

Ohio Race Walker
3184 Summit Street
Columbus, Ohio 43202

OHIO RACEWALKER



VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 9

COLUMBUS, OHIO

NOVEMBER 1989

NELSON CRACKS AMERICAN 50KM RECORD

Seattle, Oct. 29--Herm Nelson circled the track at West Seattle Stadium 125 times today to shatter the American track record for 50 Km. His 4:04:24 clocking was well under Dan Oconnor's 4:12:45, set in 1983. In what amounted to a solo effort (the only other finisher was nearly an hour behind), Herm walked an extremely even pace through 30 Km, and then faltered slightly toward the end. His 10 Km splits were 48:16, 1:36:18 (48:02), 2:24:56 (48:38), and 3:13:59 (49:03), giving him a 50:25 for the final 10. Stan Chramisnki did 5:03:10 for second place, after passing 30 Km in 2:55:58. The effort puts Nelson in fifth place on the U.S. all-time 50 km list, the other efforts having come on the road. Marco Evoniuk's 3:56:55 in Seoul leads the way. Carl Schueler (3:57:09), Larry Young (4:00:46 way back in 1968), and Jim Heiring (4:03:34) are also ahead of Herm.

OTHER RESULTS

2.2 Mile, Needham, Mass., Nov. 11--1. Phil McGaw 16:25 2. Justin Kuo 18:05 3. Paul Schell 18:47 New England 10 Km Championship, Acton, Mass., Nov. 12--1. Phil McGaw 49:59 2. Nadeem Moghal 50:03 3. Will DesRosiers 50:26 4. Richard Ruquist (age 52) 52:56 5. Justin Kuo 55:51 6. Bob Ullman 58:29 7. Joe Kay 60:12 (13 finishers) Women: 1. Christi Kuo 66:12 2. Ann Tomes 66:54 (9 finishers) 5 Km, New York City, Nov. 18--1. Alan Jacobson 25:28 2. Quentin Cunningham (17) 28:36 3. Gil Guillamette (57) 28:34 4. Frank LaMorte (68) 29:46 5. Cerdin Robinson (61) 29:48 6. Bob Spillman (58) 30:12 (15 finishers) Women: 1. Laurie Bishop 31:27 (19 finishers) 5 Km, Niagara Falls, NY, Oct. 15--1. Cheryl Rellinger 27:28 2. Bob Lubelski 27:49 3. Dick Bales 28:19 4. Karen Fina 29:37 (46 finishers) 5 Km, Niagara Falls, Aug. 11--1. Bob Lubelski 26:47 5 Km, Niagara Falls, Sept. 1--1. Cheryl Rellinger 26:51 2. Bob Lubelski 27:34 3. Dick Bales 28:35 1 Hour, Arlington, Virginia, Oct. 22--1. Jeff Salvage 8 mi 306 yds 2. Bob Briggs 7 m1 1495 3. Alan Price 7 mi 828 4. Tomas De Jesus 7 mi 562 5. Sal Corrallo 7 mi 21 6. Ned Stone 6 mi 1654 7. Jim Wass 6 mi 13954 8. Jim Lemert 6 mi 1013 9. Mitch Segal 6 mi 972 10. Bob Elliott 6 mi 719 11. Malcolm Posey 6 mi 482 12. Joe Guy 6 mi 455 13. Ron Clarke 6 mi 227 14. Victor Litwinski 5 mi 1556 (27 finishers) Women: 1. Pauline Stickels 6 mi 230 2. Lois Dicker 6 mi 59 3. Beth Alvarez 5 mi 1662 4. Sandy Havens 5 mi 1630 5. Joan Schindel 5 mi 1131 6. Marsh Harts 5 mi 1048 (15 finishers) 10 Km, Greenville, SC., Sept. 24--1. Dave Waddle 50:51 2. Ian Whatley 51:41 3. G. Fullencamp 55:58 Masters: 1. Larry Green (50-59) 55:56 2. Bill Bauer (40-49) 58:33 3. J. Newsome (40-49) 60:43 Women: 1. J. Newsome 65:40 5 Km, Jackson, Miss., Sept. 2--1. Bob Posey 29:44 Women: 1. Marva Anderson 33:00 (1st race I've ever reported from Mississippi)

