Home Team Dominates; Russians Falter In World Cup

Taicang, China, May 3-4—A strong Chinese contingent prevailed at the World Cup of Racewalking taking home team medals in all five races—two gold, two silver, and one bronze. Mighty Russia, so dominant in international competitions in the past decade managed team golds in the 50 Km and Women's 20 Km races but had to settle for fifth in the Men's 20 and sixth in the Junior Women's 10 Km. In the Junior Men's 10, they suffered two DQ's and didn't even finish a team. Ukraine, Spain, and Australia each scored two team medals to match the Russians, and Japan and Portugal had one each.

The Men's 20, which closed the program on the second day, provided the most surprises as the Ukraine's Ruslan Dmytrenko captured the gold and led his team to a surprising team title. Perhaps even more surprising was the great showing of Canada's Vancouver based squad of Evan Dunfee, Imaki Gomez, and Benjamin Thorne, who finished within 6 seconds of each other in eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth positions, all in personal bests. The effort left them just one point behind Japan in a battle for the team bronze. Let me turn to how Canada's Roger Burrows described the race from the Canadian viewpoint:

Evan Dunfee, Imaki Gomez and Ben Thorne finished an electrifying 11-12-13 in the field of exactly 100 finishers (+8dq, +2dq). All three smashed the Canadian record of 1h20:58 that Imaki set at the London Olympics in 2012. The mark is now held by Evan, whose1h20:13 brought him in just 5 seconds ahead of Imaki, who had Ben on his shoulder just 1 second back. With packing like that, how they did not get a team medal is beyond me! They almost did, finishing fourth, just one point behind Japan. The first two Japanese walkers were ahead (4-9); the third managed to slip into 22nd place, for a total of 35 to Canada's 36.

This is without doubt one of Canada's best ever team performances. The women won a World Cup bronze once, in 1985; the men have never finished so high in an actual team competition. Observers consider that the previous standard for a Canadian group performance was the 1984 Olympics, when the great Quebec trio of Guillaume Leblanc, Francois Lapointe and Marcel Jobin finished 4-11-12 (a hypothetical total of 36 too, if the Olympics were scored as a team in the same way). But this is certainly the most spectacular "visually".

The splits show that, through the race (on a flat, straight 2km loop in the center of Taicang), the group was within a few seconds of each other in a large pack. The first time they were recorded all together, though, was at 15km (60:06:17). Another 5km at 4:01:102 each, with the last 3km especially operating as a single, unstoppable unit, and Bobs your uncle! Maybe the trio, all from Vancouver, was helped by the heavy rain during the race. (In general, the weekend conditions were mercifully much cooler than the 30+ temperatures that could have stifled southeastern China at this time of the year. Thank you Roger.

The race started off rather leisurely with the first 5 km reached in 20:22. The pack included 57 walkers within 8 seconds of one another. When the pace accelerated to reach 10 km in 40:10, the pack was reduced to 28. Russia's Andrey Ruzavin and Alexander Ivanov along with China's Zhen Wang and Ding Chen seemed to be those controlling the pace, which
was stepped even more to reach 15 Km in 59:44. At this point the contenders were Ruzavin, Dmytrenko, China's Zelin Cai, Japan's Yusuke Suzuki, and Colombia's Eider Arevalo. Cain made a move with 4 km to go, but Dmytrenko quickly covered it as the others dropped back and both Ivanov and Arevalo picked up their third red cards. Cai had no answer when Ruzavin made a decisive move with about 3 km to go. Covering the final 5 km in a stunning 18:47, the Ukrainian crossed the finish line in 1:18:37, 15 seconds ahead of Cai. Ruzavin hung on for third, well clear of Suzuki, who just held off Spain's Miguel Angel Lopez. "Taicang has been a miracle for me," said the elated and slightly stunned winner. "I was very happy with my seventh place at the 2011 World Championships in Daegu and my fourth place in the Cup in Saransk two years ago, but I was not so happy with my seventh place in Moscow at the World Championships last summer. However, despite being in good shape before the race, this result was still unimaginable."

