Wishing all of our readers a most happy and prosperous New Year filled with rewarding efforts in your racing and training. As we enter this new year, may joy bless our lives, may compassion fill our hearts, and may peace and understanding spread through all the world.

ORW Annual Rankings, World and U.S., Men and Women

2013 marks the 44th year the ORW has ranked the world’s best walkers from 1 to 10 at both 20 and 50 Km and the 42nd year for U.S. rankings. For the women, our rankings began in 1979, the first year there was sufficient activity worldwide or U.S.-wide to justify rankings. At that time the women’s rankings were at 5 Km and 10 Km, the distances at which practically all women’s races were contested. We dropped 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 primary distance for international competition. We can hope that some day women will also be competing regularly at 50 Km and we can add that distance.

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 and might even be published, but once in type, the rankings are most unlikely to change.

2013 World 20 Km Rankings—Women

1. Yelena Lashmanova, Russia
   1:25:49 (1) Sochi 2/23
   1:28:19 (1) Rio Maior 4/6
   1:32:07 (1) Sesto San Giov. 5/1
   1:27:08 (1) World Champ. 8/12

2. Anisya Kirdyapkina, Russia
   1:25:29 (2) Sochi 2/23
   1:28:39 (1) Euro Cup 5/19
   1:29:30 (1) World Univ. Games 8/12
   1:27:11 (2) World Champ. 8/12

3. Hong Liu, China
   1:27:06 (1) Lugano 3/17
   1:27:53 (2) Shenyang 5/11
   1:28:10 (3) World Champ. 8/12

4. Huanhuan Sun, China
   1:27:36 (1) Taicang 3/1
   1:28:16 (5) Shenyang 5/11
   1:28:32 (4) World Champ. 8/12

5. Xiuzhi Li, China
   1:27:58 (4) Taicang 3/1
   1:27:53 (1) Shenyang 5/11
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### 2013 World 20 Km Rankings—Men

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aleksandr Ivanov</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1:21:22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ding Chen</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1:21:34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Miguel Angel Lopez</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1:22:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Denis Strelkov</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1:22:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Joao Vieira</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>1:22:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Andrey Krivov</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>1:23:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ruslan Dmytrenko</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1:23:25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Takumi Saijo</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1:23:37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Inaki Gomez</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1:24:01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1:24:28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1:24:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No one had a great competitive record so the World Championship race came heavily into play with no obvious reason to rank the first three other than their finish. Strelkov’s win in the Euro cup six places ahead of Vieira gives him the nod for fourth. Krivov sneaks into sixth with his win at the World University Games. Saijo’s poor race at Lagono costs him the seventh spot. Gomez becomes the first Canadian to rank since Guillaume Leblanc’s second place in 1992 and the first North American since Curt Clausen grabbed fourth in the 2013 World 20 Km Rankings—Men.
2013 Top 50 Performers

(I don't think there has ever been such a disconnect between the rankings and the fastest times as we see here. The first ranked walker (Strelkov) is only 13th fastest. Next is Dmytrenko at 23. And both Suzuki and Ruzavin had a second time under 1:20. However, Suzuki finished only twelfth in the World Championships and Ruzavin, who was second at Sochi and first in the Russian Championships, was fifteenth in the Euro Cup and twenty-fourth in the World Championships. None of the others with fast times were even worthy of consideration in the rankings. And among the rankers, Gomez and Linke do not even make the top 50 list of times.)
3. Miranda Melville
1:37:58 (2) Pan Am Cup Trials 3/17
1:40:39 (3) US Champ. 6/23
1:48:42 chats: 8/12
1:49:22 (7) US Champ. 6/23

4. Katie Burnett
1:41:32 (3) Pan Am Cup Trials 3/17
1:45:15 (14) Pan Am Cup 5/26
1:42:23 (4) US Champ. 6/23

5. Lauren Forgues
1:44:05 (5) US Champ. 6/23

6. Teresa Vaill
1:41:04 (4) Pan Am Cup Trials 3/17
1:45:59
1:48:42 (6) US Champ. 6/23

2013 Top Performers
1:33:51 Maria Michta
1:34:38 Erin Gray
1:37:58 Miranda Melville
1:39:32 Katie Burnett
1:41:30 Teresa Vaill
1:42:07 Susan Randall
1:44:08 Lauren Forgues
1:45:12 Erin Taylor-Talcott
1:49:22 Jill Cobb

U.S. 50 Km Rankings
(Really just a list of the best times, all at the USATF race in November, except for John Nunn's time at the world Championships.)