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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
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5 Km, Jackson, Sept. 9--1. Bob Posey 30:27 5 Km, Maitland, Florida, Sept. 16--1. Raymond McDaniel 27:11 2. Morris Rasy 27:18 3. Robert Carver 29:45 4. Steven Christlieb 29:46 Women: 1. Verna Buchs 30:51 5 Km, Jackson, Miss., Sept. 30--1. Bob Posey 29:33 Women: 1. Barbara Duplichain 32:36 5 Km, Raleigh, NC, Sept. 16--1. Ray McKinnis 27:03 2. Alvia Gaskill 28:20 3. Andrew Briggs 29:19 Women: 1. Kathy Donley 29:30 5 Mile, Vicksburg, Miss., Sept. 16--1. Larry Cook 45:10 2. Bob Posey 48:00 Women: 1. Barbara Duplichain 53:14 5 Km, Florida, Oct. 28--1. Marris Rasy 26:12 2. Charles McLaughlin 29:43 3. Stephen Christlieb 29:42 4. Robert Carver 29:47 5. Stephen Grentus 30:27 Women: 1. Verna Buchs 31:33 1 Hour, Winter Park, Florida, Nov. 4--1. Paul Calk 6 mi 1759 yds 2. Norris Rasy 6 mi 303 3. Robert Carver 5 mi 1563 Women: 1. Verna Buchs 5 mi 1403 10 Km, Orlando, Florida, Nov. 11--1. Morris Rasy 52:21 2. Steven Christlieb 61:52 3. Stephen Grentus 62:13 Masters 5 Km, Dearborn, Mich., Oct. 21--1. Terry McHoskey 25:40 2. Wally Lubzik 28:50 3. Hal Morningstar 29:56 10 Km, same place--1. Max Green 50:09 Women: 1. K.A. Mosio, Poland 50:02 2. Zofia Wolan 51:45 Northa Marican Masters 3 Km, Westfield, Indiana, Oct. 21--1. Max Green (57) 14:30 2. John Elwarner (50) 24:35 3. Victor Sipes (46) 14:43 4. Paul Alvord 15:34 5. James Shrauger 16:31 6. Gary Doxtater 17:53 7. Ray Everson 18:00 8. Bill Peete (over 60) 18:07 9. Hugh Boyd 18:35 10. Bill Tallmadge (over 70) 19:19 Women: 1. Gayle Johnson (40) 15:12 2. Janette Smith (40) 15:21 3. Carol Beth Berry (36) 17:52 4. Kathy Griffey 18:22 5. Susan Dabagia 18:32 6. Beth Grady (over 50) 18:40 7. Judy Gardner 18:55 8. Margie Alexander 19:00 15 Km, Kenosha, Wis., Oct. 8--1. Brian Schultz 1:22:01 2. Don Schultz 1:24:37 3. Ruth Leff (62) 1:40:19 10 Km, same place--1. Jeanette Smith 60:34 25 Km, Kenosha, Oct. 22--1. Jeanette Smith 3:00:10 2. Ruth Leff 3:00:24 20 Km, same place--1. Brian Schultz 1:51:43 10 Km, same place--1. Dean Easterlunc 55:22 2. Jim Shaw 58:51 5 Km, same place--1. Tammy Vimar 26:05 5 Km, Austin, Texas, Oct. 28--1. John Knifton 23:44 2. Adam Pawlick 24:11 3. Robert Rhode 26:26 4. Dave Gwyn 26:53 Women: 1. Heidi Epp 28:13 5 Km, Milano, Texas, Sept. 9--1. John Knifton 23:24 5 Km, Austin, Tex., Oct. 7--1. Knifton 23:45 5 Km, San Marcos, Tex., Oct. 14--1. Knifton 23:33 San Antonio Marathon, Nov. 12--1. John Knifton 4:22:22 1 Hour, Kansas City--1. Joel Nelson 6 mi 1118 yds 2. Bob Hansen 6 mi 9 5 Km, Denver, Sept. 23--1. Peggy Miller 27:46 2. Barbara Hilger 28:37 5 Km, Denver, Oct. 8--1. Leonard Jansen 24:08 2. Gene Casey 27:25 3. Peggy Miller 27:43 5 Mile, Albuquerque, Oct. 22--1. Andrew Smith 41:36 2. Peter Armstrong 48:02 3. Larry Feise 48:22 4. James Spiller 49:19 5. Art Fuldauer 49:40 6. Maurice Sheehan 50:09 Women: 1. Ellen Roche 54:13 2 Mile, same place--1. Joe Sutton 19:03 Women: 1. Kathy Jo Lovell 19:09 2. Anna Wormald 19:46 3. Aimee Parson 20:10 5 Km, Encino, Cal., Oct. 15--1. Cathy Mish 26:48 2. Daniel Thompson 27:59 3. Carl Acosta 28:50 4. Rebecca Bredehoft 28:59 5. Gil Hawk 29:51 (over 300 in walk) Half Marathon, Long Beach, Cal., Nov. 12--1. Valerio 1:47:38 2. Dana Marsh 1:56:08 3. Wurzberger 2:03:40 4. Art Grant 2:06:35 5 Km, Riverside, Cal., Nov. 12--1. Sara Standley 23:36 2. Victoria Herazo 15:12 3. Dave Snyder 27:16 4. Chris Sakelarios 27:20 5. Virginia Scales 27:56 6. Ted Greiner 28:03 7. Cathy Rehage

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28:15 8. Paul Sutherland 28:15 9. Oscar Alemendarez 29:44 10. John Burns 30:14
 5 Km, Studio City, Cal., Oct. 22--1. Victoria Herazo 24:05 10 Km, Seaside, Cal.,
 Oct. 21--1. Kim Wilkinson 48:58 2. Jack Bray (1st master) 53:15 3. JoAnn
 Nedelco 53:30 4. Ron Daniel 57:05 5. Mary Baribeau 57:14 5 km, Eugene, Ore.,
 Oct. 1--1. Bob Gray 28:53 Women: 1. Carolyn Kortge 29:51 2. Donna Houle
 30:25 2.8 Mile, Seattle, Oct. 5--1. Glenn Tachiyama 21:24 2. Stan Chraminski
 22:11 3. Daniela Hairabedian 24:14 4. Bev LaVeck 26:09 5. Terry Hagen 28:57 5
 Mile, Seattle, Oct. 8--1. Glenn Tachiyama 37:56 2. Steve DiBernardo 38:26 3.
 Rick Holt 42:23 4. Doug Ermini 44:1=28 5. Daniela Hairabedian 44:40 6. Bev
 LaVeck 47:21 7. Steve Frederickson 47:29 8. Clara Frederickson 49:02 1 Hour,
 Seattle, Oct. 21--1. Stan Chraminski 11,335 meters 2. Bob Novak 11,079 3. Doug
 Ermini 10,563 4. Bev LaVeck 9942 5. Clara Frederickson 9666 5 Mile, Tacoma,
 Wash., Oct. 28--1. Glenn Tachiyama 38:06 2. Bob Novak 41:53 3. Jim Bryan
 43:05 4. Ann McCulley 46:52 5 Km, Seattle, Nov. 19--1. Stan Chraminski 26:15
 2. Bob Novak 26:45 3. Daniela Hairabedian 26:50 4. Lew Jones 28:18 5. Paul
 Kaald 29:20