Dmytrenko not only battle his rivals on the road but also the elements, as the rain got steadily heavier during the course of the race, but he still managed to produce an outstanding negative split, walking the second half of the race almost two minutes faster than the first.

As an aside, considering the current political situation, the Ukraine's thorough thrashing of the Russian machine must have been doubly rewarding. Back in 1965, I was privileged to be part of the U.S. National T&F team for a dual meet with USSR. The meet was in Kiev and we were in that lovely city for a week. We had been told by the State Department to never refer to the people there as Russian—they were proud Ukrainians. So I rejoice with them.

The first event of the competition was the 50 Km and here the Russians were dominant, taking four of the first spots for a decisive team win. But here, too, Ukraine shone placing three in the top ten to easily take the silver team medal, well clear of the Chinese hosts.

The winner was Mikhail Ryzhov, who led from the start, steadily increasing the pace to finally drop teammate Ivan Noskov over the final Km, finishing in 3:39:05, 33 seconds clear of his teammate. Australia's Jared Tallent hung with them for the first 30 Km, but had to yield to the quickened pace and settle for bronze, adding to his collection of medals on the world stage. (Two Olympic silvers, two World Cup bronze, and one World Championship bronze.)

Ryzhov said, "It was our plan to work together then at 47 km, I decided to surge. Completing the Russian team, the veteran two-time bronze medalist Yuriy Andronov was fourth in 3:43:52 walking a solitary race for almost 45 Km.

The first four were together in the lead almost from the gun. When they hit the first 10 Km in 44:11 the rest of the field was 27 seconds back. Tallent went into a slight lead, which was just 3 seconds as passed 20 Km 1:28:37. It already appeared the first four places were decided, the only question being the order of finish. Adronov was staring to drop away, 20 seconds back.

By 30 Km, reached in 2:12:31, Tallent was beginning to struggle and was 3 seconds back. Adronov had dropped 31 seconds back and the rest of the field trailed by more than 2 minutes.

It soon became a two-man race and the two Russians were together at 40 Km in 2:56:29 with Tallent now struggling 39 seconds back and turning his thoughts to preserving the bronze medal. "I managed to claw back a bit of the deficit between about 41 and 42 kilometers but then it really started to hurt and I decided just to hang on and make sure I got the bronze as

Adronov was looking strong," said Tallent. "When Ryzhov made the final push after passing 47 Km, Noskov had no answer and had to settle for silver. Ryzhov had 10 km splits of 44:26, 44:11, 43:54, 43:58, and 43:24. Tallent was more than 3 minutes back at the finish but still well clear of Adronov. A distant fifth was the fourth Russian, Oleksiy Kazanin. In sixth, Oleksiy Kazanin led another strong Ukraine effort with teammates coming ninth and tenth to secure the silver team medals ahead of China.

Finishing 21st was Spain's indomitable Jesus Angel Garcia. Who won silver World Cup medals in 1993 and 1995 and then the gold in 1997 with a 3:39:54. He has competed in every World Cup since.

Patrick Stroupe was the lone U.S. entrant. He was on pace for a personal best sub 4:10 effort through 30 Km (2:29:27), but needed 53 minutes for his next 10 and then really hit the wall to finish 46th in 3:23:13, needing 60:45 for that final 10.

On the left Dmytrenko on his way to 20 Km gold, and who says your can't have double contact at high speed? On the right, Ryzhov leads Tallent in the 50.
head-to-head battle for the silver medal between Liu and Sokolova, the former World record holder coming through strongly on the ninth lap and overtaking Liu 1500 meters from home. But Liu got her second wind and took back second place. Alembekova got the bronze in the final few meters from Sokolova, who perhaps had mistimed her effort.

Behind the leading quartet, Giorgi came through strongly on the last lap to set an Italian record of 1:27:05. The long-time leader Olyesovska was beaten for sixth by China's Xuizi Li but got a reward for her bravery with a national record of 1:27:27.