4:24:30 Patrick Stroupe
4:34:55 John Nunn
5:00:26 Dave Talcott
5:02:09 Ian Whatley
5:14:46 Ray Sharp
5:25:49 Michael Mannozzi
5:59:42 Pablo Gomez
6:06:50 Bruce Loj
6:11:09 Vlado Haluska

Women
4:50:30 Erin Taylor-Talcott
6:20:49 Cathy Mayfield
6:46:28 Darlene Backlund

Well, looking at the U.S. men's lists for both the 20 and the 50, let me go back to my words following the lists in the Dec. 2005 issue because little has changed since (I will substitute figures for 2013 for those of 2005 and add a little commentary.)

We can go way back to 1968 when Jim Hanley first published a booklet on US Racewalking Statistics. That year, there were 17 under 1:40 and another 14 under 1:50 for 20 Km compared to just 9 under 1:40 and another eight under 1:50 this year. And in 1968, 18 walkers bettered 5 hours for 50 Km, with 10 under 4:30. Look above to see a dismal comparison.. By 1972, there were 20 under both 1:40 and 5:00. The peak year was 1979 with 37 under 1:40 and 32 under 5:00. There were at least nine 50 Km races in the U.S. that year with elite participation and other opportunities abroad. Both Marco Evoniuk and Dan O'Connor competed in five 50 Km races. Vincent O'Sullivan, Carl Schueler and Wayne Glusker all did four. Ray Sharp (see above) made his 50 Km debut with a 4:28:41 at age 20.

From there the number under 1:40 was consistently in the mid-20s and above through 1995. The peak 20 Km year was 1988 with 43 under 1:40. In the 50, the number under 5 hours never approached that 1979 figure, but stayed mostly in the 20s through 1988. For the past 20 years, we have never had as many as 20 even complete a 50-10 to 15 in most years, with a low of seven in 2009. Well, I will say no more and leave my dwindling number of readers to ponder the figures.
Sun. Jan. 26
Sun. Jan. 19
Sat. Jan. 11
Sat. Jan. 4
Sat. Jan. 18
Sun. Jan. 8
Sun. Jan. 26
Sun. Jan. 29
Sat. Feb. 15
Mon. Feb. 17
Sun. Feb. 23
March 8–9
March 16
For Your Racewalking Pleasure

Indoor 1 Mile and 3000 meters, Pharr, Texas (O)
5 and 10 Km, Pharr, Texas (O)
5, 20, and 50 Km, Houston (O)
Indoor 1 Mile, Hanover, N.H. (X)
Indoor 3000 meters, Boston (O)
East Region Masters Indoor 3030, Providence, R.I. (X)
Indoor 1 Mile, New Haven, Conn. (X)
Indoor 1 Mile or 3000 m, Albany, N.Y. (X)
USAFT National Indoor 1 Mile, New York City (D)
Presidents' Day 3.7 mile, Brockton, Mass. (X)
National Masters 20 Km, Open 6, 10, and 20 Km, South Florida (B)
USAFT Northeast Indoor 3000, Boston (O)
USAFT National Indoor 3000 meters, Albuquerque (D)
USAFT Masters National Indoor 3000, Boston (O)

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DECEMBER 2013

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Z–Roger Burrows, roger@bytownwalkerfs.ca