RACES HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

Sat. Dec. 9 10 Mile, Columbia, Missouri (I)
 Sun. Dec. 10 Todd Scully 10 Km, Long Branch, NJ 1:15 pm, (D)
 1 Hour, San Mateo, Cal. (P)
 5 Km, Rialto, Cal., 8:15 am (B)
 Sat. Dec. 16 10 Km, Coconut Creek, Florida (M)
 5 Km, Seattle (C)
 Sun. Dec. 17 5, 10, and 15 Km, Seattle (C)
 5 and 10 Km, Pasadena, Cal., 8 am (B)
 Sun. Dec. 31 10 Mile, Asbury Park, NJ, 10 am (D)
 10 Km and 50 Km, Houston (E)
 Mon. Jan. 1 5 km and 5 Mile, Tacoma, Wash. (C)
 Sat. Jan. 6 1 Mile (Indoor), Maple Heights, Ohio, 9 am (A)
 Sat. Jan. 20 10 Km and 10 Mile, Tacoma, Wash. (C)
 Sun. Jan. 21 10 Mile Handicap, Pasadena (B)

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FROM HEEL TO TOE

A 96-minute video on the race walking events at the World Veteran's Games in Eugene, Oregon last summer is available. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, contact Doug Ermini, P.O. Box 4405, Bellingham, WA 98227. . . Another race walking marriage: Paul Wick and Holly Straight (a newcomer to the sport this year, who finished 14th in the National 10 Km with 52:59) took that step on October 7. As reported in last month's results, Paul was 16th in the Soviet 50 Km championships with a 4:06:35. His splits in that race were 47:00, 1:34:08,

2:22:53, and 3:14:13. Tim Lewis (4:13:39) was competing at the 50 Km distance because of a mixup in racing dates. The U.S. walkers went over there thinking the 20 Km was on Saturday and 50 on Sunday, but arrived too late for the 20, which was contested on Friday. The other U.S. 20 Km walkers simply went 20 on Saturday, racing with the Soviet 50 Km leaders (Mark Manning had a 1:29:28), but Tim decided to go the whole distance. Not a bad performance for one with no specific preparation for the event. . . Very attractive race walker T-shirts and sweatshirts from the Indiana Racewalkers. The T-shirts are \$15 and the sweatshirts \$22. If you are interested, contact: Indiana Racewalker, 521 Swan Drive, Fortville, IN 46040. . . Racewalker Bentley Lyon, of Albuquerque, N.M., has just published his first novel, *White Crow*. In Bentley's novel, a federal forestry expert innocently strays into the path of the KGB. Before leaving for a conference in Spain, Arnold Kent is asked by the State Department to "do an errand" in Rome. Kent learns that he had best be wary during his trip, and his fears are rapidly borne out. These events occur in the first chapter; the 18 that follow are crammed with exciting action. Lyon is a leading forestry expert, specializing in fire management. An ex-Marine Corps officer who served in Korea, Bentley recently celebrated his 60th birthday by walking across the floor of the Grand Canyon and back--a daunting 48-mile journey. Lyon is also an avid linguist and jazz musician. The book is available from St. Martin's Press at \$17.95. Contact publicist Matthew R. Bradley at 212-674-5151, ext. 707. . . Rich Torrellas, Maryanne's spouse and a close friend of racewalking, has been named an assistant manager on the 1992 Women's Olympic Track and Field Team. At the same time, Dean Ingram, former National Racewalk Committee Chairman, was named assistant manager on the 1991 Pan-American Games Team.

MORE COMMENTARY ON JUDGING

Without rehashing all we went through last summer, here is some commentary we have received since on racewalking judging issues. First off, the Technical Subcommittee of the IAAF Racewalking Committee forwarded the following rules amendment to the IAAF Congress:

Amend 191.2 (b) to read:

"All the judges shall act in an individual capacity and their judgment shall be based on observations made by eye."

Reason: The Committee wishes to inform everyone that current judging procedure allows for only human eye judging. The possibility of using technical instruments still exists if proved to be practical and reliable.

If this is accepted, all it does is confirm what the practice has always been. It won't of course stop people from producing photos and saying that the judges are as bad as the walkers. Be that as it may, here is what some others are saying.

Charles Blackburn, Thomson, Georgia: Let's put the video cameras on this new breed of race walking speedsters. Let's play back their races in slow motion and see how airborne or earthbound they are. I'll walk across Georgia with Kerry Saxby sitting on my shoulders. If the video, played back in slow motion doesn't reveal her off the ground before she has made two loops around the track with enough violations to disqualify her several times over. These people are race walk running, not walking. It's time to put the brakes on and get back to traditional racewalking. The inexpensive video technology is here. All major races should be videotaped. A system of race walk judging using this new tool should be implemented. (Ed. But, as the IAAF committee has concluded, no one has yet come forth with a really practical way to use the equipment.)

Wayne Nicoll, Georgia (long-time participant in the sport, commenting on Atlanta's recent International Racewalk and the accompanying clinic presented by Canadian National Coach, Jerry Hausleber, who built the highly successful Mexican program over 20 years): Walkers nowadays are achieving much faster speeds because they have increased the cyclic rate of movement and have extended the length of their stride, Hausleber said. Thus, the walker is taking more steps per minute and is gaining distance on each stride by a moderate extension of the stride. But despite the faster speeds, walkers are still meeting the requirements of maintaining contact with the ground and straightening the supporting leg, he said.

