

Ohio Race Walker
3184 Summit Street
Columbus, Ohio 43202



OHIO RACEWALKER

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 7

COLUMBUS, OHIO

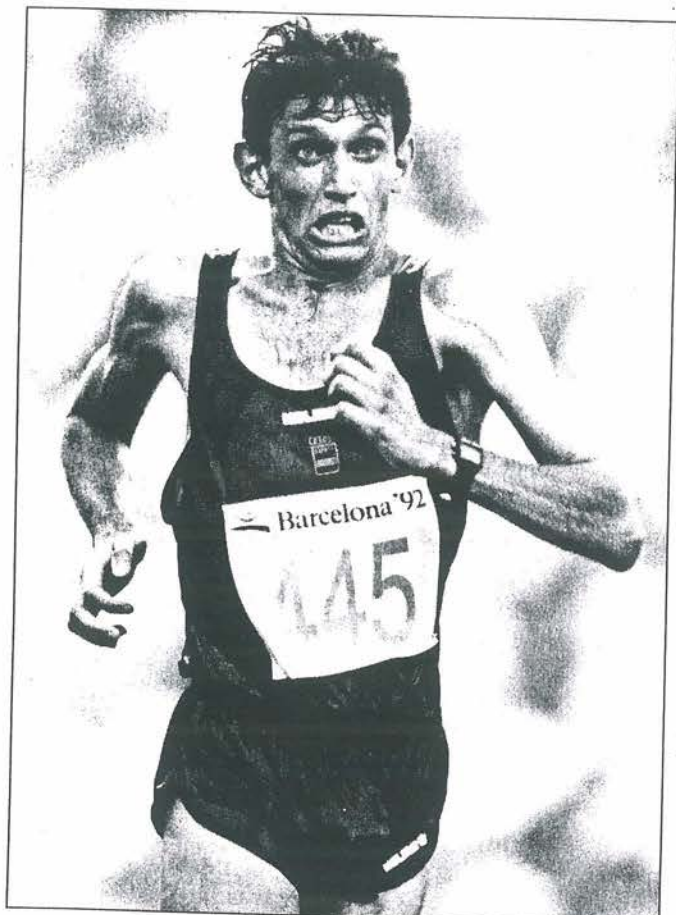
SEPTEMBER 1992

RACE RESULTS

3 Km, Bath Maine, July 8--1. Kevin Eastler (14) 13:32.7 (betters U.S. 15-16 age group record) 2. Mike Hersey (15) 16:33.3 3. Caleb Simpson (15) 17:12 **3 Km, Auburn, Maine, July 13--1.** Randy Easter 12:42 2. Kevin Eastler 13:06 (Again betters record) 3. Dave Burns 16:02 4. Caleb Simpson 16:23 **3 Km, Portland, Maine, July 17--1.** Kevin Eastler 13:09 2. Mike Hersey 16:21 3. Caleb Simpson 16:31 **1500 meters, Portland, Maine, July 17--1.** Sacha Devore (12) 8:42.7 **3 Km, Portland, Maine, July 24--1.** Kevin Eastler 13:13 2. Caleb Simpson 16:22 **3 Km, Brewer, Maine, July 26--1.** Kevin Eastler 13:02 (again betters record) 2. Caleb Simpson 15:59 **3 Km, Boston, August 12--1.** Kevin Eastler 13:12.2 2. Phil McGaw 14:42.4 3. Ken Matteson 15:58.1 4. Caleb Simpson 16:10 5. Mike Hersey 16:17.3 **34th Annual Win Benton "20 Km", Taunton, Mass., Aug. 24** (Course actually about 11.7 miles. I have to print that every year. Guess it's a traditional race and course, but seems they would either add a bit on or not call it a 20 Km)--1. Steve Vaitones 1:45:32 2. Joe Light 1:48:18 3. Phil McGaw 1:50:55 4. Paul Schell 1:51:18 5. Tom Knatt 2:01:39 6. Charlie Mansbach 2:01:42 7. Bill Murphy 2:09:11 (13 finishers) **Women:** 1. Emily Hewitt 2:09:44 (5 finishers) **8 Km, Massachusetts, Sept. 7** (I lost the cover sheet with the details)--1. Brian Savilonis 39:56 2. Joe Light 40:54 3. Phil McGaw 42:34 4. Bob Ullman 43:22 (all in 40-44 age group) 5. Justin Kuo 45:14 6. Tom Knatt (50-54) 45:52 7. Paul Schell (50-54) 45:55 8. Charlie Mansbach (45-49) 50:12 (18 finishers) **Women:** 1. Margaret Ferguson 52:46 2. Shelley Cantor 53:05 (both 40-44) (27 finishers) **8 Km, Alexandria, Virginia, August 8--1.** Victor Litwinski (48) 43:04 **Women:** 1. Glenda Elliott 51:09 **1 Mile, Alexandria, Aug. 13--1.** William Jesse Leggett (16) 7:42.4 2. Alison Zabrenski (13) 8:32.5 3. Victor Litwinski (48) 8:41.8 4. Cori Colling (13) 8:55.8 5. Newlie Hewson (69) 9:04.1 6. Nancy Whitney (56) 9:14.5 (10 finishers) **3 Km, same place--1.** William Jesse Leggett 14:59 2. Victor Litwinski 17:05.9 **1 Mile, Alexandria, Aug. 9--1.** Alan Price (47) 7:27.6 2. William-Jesse Leggett 8:03.4 3. Alison Zabrenski 8:48.2 4. Buddy Clark 8:54.5 5. Dan Kornhauser 9:07.9 6. Bill O'Reilly (66) 9:45.4 (10 finishers) **3 Km, same place--1.** Alan Price 16:40.4 **Tennessee State 5 Km, Kingsport, Sept. 12--1.** Ian Whatley 22:13 2. Curt Clausen 22:25 3. Dave Waddle 26:10 4. Gene Siller (1st 50-59) 29:57 (11 finishers) **Women:** 1. Cheryl Rellinger 25:41 2. Elizabeth Longton (1st 30-39) 28:20 3. Malissa Williams 29:06 (13 finishers) **South Carolina 20 Km Championship, Darlington, August 22--1.** Dave Waddle 1:51:10 2. Bill Bauer (1st 45-49) 2:11:51 3. Alfred Clowser (1st 55-59) 2:18:17 (6 finishers) **Georgia State Games 5 Km, July 19:** **Women--1.** Patti Henderson 29:08 2. Bev Smith 29:16 (1st 35-39) 3. Patty Voyules 29:46 **Men--1.** Leo Overmann 30:35 2. Charles Carter 30:46 (1st 40-44) **5 Km, Maitland, Florida, Sept. 12--1.** Burns Hovey 26:19 2. Ken Cutler 26:23 3. Chuck McLaughlin (1st 50-59) 27:47 4. Steve Christlieb (1st 40-49) 28:27 5. Jeff Vrunchy 29:10