From Heel To Toe

Masters Postal Competition. This from Dave Talcott: Not since the 1970's has there been a National Postal Masters Racewalking Competition. Well, it is back. The Shore AC announces the competition for 2014. The basis for the competition is to allow those masters athletes who may not be able to travel to national Championships the ability to compete with other masters their age. There is no entry fee, and there is also team competition. The information form and entry for it is in the forms section of both the Yahoo Racewalking and USAMastersRacewalking.org groups, or contact Dave at dwtalcott@juno.com and we will send you a copy. . . . Masters Racewalkers of the Year. Speaking of masters, here are the USAJT masters awards for 2013. Susan Randall has been named as the USAJT's Female Masters Racewalker of the Year. Dave Swarts and Dave Talcott share the award for males. And, here are the male and female winners in the various age groups: 35-39–Omar Nash and Susan Randall. 40-44–Pablo Gomez and Tammy Stevenson 45-49–Dave Swarts and Rebecca Garson 50-54–Dave Talcott/Jan Whately and Teresa Vail 55-59–Mark Green/Dave Couts and Sandy DeNoon 60-64–Marianne Martino and Andrew Smith 65-69–Leon Jasonovitch and Darlene Backlund 70-74–John Backlund 85-89–Bill Moremen. 50-54–And also. While on the subject of awards, here are other annual awards presented by the Racewalking Committee. The Ron Zinn Awards for outstanding walker of the year, male and female, went to Patrick Stroupe and Maria Michta. The Henry Laskau Awards for the outstanding junior racewalkers, male and female, went to Molly Josephs and Nathaniel Roberts. The Mike Riban Award for the outstanding contributor went to Dave Lawrence and Dave Snyder. In addition, racewalking's Gary Westerfield was inducted into the Officials Hall of Fame. Congratulations to all. Regarding the Ron Zinn Awards, Ron was an outstanding racewalker in the early 1960s who finished sixth in the 1964 Olympic 20 Km. A West Point grad, Ron was killed in action in Vietnam in the summer of 1965, apparently the first U.S. officer killed in action in that war. Elliott Denman uncovered a bit of history in the results of the 1961 NCAA cross country championships. Running for West point, Ron was 100th in that race. A few months earlier, Ron and I had been teammates and roommates on the U.S. National Track Team for the annual dual meet with the Soviet Union and meets in West Germany, Poland, and England. But, I had not been aware that he went back to running that fall. Ron and I also shared a room with Mickey Brodie at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. . . . Subscription rate. Nearly two years ago I raised the subscription rate for the ORW from $12 to $15. Over the past two months, I have received several renewals with checks for $12. I'm asking myself "Are these people living in the past? Can't they read?" Then a subscriber emailed wondering about the rate, which appears as $15 on page 2 of the publication.
but $12 on the renewal notice. So I looked at the renewal notice I have been sending and sure enough it says $12. Some way following a severe computer virus a few months ago that led to a new hard drive the Notice file got shifted back to an ancient version rather than the newer file that had the correct rate of $15. (I also seemed to lose a few files in the process, but most things were intact.) So, I have been sending out notices that cost the ORW $3 each. I am not expecting anyone who renewed at $12 to send me three bucks—the mistake was mine and the difference for a dozen or 15 subscriptions won’t make or break the bank. But, interestingly; enough, I have received several renewals at $15 during this period, apparently from people who know the rate and don’t even look at what the renewal notice says. Qualifying standards. Standards for qualification to entry in the National Indoor 1 Mile at the Millrose Games in New York City are: Men: 6:40 for 1500 meters or 7:15 for 1 mile or 13:40 for 3000 meters or 23:00 for 5000 meters. Women—for the same distances 7:30, 8:05, 15:20, or 26:30. For the USATF Indoor 3000 in March standards for men are 12:45 for 3000 or 22:00 for 5000 and for women 14:40 for 3000 or 7:30 for 1 mile. For the Outdoor 20 Km Championships men must have walked 1:39:50 or 23:30 for 5000 or 48:20 for 10,000. Women need 26:00, 54:30, or 1:52:00 to qualify. For the Junior 10 Km races men must have walked 15:00 for 3k, 26:00 for 10, or 55:00 for 10. The women’s standards are 16:30, 28:30, or 59:45. Millrose Mile. We show the qualifying standards for the Millrose Mile (also the National title race) above. As a matter of interest, here are the records for the race. For the men. Tim Lewis walked 5:33.53 (yes, 5:33:52) in 1988. I doubt that anyone will be shooting for that record this year. Maria Michta walked 6:40.06 earlier this year for the women’s record. Can she better that in 2014?

