blakelee in New York... Ron Kuik won a rare 880 yard walk in the Newark, N.J. Armory in 3:19, with Elliott Dennen and Terry Anderson 8 seconds back. (Note: A little added history. As late as 1961 the list of American records in the Official AAU&T Handbook carried a record for the 880 walk-2:58.2 set by Henry Laskau on Randall’s Island, N.Y. on July 6, 1953. There were also records listed at 3/4 mile and 1 ½ mile, as well as other odd distances. These were purged in the 1962 Handbook. I can remember trying to better Henry’s 880 record in a solo, uneventful effort on Doc Blackburn’s 3.7 laps to the mile blacktop track, but failing about 3 seconds short. Obviously, my effort would have been unrecognized even if successful. Of course, it was eventually bettered, though not recorded, when walkers started going under 6 minutes for a mile, Todd Scully being the first.)

45 Years Ago (From the November 1967 ORW)—Chuck Newell ignored the 15 F temperature and 10 to 15 mph winds, not to mention a dark night, to win the Fourth Annual New Year’s Eve Handicap in Columbus. Taking full advantage of his 5 minute head start, he finished 45 seconds ahead of Jack Blackburn, who had the opening of the event with 47:59. In a lesser race, Goetz Klofjer set a new American record for 50 Km with a 4:30:29 on the Sonoma State College track in California. On the way, he picked up records at 35 Km, 25 Miles, and 40 Km. In the National 35 Km in Kansas City, Dan Totheroh easily beat Gerry Boci and Byron Overton with a 3:13:04. In a New Jersey 10 Miler, Dave Romansky won in 1:19:12, followed by Steve Hayden, John Knifton, Ron Daniel, Ron Kuik, and Shauf Landoy—all international competitors at some time in their careers.

40 Years Ago (From the November 1972 ORW)—The ORW published its Third Annual World Rankings with East Germany’s Peter Frankel and West Germany’s Bernd Koppennel leading at 20 and 50 Km, respectively. Frankel was followed by Vladimir Golubnichy, USSR and Hans Georg Reimann, East Germany, with Larry Young, U.S., in 10th. Koppennel was followed by Veniamin Soldatenko, USSR, and Young. Of course, top of the U.S. rankings in both events, followed by Tom Dooley and Goetz Klofjer at 20, and Bill Weigle and Bob Kitchen at 50.

35 Years Ago (From the November 1977 ORW)—The ORW World Rankings saw Mexico’s Daniel Bautista and Raul Gonzalez on top at 20 and 50 Km, respectively, with their countrymen dominating other positions. At 20, Domingo Colón was second and Gonzáles fourth, sandwiching East Germany’s Karl Heinz Stadtmüller. Marzio Daminolli, Italy, was fifth. At 50, Pedro Arcoche and Enrique made an 1-2-3-4 sweep for the Mexicans, with Italy’s Paolo Gugliuzza and USSR’s Veniamin Soldatenko taking the next two spots. The U.S. rankings saw Neal Pyke on top at 20 and Larry Young at 50. Tod d Scully, Dan O’Connor, and Tom Dooley followed at 20, and Augie Hirt, O’Connor, and Bob Rosenzust at 50... John Knifton won the National Postal 1 Hour, covering 8 miles 181 yards, at 24 yards ahead of Tom Dooley. Wayne Glusker also surpassed 8 miles and Larry Walker finished fourth. Ron Kuik was the Master’s winner with 7 miles 760 yards. (We weren’t doing Women’s rankings yet—those started the following year—because there wasn’t sufficient activity in women’s walking to justify rankings.)

30 Years Ago (From the November 1982 ORW)—Dan O’Connor had fast time honors in the Coney Island 10-Mile Handicap race with 1:13:20, but couldn’t catch Pete Timmons, who made his handicap hold up with the second best time of 1:14:21... Chris Knots won the Third Annual Doc Blackburn 75 Km in Springfield, Ohio with an 8:44:48... In the ORW World Rankings, Spain’s Jose Marin was on top at 20, Mexico’s Raul Gonzalez at 50, the USSR’s Aleksandra Deverinskaya at 5, and Australia’s Sue Cook at 10. U.S. rankings saw Jim Heirig, Ray Sharp, and Marco Evonik at 10; O’Connor; Dan O’Connor, and Vincent O’Sullivan at 50; Susan Liers-Westerfield, Teresa Vaill; and Susan Brodock at 5; and Liers-Westerfield, Brodock, and Vaill at 10.