Also getting national records were Maria Micbta for the U.S. and Rachel Seaman for Canada, making their coach Tim Seaman proud. Maria was 10th in 1:30:49, one place and 25 seconds ahead of Rachel. Portugal's Susanna Feitor 39, walking in her 10th Cup finished 15th in 1:28:51 joining Ana Cabeceinha (8th) and Vera Santos (11th) to capture a team bronze for Portugal.

The Junior Men's 10 Km on the first day was a triumph for the host nation as they took both individual and team gold. The final 2 Km lap saw four walkers in contention with Wenkui Gao emerging as the winner. The 18-year-old Chinese walker, after failing in an attempt seal the race over the first half, had enough in reserve to launch an attack on the final lap and set a Cup record of 39:40.

Gao and Japan's Datsuke Matsunaga did all the hard work over the first half of the race as they darted into the lead from the gun. They passed 3 lap and took both individual and Kirdyapkina finishes her impressive effort. (Getty Image)

The Junior Women's 10 on the second day was another Chinese triumph with one-two finish and, obviously, another team gold. The Chinese duo of Dandan and Jiayu Yang surprised race favorite Anexka Drahotova of the Czech Republic, with Dandan winning in 43:05, the best junior time in the world this year. Yang was 32 seconds back at the finish, but three seconds ahead of Drahotova. Drahotova had won an IAAF Challenge race at 20 Km earlier this year in 1:29:43 and finished third behind Liu and Giorgi in Lugano with a 1:28:13, just 38 seconds behind the winner. Here she chose to bypass the 20 and take a shot at a gold medal in the junior 10. It didn't work out.

Spurred on by the home crowd, the two Chines girls both clocked significant personal bests. It didn't look to be in the cards early in the race.

Drahotova and Oxana Golyatkina of Russia, who won gold and silver in last year's European Junior Championships, immediately tore away from the field and went through the first km in 8:57. But Duan and Yang were just six seconds back. With an 8:30 effort on the second 2 Km the leading pair increased the lead to eight seconds.

The pace slowed slightly as the leaders reached 6 Km in 26:02, but Duan was on the prowl, moving fast, and was on even terms with the European pair. Pushing hard, Duan opened a 6 second gap on Drahotova as she reached 8 Km in 34:38, six seconds ahead. Golyatkina had left the course in tears following her third red card.

Liu's final lap of 7:27 left no doubt of the outcome and Yang pushed hard to catch Drahotova near the finish. After her, it was nearly two minutes back to the fourth, Spain's Laura Garcia-Caro. The Spaniard's finish helped her team capture the silver medal with 20 points. Nine of the top ten finishers set personal bests in the race. For the U.S. Katherine Newhoff and Brenda McCollum finished 41st and 42nd.

Results of all the events:


### Men's 50 Km

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<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Mikhail Ryzhov</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Ivan Noskov</td>
<td>3:39:38</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Jose Leonardo</td>
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### Women's 50 Km

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<td>8</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Jeroen Martinez</td>
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### Ranking

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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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### Prize Money

The total prize & performance money pool was worth $2,700 to these professional pedestrians.

### Conclusion

Dayton, Ohio, May 11: Fresh from a week of competition in China at the IAAF World Cup of Race Walking, Armstrong resident Patrick Stroupe added the USA title at the 10-kilometer distance to his outstanding resume. Stroupe, a three (3) time collegiate national track & field champion broke away from the field early on for the win. The 29-year-old had a 22-second gap over second at the halfway point that continued to widen to the finish. Stroupe went home with the gold medal presented to the National Champ by USA Track & Field plus $500 in prize money and performance bonuses. The total prize & performance money pool was worth $2,700 to these professional pedestrians.

Following Stroupe across the finish line was the lanky Jonathan Hallman, a Greer, South Carolina, resident. Hallman, with collegiate eligibility, but still unsigned, nailed down a solid qualifying time for the USA Track Nationals. After a quick opening 5k in 22:28 was 48:30.