If I had heard Hausleber's claims before the race, I might have been doubtful of their validity. (Not having been to an international walk in recent years, I have suspected that today's walkers have bent or skirted the rules to achieve their remarkable performances.) However, I found myself serving as a head judge and was responsible for studying the walkers carefully. Although a relative lightweight as a heady judge, after 34 years around the sport, I feel confident in my judgement regarding the legality of the walker in action.

The winning male, Carlos Mercenario, walked the 10 Km in 41:19! All the Mexicans were impressive in their style and none was given any warnings by the five judges. They apparently have learned to progress at amazingly high speeds yet appear to the naked eye to be walking legally (No videocameras are used in racewalking so the walker is truly walking a fine line between appearing to maintain contact and visibly losing contact.) Mercenario was so impressive I nearly lost my cool as a judge. I had to resist the urge to clap and yell as he finished.

Elaine Ward (Editor of the Southern California Racewalking News in a recent editorial): Off and on in our Association, you will hear the complaint that race walking judges are too strict and are "ruining the sport of race walking." In the context of elite walkers, the more "lenient" standards of European judging are cited and critical heads shake that our elite walkers are being ruined in world competition by being made too legal. In the masters camp, the factors of aging and physical disability are cited as reasonable grounds for leniency.

The problem here is the very words lenient and too strict are confusing when applied to upholding rules that govern a sport to make competition fair and judging impartial for all. On the one hand, the advocates of reasonable leniency suggest that too strict judging works to the disadvantage of some walkers and propose, instead, that consideration be given to competitors' intentions, status, and capabilities to the advantage of some.

A walker who is training to match technique, strength, and speed to be legal, wants impartial, equal judging of all competitors in a race. A coach, who accepts the challenge and difficult responsibility of training his/her athletes to conform to the rules, wants fair uniform judging. Both athlete and coach may have to accept DQ's as part of the training process, but they recognize the importance of a uniform standard for all. And as far as judges are concerned, satisfaction in serving the sport comes in treating all walkers with equal respect. Few, if any, want to be placed in the position of deciding whose bent knee is okay or how much lifting is permissible.

It is unfortunate that some people cannot walk by rules for one reason or another. But, just as a person of small stature is restricted from playing competitive games requiring height or mass, and a person with a stiff back is restricted in competitive golf or tennis, so a person with a knee or obvious lifting problem can't expect or demand to compete without penalty in judge racewalks. To blame the judges for giving DQ's is to make them scapegoats.

Alvia Gaskill, North Carolina: Judging of racewalking at all levels has always been controversial. Unlike other track and field events for which the correct execution of the event is readily seen and understood by officials, participants, and spectators, determining if a walker is about to be in violation or is in violation of the two rules is difficult to see and often in doubt. In addition, judges may be intimidated or otherwise influenced by athletes, coaches, parents, their colleagues, etc., thereby not making calls or issuing warnings that they actually feel should be issued.

To make the job of judges easier and to provide more consistency in judging, the following changes to the rules are recommended:

1. Do away with overall banishment from races after the third red card is turned in. Thus, an unlimited number of DQs will be possible up to and including the total number of judges in the race.
2. To ensure order and an equitable judging of all competitors, time penalties will be assessed in accordance with a schedule. (He shows a suggested schedule of time penalties for various distances. For example, at 20 Km, each caution would bring a 2 second penalty, the first red card 10 seconds, the second 30 seconds, the third and fourth 5 minutes, and the fifth and all subsequent red cards 10 minutes each. Thus an athlete with five cautions and five red cards would be assessed a total penalty of 20 minutes and 50 seconds. That would be added to the finishing time.)

These changes will encourage athletes to maintain legal form as well as encourage judges to judge the entire race, rather than judging the first half and then retiring as is now done. (Ed. I'm not sure where he gets that idea.)

These rule changes also will tend to normalize performances by athletes with questionable form who also achieve high places of finish. It will restore to the walks the importance of correct walking form and focus the attention of the judges on the race. The cumulative time penalties will be posted on the DQ board beside the number of the athlete. It is expected that athletes who have received substantial time penalties will elect to retire from the race, thus avoiding the often stressful scenes of athletes being removed from the race by the judges.

There are several problems that may be expected should such a system of judging be instituted. First, there is the possible confusion on the part of competitors as to their position during the race. The athlete in front may actually have accumulated substantial time penalties and thus need not be considered a threat. Similarly, athletes who become frustrated and elect to begin outright running could add to the confusion, perhaps even deliberately as part of team tactics in a World Cup competition. The former situation is no more troubling than the current system whereby an athlete may be leading the race, only to be DQ'd after finishing. The second case can be avoided by allowing the Chief Judge to remove any athlete who in his opinion is engaging in outright running.

(Ed. It seems that I may have suggested the possibility of time penalties in lieu of disqualification some time in the past, and, indeed, in at one case it has been used. The Airola-Chiasso road relay in Switzerland always used this system rather than disqualifying a whole team for the sins of one individual. I'm not sure if that race is still being held. The first question, of course, is what constitutes a fair penalty. Charles has suggested a schedule, but it is purely arbitrary. Certainly, I would disagree with any penalty for cautions. They are supposed to be given to those still walking legally, but in danger of not doing so. In theory, these people should be able to walk in the same manner throughout the rest of the race without any more word from the judges. It would be unfair to penalize anyone who is walking legally, regardless of how close they may be to lifting or creeping. However, my main question with the proposed system is, how does it do anything to solve present controversies how athletes are judged.