**Shaul Just Rolls Along**

(Israel’s Shaul Ladany, king of ultra-distance walker, is not letting up. The following excerpt from his annual holiday letter tells us what he has been up to in 2013. Once again he has piled up the miles. Shaul is a survivor of both the Holocaust, in the infamous Bergin-Belsen prison camp and the Arab raid on the Jewish quarters at the 1972 Berlin Olympics. His book, King of the Road, describing the agonies of those experiences and his seemingly endless miles on the road, is highly recommended reading. Shaul was on Israeli Olympic teams in both 1968 and 1972 and while resident in the U.S. in the '60s and '70s, he won U.S. titles at 75 km four times and at 100 km once. So, on with his 2013 adventures.

The racing year started with the Tiberias Marathon in January. I missed the Marathon portion of the Ironman Triathlon in Eilat, as I was invited by the Israeli Embassy in Rome to participate and lecture in Calabria, Bologna, Forli and Torino in the framework of the International Holocaust Day. Returning home, I participated in the Ein-Gedi Half-Marathon along the Dead Sea, which is the lowest spot on earth, and the annual 10 km Omer race, on my home course. This is the only running competition in Israel, that has a race-walking category for several age-groups, including the 75+ age group. March was quite busy, with the Jerusalem Marathon, the viv Marathon that was shortened to a Half-Marathon due to a forecasted extremely hot day (and even so a participant died), and the International Marching League Gilboa March the next day. The next weekend I walked my traditional birthday-walk (number of kilometers as my age) in Omer. This time it was 77 km. It was hot and difficult. About 10 friends accompanied me varying distances, and spread out during the event.

Early in July I flew to participate in the 7-day 300 km. Schleswig-to-Viborg walk for the 15 time. Unfortunately, at the end of the 5th day, completing about 230 km., I got dehydrated, feared walking the 6th day, and rejoined the walkers only for the final day. Purposefully, I have planned not to participate a few days later in the International 4-day Nijmegen March, but rather to return to Israel, as I did not want to miss the ceremony in which

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Harry Drazin

by Elliot Denman

It is with great sadness and a very heavy heat that I report the passing of our dear friend Harry Drazin. Harry was just the best, a wonderful guy and true gentleman who stayed young at heart to the very end, at age 100 years and 5 months. We had a marvelous 100th birthday party for Harry in August, at which he showed much of his famous vigor. We called
him Dancing Harry for very good reason.

He still holds an American age group record for the 50 Km. He walked many marathons and 40 Km races and at age 75 walked the NYC Marathon in 5:35, an incredible performance. He competed throughout the USA, Canada, Europe, and Australia. He walked the Hawaii marathon in a pelting rainstorm. Knocked down by an errant bicyclist walking the New Jersey Marathon in Jersey City, he was hospitalized with injuries; undeterred though, he came back to walk the final 10 miles "he owed us" two weeks later. This story was dispatched around the world, but ever-modest Harry Politely discouraged formation of the Harry Drazin Fan Club in India, and some other interesting locales.

Walking was his passport to the world. Egypt’s pyramids? Pretty impressive. The Eiffel Tower? Wow! Pike’s Peak? A long way up...or...down. Whenever, wherever his travels took him, he was shore AC ambassador without portfolio. But never without his walking shoes.

For many Septembers, we joined up at Harry’s 5.2 mile walking race in his hometown of Interlaken, always much fun, but the real fun came at the post-race party. We shared many “Harry stories” and one was always better than the next. We always hoped Harry would win “his own race” but the handicapper was never too generous, figuring Harry had the big “home course advantage.”