Jill Cobb, the 4th place individual at the 2012 Olympic Trials, took the women's title in 50:02. Like many of the competitors Cobb, 39, was able to go out quickly covering the first 5k in 24:24, but as the sun got brighter times slowed over the second half of the 8 lap race. The Beaver Creek mother of two was happy with her Mother's Day victory. Samantha Cohen, a 36-year-old mother of three (3) from Wisconsin grabbed second in 52:16. And even though she was suffering the ill effects from a head cold picked up on her return trip from competing in the World Cup a week earlier in China, Erin Taylor-Talcott held on for 3rd.

Today's race was also the USATF Junior National Championships for the 10K Road Walk. And Cameron Haught, just a 15-year-old freshman at Yellow Springs HS, had the most impressive performance of the day. With a personal best of 53:30, Haught chased Puerto Rican junior Luis Cruz the first half of the race. Trailling by just 6 seconds after walking a personal record (PR) 24:09 split through 5k, Haught was able to maintain his momentum. After several...
back-n-forth lead changes Haught was able to close strongly over the final lap for an impressive triumph in 48:36. This moves him to #2 Under-20 performer at that distance in the USA this in 51:21.

Beavercreek high school junior Ashleigh Risch continued her winning streak. The 17 year old USA New Balance National High School Indoor 1 Mile T&F Champ back in March won today’s much longer 10k (6.214 miles) race in 56:05. Texas high school champ Fiona Dunleavy was a very close 2nd. She finished in 56:18. Third place went to Chicago’s Anali Cisneros. The Elgin Shark athlete was timed in 57:24.

Other local athletes who performed well in this walking competition were Xenia’s Joel Pfahler. He finished 7th overall in 49:58 and combined with Yellow Springs’ Jacob Gunderkline (9th overall) and Haught to win the team title and points in the year-long USATF Race Walk Grand Prix circuit.

The women’s team made it a sweep for the Yellow Springs’ based Miami Valley Track Club over runner-up Pegasus Athletics Club from Michigan. Jill Cobb, Ashleigh Resch and Yellow Springs’ Christina Peters (6th overall in the women’s open division) dominated in their win.

Pat Stroupe on his way to victory; Jill Cobb accepts first place award from race impresario Vince Peters.

The competition also doubled as the 27th Annual Jack Mortland Race Walks. Jack, a 1964 Olympian in the walks, was on hand signing autographs for the kids and promoting the most newsworthy print publication in race walking – The Ohio Race Walker. Local TV stations 2 and 45 had cameramen at the event hosted by the Dayton areas Miami Valley Track Club. Local sponsors of the event include: Ohio USATF; Comfort Suites (Riverside); Graphics II (Enon); Creative Trophy Designs; Buckeye Striders (Columbus) and the hosting organization – the Miami Valley Track Club (Yellow Springs).

Big thanks to the Judges: Ginger Mulanax, Les Chih, David Harriman, Carolee Stephens, Bruce McKinstry, Frank Soby with Brian Stephens on DQ board. The results:


More Results


Opportunities For Pleasant (Or Cutthroat) Competition

Sat. June 7 - Michigan USAF 5000, Olivet College (F)
Sun. June 8 - Midwest and Ohio 1 hour, Lewis Springs, Ohio (M)
Sat. June 14 - Midwest 3000, Waukegan, Wis. (I)
Sa. June 14 - 5000 and 10,000, San Diego
New Jersey 5000, Lakewood (A)
Wisconsin 3000, Waukegan, Wis. (I)
Sun. June 15 - 5 km., Detroit, 8 am (F)
Sat. June 16 - Eastern Regional 5000, Albany, N.Y. (A)
June 28-29 - National USAF 20 km Championships, Sacramento, Cal. (D)
June 29 - USATF Northeast 3000, Gloucester, Westfield, Mass. (X)
Fri. July 4 - 1 and 2 miles, Berklely, Mich. (F)
Sun. July 12 - 5 km., Farmingdale, NY
Sun. July 13 - 300 miles, Lucas, Mass. (X)
Sun. Aug 23 - Bobby Crim races (5, 8, and 10 km) Flint, Michigan (F)
Sun. Aug 30 - 1 hour, Lakewood, N.J., 8:30 am (W)
LOOKING BACK