It only shifts the arguments from who should and should not have been DQ'd to who should and should not have been assessed penalties. The judges are still under the same pressure to detect with their eyes what the cameras will show later.)

Leonard Jansen, Colorado Springs: I think that allowing the ORW to be a vehicle for the endless diatribes about "lifting" is a disservice to the sport. Many of the people that write in take the attitude that the athletes are deliberately cheating and/or the judges are incompetent. As you may recall, several years ago, I gave a presentation at the TAC Convention explaining that there are psycho-perceptual limits to the human nervous system. This goes for the eyes as well as the sense of touch. The point of the talk was that anything that falls at or below these limits is perceived indistinctly, or if fast enough, not at all. (This is why movies are seen as continuous motion and not as a series of pictures.) What is happening when "lifting" occurs is that the athlete is unable to clearly "feel" the flight phase and the judge is not able to definitely see it. Of course, there are deliberate cheaters and poor judges, but the majority can't be.

The net effect of this childish finger-pointing is to place an unfair burden on U.S. athletes--people with minimal coaching, little financial support, and no help meeting their non-RW goals. (Ed. Not only U.S. athletes, since the same endless diatribe goes on in England, perhaps to any even greater degree and with people even more up tight.) These self-appointed "watchdogs" can speak about the "good old days" as much as they like and even back up the talk with pictures, but they feel to realize that those days ended when Bautista crossed the finish line in Montreal in 1976. (Ed again: There were no good old days. The same talk has been going for the 30 plus years I have been involved in the sport, and I would judge there were more outright cheaters in those days.) Sorry gang, but racewalking is what the international community has defined it to be; not what we (yes, including me) would like it to be. Please leave the athletes alone--the proper forum for this sort of fight is among the administrators and judges of the sport. Let the athletes racewalk!

As a last gripe (sorry), I am disappointed at the comments in the race results of the September ORW. I don't think that it is fair to Marc Bagan or the 50-year-old walker (who did 46:00 for 10 Km) to put qualifiers on the results that seem (whether deliberate or not) to cast doubt on the honesty of the competitor. If the athlete cheated, someone should have the courage to claim it publicly and sign their name to it. Otherwise, it should be enough to note that the race was "unjudged" or "results under protest." In Marc's case, the race was protested and the protest denied by the Metropolitan Athletics Congress. Therefore, case should be closed, but someone decided to use the ORW as a "back door" approach at continuing the fight. Jack, please don't let the ORW be used this way--it's on the few things in the sport that everyone agrees they like.

LOOKING BACK

20 Years Ago (From the Nov. 1969 ORW)--In the Annual Ohio Track Club Distance Carnival, Gary Westerfield beat Long Island AC teammate Steve Hayden in the 7 mile with a 53:58, but dropped out of the next day's 15 miler in which Gerry Bocci beat Hayden with a 2:03:18. Steve had 54:40 and 2:05:32 in the two races. The women's 5 mile event went to Detroit's Mary Kefalos in 53:11.5, as Jeanne Bocci, 7 months pregnant, was talked out of trying to defend her title. . . On opposite coasts of the U.S., Tom Dooley and Canada's Marcel Jobin blistered 10 milers. Dooley, in California, had a 72:17 and Jobin turned in a 72:30. Ron

Daniel trailed Jobin with a 1:16:33. . . A young Todd Scully showed some potential as a future great with a 14:00 win in a Collegiate Postal 2 mile. . . The Junior National 50 Km (Junior in those days had to do with experience, not age) went to Dave Eidahl in 5:16:43.

15 Years Ago (From the Nov. 1974 ORW)--National AAU "B" titles (by this time, the "B" category had replaced the junior designation and juniors were, indeed, the youngsters) went to Bob Korn at 10 Km (49:20.6) and Chuck Hunter at 100 Km (12:26:40). . . The ORW's Eighth Annual Dr. John Blackburn Award for the year's outstanding single effort in U.S. race walking went to Sue Brodock. She had won the women's International 5 Km in a then world's best of 24:16.2. . . In the ORW's 5th Annual World Rankings, the USSR's venerable Vladimir Golubnichiy led the list at 20 Km with Bernd Kannenberg, W.G., and Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller, GDR, second and third. Kannenberg had set a world's record on the track, but was beaten by Golubnichiy in the European Championships. At 50, Christoph Hohne, GDR, was a clear choice with a European Championship and a stupendous world best of 3:52:53. Otto Bartsch, USSR, and Peter Selzer, GDR, followed. . . Jerry Brown, Floyd Godwin, and John Knifton topped the U.S. rankings at 20, with Larry Young, Knifton, and Augie Hirt ranked 1-2-3 at 50. . . In a 10 Km race in England, a couple of Mexicans gave a preview of things to come at Raul Gonzalez did 41:59 and Daniel Bautista 43:45.

10 Years Ago (From the Nov. 1979 ORW)--In a late season race, Dan O'Connor defended his national 40 Km title in Long Branch, N.J., covering the distance in 3:23:10, fastest in the history of the event to that time. Not far behind, Vincent O'Sullivan (3:24:22) edged Tom Dooley (3:24:36) for second. Wayne Glusker was fourth and Ohio's Chris Knotts captured sixth. . . The first Alongi Memorial 20 Km in Grosse Pointe, Mich. went to Italy's Carlo Mattioli in 1:26:38. Behind Italy's Domenico Carpiantieri, Steve Pecinovsky edged John VanDenBrandt to be the first U.S. finisher. . . In Montreal, Daniel Bautista regained the World Record for 20 Km, then held by fellow Mexican Domingo Colin as he walked 1:20:07. Countrymen Felix Gomez and Ernesto Canto were not far back in 1:21:24 and 1:21:52. Italy's Maruizio Damilano was fourth in 1:22:59. Certainly a gold medal event; Bautista had his from 1976, Damilano won in 1980, and Canto and Gonzalez got their's in 1984. . . Susan Liers won the women's National 20 Km title at Kings Point, N. Y. in 1:52:29. Jeanne Bocci was just over 2 minutes back.