25 Years Ago (From the November 1987 ORW)—In the ORW Rankings, Irina Stankina, USSR led the women’s 10, followed by her compatriot Olga Krystop and Aussie Kerry Saxby. Maryanne Torrellas, Debbi Lawrence, and Lynn Weik were the top-ranked U.S. women. At 20, Mauro Maricolli, Milani, Italy; Josef Pribilene, Czechoslovakia; and Jose Marin, Spain led the World Rankings, with Tim Lewis, Carl Schueler, and Ray Sharp the top three in the U.S. At 50, the GDR’s Hartwig Gunder and Ron Weigel were on top, followed by Vyacheslav Ivanenko, USSR. Schueler, Marco Evonik, and Jim Heirig were atop the U.S. rankings... Bob Mininni and Viisha Sedlak were the top U.S. competitors at the World Veterans Games in Melbourne. Viisha won at both 5 (24.51) and 10 (32.38) in the women’s 35-39 group, and Bob won at both 5 (26.42) and 20 Km (1:49.09) in men’s 60-64 group.

20 Years Ago (From the November 1992 ORW)—China’s Yueming Chen, who eventually raced for the U.S. in the 2000 Olympics, topped the women’s 10 Km in the ORW World Rankings. Her Olympic win put her ahead of Yelena Nikolaevna, USSR, and Madeleine Svensson, Sweden. Debbi Lawrence, Victoria Herazo, and Teresa Vaill were upset the U.S. rankings. The World 20 Km rankings saw Spain’s Daniel Plaza ahead of Guillaume Leblanc, Canada, and Giovanni DiBenedictis, Italy. In the U.S., it was Allen James, Jonathan Matthews, and Tim Lewis. At 50, it was Andrei Perlov, Russia; Carlos Mercenario, Mexico, and Ronald Weigel, Germany in the World Rankings, and Carl Schueler, Herr Nelson, and Marco Evonik in the U.S.

15 Years Ago (From the November 1997 ORW)—Again, we had the annual rankings. Women’s 10 Km—Anna Rita Sidote, Italy; Erica Alfieri, Italy, and Irina Stankina, Russia. U.S.—Victoria Herazo, Debbi Lawrence, and Gretchen Eastler. Men’s 20—Daniel Garcia, Mexico; Jeffrey Perez, Ecuador; and Mikhail Semenikin, Russia... U.S.—Curt Clausen, Andrew Hermann, and Tim Seaman. Men’s 50—Jesus Garcia, Spain; Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; and Oleg Ishutkin, Russia. U.S.—Herrn, Andrez Chynslnski, and Mark Green.

10 Years Ago (From the November 2002 ORW)—And here’s the rundown for the Rankings, once again: Men’s 20—Francisco Fernandez; Spain; Jefferson Perez, Ecuador; and Vladimir Andreyev, Russia; U.S.—Tim Seaman, Al Heppner, and Kevin Eastler. Women’s 20—Olimpia Ivanova, Russia; Erica Alfieri; Italy; and Elena Nikolaevna, USSR; U.S.—Joanne Dow, Teresa Vaill, and Ameri Antonia. 50 Km—Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; Alexy Voyevodin, Russia; and German Skurygin, Russia; U.S.—Philip Dunn, Curt Clausen, and Tom Seaman.

5 Years Ago (From the Dev. 2007 ORW)—Ecuador’s Jefferson Perez and Brazilian soccer player Kaka were named as Latin American sportswomen of the year as they received the same number of votes in the annual survey, the first time in the 43-year history of the award. A great honor for racewalking... And, surprise—we had the ORW Rankings, as follows: Women’s 20—Olga Kaniskina, Russia; Rytta Turava, Belarus; and Tatiana Shemyakina, Russia; U.S.—Teresa Vaill, Joanne Dow, and Sam Cohen. Men’s 20—Jefferson Perez, Ecuador; Francisco Fernandez, Spain; and Hetam Ghoulia, Tunisia; U.S.—Kevin Eastler, Tim Seaman, and Matt Boyles. 50 Km—Nathan Deans, Australia; Alex Schwazer, Italy; and Yohan Diniz, France. U.S.—Kalko, Jeffery Seaman, and Tim Seaman.