50 Years Ago (From the Late Spring 1964 issue of the Midwest Race Walker, published by Chris McCarthy in Chicago) - Ron Laird was an easy winner in the National 30 Km in Los Angeles. His 2:26:27 left Bob Bowman nearly 10 minutes back (2:36:10) in second. Rudy Haluza was third in 2:38:03. Two weeks later, Laird went on a record rampage. On May 15, he broke the American record for 15000 meters at the L.A. Coliseum Relays with a 5:57.0. Don DeNoon was second in 6:02.2. The next day in Walnut, Calif., Laird easily broke the American record he had set a few weeks earlier in Chicago for 1 Hour, covering 8 miles 420 yards. On the way, he took out the 10 Km record with a 44:58 and continued to records at 15 Km (1:08:17) and 10 Miles (1:13:18). Dean Rasmussen was dominant on the other side of the country, winning the Penn AC 12 mile in Philadelphia with a 3:07:06, 2 seconds ahead of Bob Mimm. He came back in two weeks to win a 15 Mile race on Staten Island in 2:00:35. Ron Daniel was 30 seconds back in that one. In a close race north of the border, Alex Oakley won the Ontario 10 Mile title in 1:17:09, ahead of Felix Cappella (1:17:15), and Nick Marone (1:17:44).

45 Years Ago (From the May 1969 ORW) - This issue featured the first photos ever published in the ORW, and guess what? They showed several athletes in full flight phase as we launched many series of commentaries on judging issues. The photos were graciously supplied by Jim Hanley who sent enough copies to meet our circulation needs, since we were still a mimeographed (a foreign word, perhaps, to many of today's readers) publication. And here was Laird again, winning the National 10 Km in Chicago in a championship record of 45:14.2. Ron Daniel and Steve Hayden followed. One day later, Tom Dooley had no need to hang down his head as he set an American record for the same distance in California, recording 44:26.9. Goets Kloper covered 15 miles in a blazing 1:54:32 at the same site. The Zinn Memorial 10 Km in Chicago went to your editor in a blazing 49:29. Blazing only because it was hot in Chicago that day. Passing 3 miles 4 seconds ahead of his pace of a week before (when he did 48:40 for sevenths in that National 10), he then wilted, but not nearly as much as teammate Jack Blackburn, 15 seconds ahead of him the week before, but 4½ minutes behind on this day. Paul Nilhll won British titles at both 10 Km (44:07) and 10 Miles (1:11:14).

40 Years Ago (From the May 1974 ORW) - John Knifton overcame a challenge from Floyd Godwin in the National 25 Km in Des Moines, Iowa, to win with a 1:56:03 effort. Floyd Godwin was just over 2 minutes back at the finish, followed by Jerry Brown and Bob Henderson. Larry Walker won the National 15 Km in California in 1:10:08, 5 seconds ahead of Carl Swift, who wasn't swift enough on that day. Ed Bouldwin (1:11:43), Bill Ranney, Rudy Haluza, and Steve DiBernardo filled out the top six. Godwin also took the 10 Km in 45:42 with Henderson a distant second and aging Jack Mortland (51:02) as few athletes showed up. I guess that was my final national medal and one not at all deserved. The National 20 went to Jerry Brown in 1:33:33 with Godwin taking Knifton for second. Ron Daniel and Bob Henderson followed. East Germany's Peter Frenkel set a World Record for 30 Km (2:14:22) in East Berlin, with Chris Hohne less that 2 minutes back. A few weeks later, Hohne walked 50 Km in 3:53:33. In Hamburg, West Germany, Bernd Kannenberg broke the World 20 Km record with a 1:24:35.