5 Years Ago (From the Nov. 1984 ORW)--Ultra-distance specialist Alan Price, then 37 years old, continued to dominate any pretenders to his throne winning the National 100 Km title in 10:48:00. The race was held in Arlington, Virginia. Brian Savilonis was second in 11:18:09. . . In the Pan-American Cup, Columbia's Querebin Moreno excited the home folks by winning the 20 Km in 1:25:19. Guillermo Leblanc, Canada, was second, with Hector Moreno (Querbino's brother), and Jaime Lopez, Mexico following. Ray Funkhouser was the first U.S. walker in sixth with a 1:33:41. Mexico's Pedro Aroche won the 50 in 4:12:44. Carl Schueler was fourth in 4:20:56. Canada's Ann Peel (49:41) and Janice McCaffray (50:15) went one-two in the women's 10 Km. Ester Lopez took third in 50:55. . . Francois LaPointe was very impressive in winning the Canadian 50 Km in 3:52:16.

My Personal Road to the Olympics

by Larry Walker

(The following, printed in the December 1989 issue of the Southern California Racewalking News, is the major portion of an address given to an audience of young race walkers, coaches, and parents at the Youth National Road Championships on Memorial Day weekend in 1988.)

I am probably the most improbable person that I can imagine to make an Olympic team. In grade school, I was the last one to get picked on any team; I was a perennial bench warmer. I carry a great number of splinters even today from that experience.

When I finally got a chance to compete, it was in baseball. I was always put in right field where the birdies sing because they figured that was the most harmless place to put me. For a while in high school, it looked like things weren't getting any better. Finally, I had some athletic success my first year in track. I couldn't do anything very coordinated, but I could do it a long time. My coach told a friend of mine on the sly, "Walker runs like an elephant." Well, that wasn't very flattering. And when the athletic banquet came around, my coach dug deep for something nice to say about me and came up with, "Well, Larry Walker doesn't have any talent but he tries hard."

That was something of a rather minor, crushing defeat, but I went on and continued to compete through college and eventually got into walking. Then came 1976--and I decided if I was going to have a chance to compete in the Olympics, this was the year. When the day of the Trials came, I had no idea of how fast my competitors walked. Even to this day, I studiously avoid reading anything outside Southern California race walking news. (Ed. I know that Larry has never been an ORW subscriber.) So as we lined up at the start, I heard that I was the 18th fastest in the field of 21 walkers.

Too late to panic. The gun went off and 42 lungs went heaving forward. The first few miles felt pretty decent. Then all of a sudden, fatigue started hitting and I started cramping. I tried to hold on, but the guys were getting farther ahead. I thought about it being my last chance and kept trying, but nothing was working. It really felt bad seeing it go away.

Then I started drinking ERG and started feeling better. At about 8 miles, I passed Tom Dooley, who had already been on an Olympic team and I thought, "Son of a gun". Then I went a little farther and with two or three miles to go, I could see the three leaders ahead. I thought, "Wow, this is fantastic. I might not make it, but it is not shabby." With one lap, about one mile, to go, I moved by Larry Young; he already had two bronze medals from the Olympics, so I figured didn't need any more. I opened up about 45 seconds in the last mile, and all of a sudden, my thoughts were of making the team.

When Martin Rudow started shouting from a flat bed truck, "Here is your Olympic team--Todd Scully, Ron Laird, and Larry Walker", it really sank in. The three of us entered the stadium and about 20,000 people were making a lot of noise. Fortunately, I stayed on the ground, but I felt like I was five feet off. I finished the race, saw Todd, and grabbed his arm. We laughed and cried and have no idea of what we said. All I remember was saying to him that just before the race about the last thing I did was to go up to the chapel and appeal to a higher authority. Scully said that he had done something similar and I could relate.

Of my Olympic experience, I want to tell you a couple of things about the people I met. All the stereotypes that come from the media accentuate the negative. If someone is caught on drugs, it is splashed in the headlines; the 99 percent who are pretty clean and working hard, don't get any publicity. But I observed two things are solidly true in my fellow athletes.

First, they are vastly more intelligent than they are given credit for. Probably not more than one or two people in this room are aware that Edwin Moses graduated from Morehouse College with nearly straight A's in physics and math. We had two doctors, one lawyer, and an engineer. There were more advanced degrees than you can shake a stick at, but who knows this? I think it should be known.

The second thing I found was the depth of religious feeling among the athletes I met. I walked with Mormons, Baptists, Catholics, and others, and found that wherever I went, there was much more depth than I was ever led to believe from the accounts in the newspapers.

This gets me to the last point. What it is all about. For any of us who have ever gone to the top of a mountain during a workout and looked miles down to the start point, or who have ever been in a race when it was just a pure, clear, beautiful, perfect day, you know the great feeling. But this is not what makes someone an athlete. It's going out when it is too hot, too cold, too windy, too rainy, or when your muscles are aching and guts bursting. You feel miserable, but you still put on your track shorts and go out and do it. This is what makes an athlete. It doesn't matter how old you are. It is the day-to-day training.