He loved all of us and we loved Harry...

Harry loved shore AC and shore AC loved Harry...

We really wanted to see him walk the NYC Marathon at age 100....

We laughed that he’d “do anything” to win the Shore AC Comeback Athlete of the Year Award”at our annual banquet. Then again, Harry missed several Shore AC banquets as a personal protest that “there wasn’t enough dancing.”

We finally agreed to a “marathon compromise”-13 miles a day for 2 days.

Then 6.5 miles a day for 4 days
Then 3.25 miles a day for 8 days.
Then 1 mile a day for 26 days.

Harry really, truly had his heart set on doing it.

But that valiant, courageous, incredible heart finally said “I guess not.”

And we had a big laugh about that too...

As we write all these things, I laugh...and I cry...

As we carry on our own lives,

Let’s all try to be like Harry...loving life, loving a good walk, a good joke, a little dance...to the music—I’m Just Wild About Harry.”

For ever and ever

Cheers to all,

Elliott Denman
732-222-92113

Harry died on December 12, 2013.

An Interesting Find

In 1969 the Ohio sponsored the National AAU 15 Km Racewalking Championship with yours truly as Race Director. I ran across a folder with all the information on the race and it is interesting to look at the costs. Today’s race directors would find it hard to believe. But the race went off without a hitch, everyone (even Ron Laird the pot hunter) was satisfied with the awards and the post-race refreshments. Here was my budget for race:

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<tr>
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<td>Survivor’s medals</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety pins and paint</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost</td>
<td>$300.41</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

So the race cost 241.41. The awards included AAU Championship medals to the first six individuals, team trophies and medals to the first two teams, distinctive awards to the first and medals to all finishers. No one had thought of t-shirts back in those days.


LOOKING BACK

50 Years Ago (From the Sept.-Oct. 1963 issue of Race Walker edited by Chris McCarthy. The issue wasn’t actually published until the end of the year, thus it’s contents appear here. It was nearly the last breath of his brilliant publication, which he began in Feb. 1961.)–At the National AAU Convention, the walking committee officially changed the name of the sport in this country from just walking to race walking (with racewalking—one word—now preferred by many, including the Ohio Racewalker,) Chris had always called his publication the Race Walker, drawing from the British. I presume that terminology goes way back. .

Ron Laird easily won a 50 Km race in California in 4:46:28 with Mike Brodie second in 5:01:08 and Ed Glander third in 5:02:09. . .

Ron Zinn won the New England 15 Km in 1:14:38 with Paul Schell second in 1:16:18. . .

Schell was also so second to Bruce MacDinald in a 50 Km on Staten Island, N.Y. Bruce had 4:58:17, more than ‘18 minutes ahead of Paul. . .

The Eastern Canada 20 Km sent to Felix Cappella in 1:34:23.9 . . . Capella also won a 10 miler from Alex Oakley in 1:13:28. . .

in the second Lugano Cup (now World Cup) Great Britain prevailed with 93 points, 19 ahead of Hungary, which edged Sweden by one point for the second spot. Italy, Czechoslovakia, and West Germany trailed. Ken Matthews won the 20 Km for GB in 1:30:10.1, more than 3 minutes ahead of teammate Paul Hihil. Hungary’s Istvan Havila beat Great Britain’s Ray Middleton by nearly 3 minutes in the 50 with a 4:14:24.2
45 Years Ago (From the December 1968 ORW)—Chuck Newell, unheard of for 6 months, came striding out of limbo to win our annual New Year’s Eve Handicap (I must have been late in getting this issue out), held this time on the road course at Worthington H.S. Since it was easier to go four full laps rather than worrying about different start and finish lines, particularly in the dark, the usual 6 miler became 6 miles 536 yards. Given an 8-minute start on the cold (8 F), windy (wind chill below zero) night, Newell easily; held off stalwarts Jack Blackburn and Jack Mortland as he recorded a 55:30. Blackburn took fast time honors by 5 seconds in 49:30, escaping Mortland down the final hill. Gerry Willwerth won the National Junior 35 Km in Columbia, Mo.in 3:36:14. (For the non-old-timers among you, junior in those days still designated races for those who had never won a national–junior or senio titler–having nothing to do with age. Don’t ask me why the term “novice” wasn’t used for these events, but, regardless of that there were no age groups–at either end of the spectrum–in those long-ago days.)