35 Years Ago (From the May 1979 ORW) - It was open season on the World's 20 Km record, which had been held by Mexico's Daniel Bautista at 1:23:22. On April 22, Anatoliy Solomin, USSR, did 1:23:20. One week later, Frenchman Gerard LeLievre took the record down to 1:22:20 in Espain. Then on May 19, Bautista said "Enough!" Walking on the track in Valencia, Spain, he recaptured his record with a 1:22:15 effort. Jim Heiring's American record of 1:30:40 set on April 22 didn't last long either. Todd Scully turned in a 1:28:33 in Seattle on May 17. Chris Hansen won the U.S. 15 Km title in Kenosha, Wis., tying Canadian Marcel Jobin in the process, as both returned 1:06:58. Heiring was nearly a minute-and-a-half back with John VanDenvrank following him. Scully whipped Hansen in the National 10 Km in Chicago in 43:14. Heiring beat Hansen this time, 43:55 to 44:16. VanDenvrank was fourth. (No medal this time for your still aging editor who managed 14th in 52:51.) The next day, Canada's Marcel Jobin beat Scully in the Zinn Memorial 10 Km, blasting a 41:32. Todd had 42:15. The Women's National 15 went to Paul Kash-Mori in 1:21:21, with Jeunee Bocci second. Alan Price was an easy winner in the National 100 Km in 10:36:35, with Tom Hamilton 47 minutes back in second. Jack Blackburn finished third, catching Sal Corrallo in the final 20 miles to take the master's title.

30 Years Ago (From the May 1984 ORW) - Denver had a weekend festival of National walks. On Saturday, Tim Lewis (20:53) and Teresa Vaill (25:27) won titles at 5 Km. Mel McGinniss (21:27) and Vincent O'Sullivan followed Lewis and Mexico's Maria Collin was second in the women's race. On Sunday, O'Sullivan came back to win the National 30 Km in 2:22:48. Carl Schuler, better than 4 ½ minutes back, edged Tom Edwards for second. Fabian Kniazyk was fourth. Jim Heiring was an easy winner in the National 15 Km held in New York City. Jim's impressive 1:03:07 left Jim Lewis 52 seconds back. Ray Sharp was just 5 seconds behind Tim and well clear of Marco Evonik. Ten athletes bettered 1:10. Teresa Vaill won the women's title in 1:17:27, 4 minutes ahead of Carol Brown. Marcel Jobin pulled away from Heiring...
after 5 km to win his own Invitational 20 km in Quebec with a 1:24:59. Heiring had 1:26:16 with Guillaume Leblanc third... In Norway, Mexico's Ernesto Canto shattered the world record for 20 km with 1:18:39. Daniel Bautista held the old record at 1:20:03. Marco Eviotnik was tenth in the race in 1:26:20, and also turned in times of 1:25:13 and 41:13 (10 km) in Copenhagen the next week.

25 Years Ago (From the May 1989 ORW)—National 15 km titles went to Rene Haarpainter (1:06:06) and Victoria Herazo (1:16:30) in races held in Long Branch, N.J. Steve Pecinovsky trailed Haarpainter by just over a minute, with Richard Quan third and Allen James fourth. Kim Wilkinson was just 5 seconds back in the women's race with Sara Standley third... Tim Lewis won the National Invitational 20 km in Washington, D.C. in 1:26:52, leaving Doug Fournier 2:14 back. Mark Manning, Gary Morgan, Steve Pecinovsky, and Curtis Fisher were all under 1:30 in the next four spots. Lewis also won the Penn Relays 10 km in 41:22, followed by Fournier (42:33) and Morgan (43:00). The women's 5 km went to Teresa Vaill in 22:38 with Lynn Weik second in 23:03.

15 Years Ago (From the May 1994 ORW)—Daniel Garcia beat Ecuador's Jefferson Perez by 3 seconds in 1:23:24 to win the Mexican Walk Week 20 km. Bernardo Segura (1:23:30) and Hector Moreno, Colombia (1:24:03) were next. Al Heppner led a U.S. contingent with 1:32:49 in 39th. In Durham, N.C., Dave McGovern beat Curt Clausen in a 20 km, 1:32:06 to 1:33:21. Ian Whatley was just 3 seconds behind Clausen. In fourth was Mark Kautz, reportedly a 29-minute 10 km runner just getting into racewalking who did 1:33:21. To my knowledge, that was his swan song as a racewalker, quickly ending a promising career.