Which gets me back to the question, "What is it all about?" I believe that our talent is God's gift to us; in the striving, in the racing, the losing and the winning, and so-called agony of defeat, we somehow dedicate ourselves through our athletics back to the source of our talent so that our sport has meaning and ultimately our life has meaning.

1989 WORLD RECORDS (Listed chronologically)

Women's 10 Km	43:26.12	Kerry Saxby, Australia, Canberra, 1/26
Women's 3 Km	12:13.75	Kerry Saxby, Australia, Sydney, 2/8
Men's 20 Km (road)	1:18:54	Yevgeniy Misyula, USSR, Sochi, 2/19
Men's 30 Km (road)	2:02:41	Andrei Perlov, USSR, Sochi, 2/19
Women's 5 Km	20:32.75	Kerry Saxby, Australia, Brisbane, 3/19
Women's 10 Km	43:08.4	Nadyezhda Ryashkina, USSR, Fana, 4/29
Women's 5 Km	20:27.59	Ileana Salvador, Italy, Trente, 6/3
Women's 5 Km (road)	20:25	Kerry Saxby, Aust., Hildesheim, 6/10
Men's 5 Km	18:28.80	Roman Mrazek, Czech., Bratislava, 6/14
Women's 10 Km	42:39.2	Ileana Salvador, Italy, Rome, 6/18
Track where not noted otherwise. Women's 3 Km and Men's 5 Km are World Bests, not records. Official records are not recognized at these distances.)		

PENDING USA RECORDS

(To be submitted at 1989 TAC/USA Convention contingent on receipt of supporting applications and course validations)

Senior Men, Outdoors--Track

3000 m	12:00.0	Richard Quinn, Sollefia, Swed., 7/7/89
50 Km	4:04:24	Herm Nelson, Seattle, 10/29/89

Senior Men, Outdoors--Road

10 Km	41:28	Tim Lewis, Niagara Falls, N.Y., 7/8/89
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40 K	3:07:45	Carl Schueler, Indianapolis, Ind., 4/24/88
20 Km	1:22:17	Tim Lewis, Dearborn, Mich., 9/24/89
50 Km	3:56:55	Marco Evoniuk, Seoul, Korea, 9/88

Junior Men, Outdoors--Track

1 Hour	12,554 m	Curt Clausen, Raleigh, N.C., 1986
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Senior Women, Outdoors--Track

3000 m	13:19.1	Maryanne Torrellas, Sollefte, Sweden, 7/7/89
5000 m	22:38.00	Teresa Vaill, Philadelphia, 4/29/89
5000 m	22:00.0	Lynn Weik, Duisburg, WG, 8/29/89
10 Km	46:44.1	Lynn Weik, Houston, 6/16/89
1 Hour	12,051 m	Victoria Herazo, Santa Monica, Cal., 12/88

Junior Women, Outdoors--Track

3000 m	14:24.99	Gretchen Eastler, Spokane, Wash., 7/30/89
10 Km	51:32.96	Deirdre Collier, Indianapolis, In., 7/16/88
1 Hour	10,209	Gretchen Eastler, Tuscon, Ariz., 4/12/88

The decade of the '80s started on a rather sour note, from the standpoint of athletes, with the U.S. Olympic boycott, a futile gesture. As we leave the decade behind, and in light of Larry Walker's inspiring words, I would like to repeat the editorial I wrote in the Feb. 1980 issue regarding that boycott.

OLYMPICS

(From the February 1980 ORW)

"Okay, editor--what about the Olympic boycott? Everyone else is speaking their piece. How about you? (But try to keep it brief. We've probably read too much about it already.)"

Well, okay, since you ask. But you have to realize I'm not too good at getting serious. Frankly, I have to admit I have been undecided on the issue. I read and hear convincing arguments on both sides--you've read them, too--and I am a traditional fence sitter, easily swayed by one side and then the other. However, watching the Winter Olympics and renewing my own Olympic experience convinces me we should be represented--and not just because the U.S. hockey team beat the Russian bear. I am not an idealist about the spirit of the Olympics and Olympic ideals--they have been badly tarnished, no doubt--but there is still a very positive force there and I think it is worth pursuing. Obviously, there is much going on not in the Olympic spirit, but need we contribute more.

There are some arguments put forth for going that I don't agree with. The fact that athletes have "trained for four long, hard years" is really not relevant. The Olympics is not the only competition available and I don't have any real sympathy for someone whose soul purpose is the Olympics. They are missing so much more that they will ever gain--there is so much more to sport and competition. Furthermore, even if we go, there will be many more athletes who "trained four long hard years" sitting at home than there are on the team.

Then hockey victory suggests another argument that has been proposed for going to Moscow--bury them in an avalanche of gold. Well, first, that, of course, is no more in the Olympic spirit than a boycott--it aint the object. And, second,

being realistic, we know it won't happen (despite the hockey win). Obviously, the U.S. should win more medals on the track (the only ones that count, some will say) and in the pool. Obviously, the Soviets should win more medals overall, as they have in recent years. And obviously, they will use those medals for purposes of propaganda, just as they are already using the fact that they have been entrusted to host the Games. But, our staying home will provide equally good grist for their very efficient and versatile propaganda mill, which has always been able to turn most anything to their advantage.

Now we all know that such a propagandistic approach is also not in the Olympic spirit. Coupling this unabashed use of the Olympics for propaganda with the blatant aggression in Afghanistan, President Carter and his advisors have decided that we cannot in good conscience compete in Moscow. (We have to realize, of course, that the President really has no say in the matter--the USOC will decide--but he certainly does have a voice that apparently is being heard. No doubt, this is a strong argument, particularly if they regard it purely as a symbolic act. Personally, I can't see any real effect on Soviet policy, but for obvious reasons, they aren't going to ask me about that.)