40 Years Ago (From the December 1973 ORW)—In a late-season dual with Canada held in Colorado, the U.S. took 1-2 in the 20Km and 2-3-4 in the 50 to win the meet. Carl Swift prevailed at 20 in 1:42:23 with Jim Bean second and Roman Olzsewski, Canada, third. Ron Kulik and John Kelly filled out the U.S. side in fourth and seventh. Canadian Pat Farrell captured the 50 in 4:50:45, followed by Dan O’Connor, just over a minute back (in what must have been by far his slowest 50 ever). Augie Hirt and Bob Bowman were third and fourth. In results from hither, thither, and yon, we reported that Freddy Flyer won a 10 Km in Hither, Outer Mongolia in 38:24; Chief Bent Knee a 100-yard affair in ithither, Pago Pago in 11.2; and Slip Slider the 3 Km in You, Greenland in 11:57. Guess we needed to fill some space.

35 Years Ago (From the December 1978 ORW)—The National 35 Km was held in San Antonio in conjunction with the National Convention and Neal Pyke blitzed a 1:51:02, leaving Canada’s Marcel Jobin better than 5 minutes back. Jim Heiring also broke 2 hours and Tom Dooley just missed. Marco Evoniuk and Bob Henderson rounded out the top six. We sadly reported the murder of Olympian Jim Hewson (1956 20 Km), who was slain while tending a lift bridge in Buffalo. Elliott Denman, a Melbourne teammate of Jim, had written a very poignant column about his friend Jim for the Asbury Park Press, which were repeated.

30 Years Ago (From the December 1983 ORW)—In our 13th Annual World Rankings, Joseph Pribilnine, Czechoslovakia; Ernesto Canto, Mexico; and Anatoly Solomin, USSR took the top three spots at 20 Km. The 50 saw Ron Weigel, GDR; Jose Marin, Spain; and Ralph Gonzales, Mexico on top. Canada’s Guillaum Leblanc was 10th in the 20. Women were ranked for the sixth time, with Olga Yarutkina, USSR; Siv Gustavsson, Sweden; and Sue Cook, Australia leading at 5 Km. Yong Ju Xu, China; Natalia Shiripova, USSR; and Cook topped the 10 Km rankings. Top three in the U.S. rankings were: 20 Km—Jim Heiring, Marco Evoniuk, and Dan O’Connor; 50 Km—Evoniuk, Heiring, O’Connor; Women’s 5 Km—Maryanne Torrellas; Susan Liers-Westefeld; and Sam Miller; and Women’s 10 Km—Torrellas, Miller, and Teresa Vaill.

25 Years Ago (From the December 1988 ORW)—Pribilnine, the Olympic winner, led the ORW World 20 Km rankings again, followed by Ronald Weigel (GDR) and Maurizio Damilano, Italy. Leading the women’s 10 Km rankings was Svetlana Karbukina, USSR. Her countrywomen Yelena Nikolayeva and Natalia Spiridonova were second and third. In the 50, the top three were Vyatacheslav Ivanenko, USSR; Weigel; and Hartwig Gauder, GDR. In the U.S. rankings, Gary Morgan, Tim Lewis, and Jim Heiring led the way at 20; Carl Schueler, Marco Evoniuk, and Andy Kaestner at 50; and Debbi Lawrence; Maryanne Torrellas, and Teresa Vaill at 10. Mexico won the Pan-Am Cup for men and Canada the women’s version. The November races were held in Argentina. In the women’s race, Canada’s Ann Peel won in 46:23 for 10 Km. She was supported by Janice McCaffrey (46:45) and Alison Baker (47:47) in fourth