A bit of history

While we often say that the first Olympic racewalks were in Athens in 1906—a 1500 meter and a 3000 meter race, the first Olympic racewalk was actually in St. Louis in 2004. The decathlon was not yet included in the Olympics, but it was preceded in St. Louis by the All-Around Championship, an event popular in the U.S. and contested here until some time in the late '50s or early '60s. The 10 events were 100 yard dash, 120 yard hurdles, 1 mile run, 800 yard walk, high jump, broad jump (now the long jump), pole vault, shot put, hammer throw, and 56-lb weight throw, all contested in one day. (As an aside, your editor did his first racewalk at the U.S. All Around in College Park, Maryland in 1955.) That 1904 event was won by Tom Kiely of Great Britain, who upset the Americans, who were more experienced at the event. Kiely and John Holloway, also of Great Britain, both returned a time of 3:59 for the 880 walk. Thus, they became the first to cross the line in an Olympic racewalk.

10 Years Ago (From the May 2004 ORW)—At the World Cup in Naumburg, Germany, Russia's Yelena Nikolayeva, competing in her sixth World Cup, beat China's Jian Jing by 10 seconds in 1:27:24 to win the women's 20. Spain's Maria Vasco was just a second behind Jing, with Australia's Jane Saville another 9 seconds back in a very close race. China beat Russia for the team title. The U.S. place 13th, with Deb Huberty finished 65th in 1:41:45. Ecuador's Jefferson Perez pulled away in the final stages to win the men's 20 in 1:18:42, 20 seconds ahead of Poland's 50 km ace Robert Korzeniowski. Australia's Nathan Deakes was third as China beat Ecuador for the team title. The U.S. finished ninth, led by Tim Eastler's 1:22:51 in 26th. Tim Seaman (1:24:21), Curt Clausen (1:25:39), and John Nunn (1:26:19) also had strong races. Russia's Alexsey Voyevodin won the 50 in 3:42:44, 63 seconds ahead of China's Caohong Yu, and these two countries were one-two in the team race. The U.S. did not finish a team... A week later, John Nunn and Curt Clausen traveled to Lithuania where Nunn achieved an Olympic "A" standard for 20 with 1:22:31. Curt finished in 1:24:18... Later in the month, walking in Copenhagen, Tim Seaman also made the "A" standard, walking 1:22:02. ... U.S. titles went to Michelle Rohl in 1 hour (12,600 meters) and Clausen in the 2 hour (26,109 meters).

5 Years Ago (From the May 2009 ORW)–IAAF RW Challenge Races in Italy went to Norway's Kirsten Platzer in 1:28:50 and Spain's Francisco Fernandez in 1:19:57. Germany's Sabine Krantz was second in the women's race with 1:29:03 and three others finished under 1:30. In the men's race Norway's Erik Tyasse was second, but nearly 2 minutes behind Fernandez. In the European Cup races in Metz, France, sweltering heat was the big winner as Giorgio Rubino led an Italian sweep of the top three spots in the 20, but he needed 1:24:06 to reach the finish. Spain's Maria Vasco won the women's 20 in 1:32:33, more than a half-minute ahead of Russia's Aniuya Kirdyukapina. The 50 went to Denis Nizhegorodov of Russia, nearly four minutes ahead of Spanish legend Jesus Angel Garcia... In the America's RW Championships in El Salvador, Brazil's Tanya Spindler and Colombia's Luis Lopez won at 20 km in 1:38:53 and 1:22:18. The first U.S. finishers were Solyma Logvin in 1:47:16 (10th) and Patrick Strouse with 1:31:00 in 14th. The 50 went to Mexico's Cristian Berdeja in 3:58:46... Previewing things to come, Inaki Gomez and Evan Dunfee of the U. of British Columbia finished 1-2 in the NAIA 5000 meter race with 20:41.11 and 20:41.15