Returning to the Soviets not keeping faith with the Olympic spirit and ideals, the approach of most nations--including the U.S.--to Olympic competition has never fit. After all, we never made light of our nation's long-time dominance of the Games. We expected it and wanted more. And our concern in recent years about our failure to continue that dominance has grown. As a nation, we look on the Olympics as a chance to prove our might--winning is a lot more important than taking part, at least to those at home.

The idea of the Olympics as apolitical was squelched right from the start when they began carrying national flags, playing national anthems, limiting the entrants by nation, and so on. And how Lord Killanin can stand up and criticize President Carter for injecting politics into the Olympic arena and at the same time tell Nationalist China they can compete only if they change their name, flag, and anthem is beyond me. We could recite a long list of other purely political actions on the part of the IOC. So I am certainly not going to espouse that silly argument against President Carter's stand. But at the same time, the ideal is there and I see nothing wrong with our trying to uphold it. Because others choose to use the Games as a political tool, should we?

So just what is my argument? Probably nothing really rational--just a gut feeling that there is still something to be gained from healthy competition in the athletic arena and from interaction among people from throughout the world as part of that competition. I've been there, and I feel that. And I felt it watching on television. I recognize that everything is not perfect even in an Olympic village. There is no Utopia. But, I think athletes think and feel things that our wise leaders throughout the world seem unable to grasp. Maybe someday the message will come through. Bugged down in political morass though they may be, the Olympics still represent an ideal worth pursuing, one that comes a lot closer to being fulfilled on the individual-athlete to athlete-level than in the international bickering that catches the headlines--and maybe that individual level is where it's all at in the long run. Sure, there is a lot wrong in the Olympic movement, but I think there is a lot more right and it shouldn't be thrown over without some effort to put all things right. A massive boycott this summer would be a very big step toward the end of the modern Olympics. I'm not convinced that is something we want. (Jimmy Carter didn't listen to me, the boycott accomplished nothing, but the Olympics have survived.)

CENTURION

BY BOB CHAPIN 1988

On the outer fringe of the racewalk scene,
Dwells an ultra distance walking machine.
An enigma even in his own game.
An obscure breed with a special name,
Centurion.

In lonely workouts day by day,
He prepares himself in his chosen way,
To excel in a most demanding sport,
Where few succeed and most fall short.

He's hooked, it seems, on walking races,
Seeing old friends and meeting new faces,
Competing at times along the way
In events from a mile to the fifty K.

But ultra distance suits his style,
And his specialty is the hundred mile.
It towers in toughness above the rest,
And this is the one he does the best.

Four hundred laps on a quarter mile track.
Nearly four Marathons back to back.
One hundred gruelling miles, and yet,
Twenty four hours is all you get.

Few can average the kind of pace
It takes to complete this awesome race.
And though it demands your physical best,
It's even more of a mental test.

When confidence wanes and you give up hope,
You're near the proverbial end of your rope.
For a pivotal factor in this grind
Is the battle waged within the mind.

Just forty three walkers, for what it's worth,
In the Western Hemisphere of the Earth,
Have achieved this feat to the present date,
Since back in Eighteen-seventy eight.

A prestigious group to be ranked among.
There's Olympic medalist, Larry Young,
O'Neil, the legend from Kalispell,
And Shaul Ladany of Israel.

The amazing perennial Price from D.C.
Chuck Hunter with his "bionic" knee.
Since J.B. Gillie when it began,
This has been a unique and exclusive clan.

What drives a person with stride so quick
To seek this goal? What makes him tick?
Well, he can't expect to attain great fame.
And he won't get rich in this crazy game.

But he tackles the challenge because it's there,
Knowing some will scoff and most won't care,
For they'll never comprehend his mode
'Til they've worn those shoes and walked that road.

Through heat and cold and driving rain,
Learning to live with fatigue and pain.
Pushing themselves to the verge of collapse
From too many hours and too many laps.

Toiling on through the endless night,
Yearning for dawn's first ray of light,
Plagued with depression, burdened with doubt,
Fighting to keep from dropping out.

Rationalizing "Perhaps it's best
To stop and take just a little rest.
Surely I've earned some kind of a break.
And really, what difference can it make?"

But the cost of resting is losing ground,
While the others continue around and around,
And that unforgiving official clock
Keeps ticking on as if to mock.

Then with aching muscles so stiff and sore
That standing up is a major chore,
They'll feel compelled to struggle back
To the misery of that wretched track.

But if you survive and finish the course,
The bad stuff dims, and there's no remorse.
Forget the pain and the blistered feet.
You've won the battle, and victory's sweet.

Then the track is cleared, leaving little trace
Of the drama that has taken place,
And a strange perspective makes it seem
That maybe the nightmare was just a dream.

But nevertheless you'll vow, my friend,
"This is absolutely, I swear, the end.
And never again will I do this thing."
But the words have an old familiar ring.

Others have tried to chuck it all,
And hang their track shoes on the wall,
To stress categorically "This is it!"
But something inside wouldn't let them quit.

And whether or not you try it again,
You're different because of where you've been.
And now and then you'll reminisce
About those days and the friends you miss.

You'll take those trophies from the shelf,
And dust them off and ask yourself,
"Was it worth the price for this recompense?"
But the value's in what it represents.

You've paid your dues, so take your place.
The mark you've made, they won't erase.
From that list your name's enshrined upon,
With those who remain and those who've gone.

And all of us will fade at last,
But our wish will be, as the torch is passed,
Long live the spirit of the game.
Keep the tradition. Honor the name...
Centurion.