DECEMBER 2013

af fifth. Mexico’s Graciela Mendoza beat Debbi Lawrence for second. Carlos Mercenario (1:24:00) and Martin Bermudez (4:03:20) were easy winners in the men’s races. Mercenario was followed by Ernesto Canto (Mexico), Guillaume Leblanc (Canada), and Tim Lewis. The Mexicans swept the 50 with Arturo Bravo and Victor Sanchez in second and third. Paul Wick was the first U.S. finisher in fifth (4:21:36).

20 Years Ago (From the December 1993 ORW)—Jonathan Matthews bettered the American record for 1 Hour, covering 14,058 meters on the Foothills College track in California. He bettered Allen James’ old record by 42 meters, after passing 10 Km in 42:54. China’s Mingcai Li did 50 Km in 3:49:17 in Beijing in September.

15 Years Ago (From the December 1998 ORW)—Italian women were one and three in the ORW Annual World Rankings for the women’s 10 Km. Anna Rita Sidoti and Erica Alifridi bracketed second place Nadezhda Ryashkina, Russia. The U.S. rankings saw Joanne Dow, Michelle Rohr, and Debbi Lawrence in the first three spots. The top three in World 20 Km rankings were Ilya Markov, Russia, Jefferson Perez, Ecuador; and Algars Fadejevs, Latvia. Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; Miguel Rodriguez, Mexico; and Valentin Kononen, Finland were atop the 50. Tops in the U.S. were Curt Clausen, Andrew Hermann, and Tim Seaman at 20, and, in different order, Clausen, Hermann, and Seaman at 50. Chinese athletes swept the Asian Games races—Hongyu Liu in 54:57:28 for the women’s 10; Guohou Yu in 1:20:25 for the men’s 20; and Yinhang in 3:59:27 for 50. The Australian 50 was won by Dion Russell in 3:47:34.

10 Years Ago (From the December 2003 ORW)—The World Rankings saw Yelena Nikolayeva, Russia, Gillian O’Sullivan, Ireland, and Valentina Tsybulskaya, Belarus leading the women at 20 Km; Jefferson Perez, Ecuador; Francisco Fernandez, Spain; and Roman Rasskazov, Russia topping the men’s 50; and Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; German Skurugin, Russia; and Andreas Erm, Germany the top three at 50. The U.S. rankings were led by Michelle Rohr, Joanne Dow, and Teresa Vaill at 20; Kevin Eastler, Tim Seaman, and John Nunn at 20; and Curt Clausen, Philip Dunn, and Sean Albert at 50. World Military titles went to Elena Nikolayeva, Russia in 22:11:69 for 5 Km and Alessandro Gandolfi, Italy in 39:29:45 for 10 Km. Danielle Kirk was seventh in the women’s race and John Nunn tenth in the men’s race. Nathan Deakies won the Australian 50 Km in 3:39:43 leaving New Zealand’s Craig Barrett 11 minutes behind.

5 Years Ago (From the December 2008 ORW)—Chris Erickson won the Australian 50 Km in 3:55:30, with Duane Cousins 5 minutes back. Jared Tallent walked the first 30 Km in 2:06:33 and never planned to go farther. His wife Claire won the women’s 20 in 1:35:20. The ORW World Rankings saw Russia’s Valery Borchin on top at 20, ahead of Peru’s Jefferson Perez and Tallent. The top three in the women’s 20 were Olga Kanisaka, Russia; Kjersti Platzer, Norway; and Elsa Rigudo, Italy. At 50, it was Italy’s Alex Schawer leading Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia and Tallent. The U.S. Rankings: 20 Km–Kevin Eastler, Matt Byles, and Patrick Stouppe. Women’s 20–Joanne Dow, Teresa Vaill, and Susan Armenta. 50 Km–Philip Dunn, Byles, and Ben Shorey.