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT COLUMBUS, OHIO

The Ohio Racewalker (USPS 306-050) is published monthly in Columbus, Ohio. Subscription rate is \$10.00 per year (\$12.00 outside the U.S.) Editor and Publisher: John E. (Jack) Mortland. Address all correspondence regarding both editorial and subscription matters to: Ohio Racewalker, 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Ohio Racewalker, 3184 Summit St., Columbus, Ohio 43202.



Claus Andersen/C.S.F.M.

Olympic 20 Km winner Daniel Plaza, looking a bit strained, but on his way to a decisive victory. (Claus Andersen photo from the Canadian publication *Athletics*.)

North American Masters 8 Km, Orlando, Florida, Sept. 19--1. Eric Schmook (27) 41:53 2. John Fredericks (44) 45:19 3. Gene Ophelm (46) 45:37 4. Dale Nelson (48) 46:20 5. Lee Duffner (56) 46:47 6. Tom White (60) 47:56 7. Jim Malone (45) 49:05 8. Robert Fine (61) 49:12 9. Bob Cella (55) 50:04 10. Chuck McLaughlin (52) 50:18
Women: 1. Alba Campbell (45) 49:32 2. Elizabeth Nelson (43) 49:39 (50 finishers overall) 3 **Miles, Miami, Aug. 16--1.** Robert Fine (61) 27:35 2. Bob Cella (54) 28:26 3. Sara E. Obannon 29:11 3 **Km, Miami, August 3--1.** Linda Stein (44) 16:10 2. John Fredericks (44) 15:02 (Places based on age/sex adjusted performance) 3. Donna Pape (40) 17:26 4. Sara O'Bannon 17:08 5 **Km, Miami, Aug. 29--1.** Dale Nelson 27:21 2. Elizabeth Nelson 29:15 3. Bob Fine 29:42 2 **Hour, Wothington, Ohio, Sept. 13--1.** Tim Blackburn (31) 21,200 meters 2. Jack Blackburn (56) 17,570 meters 3. Jack Shuter (62) 17,510 4. Mary Bridgeman (42) 17,435--Dan Gumbish (45) 8620 in 1 hour
Junior National T&F Championships, Columbus, Ohio, July 4 (Partial results last month): Men's 10 Km--1. James Spahr, Walk USA 48:16.13 (23:31) 2. Sean Albert, New Jersey Striders 48:37.63 3. Sean Linehan, Wisconsin-Parkside 49:54 4. William VanAxen, un., Oakdale, N.Y. 50:42 5. Justin Marrugo, un. Tomecula, Cal. 50:48 6. Yariv Pomeranz, Miami Walkers 51:06 7. Michael Dziejma, Walk USA 51:31 8. Elliot Taub, Tulane 52:29 9. Adam Mendonca, S.Cal. Roadrunners 53:02 10. Michael Tomasulo, SC Roadrunners 54:39 11. Stephen Harvey, Wis. Parkside 55:09 12. Giacomo Meeks, Houston, Texas 58:45 13. Cory Bluhm, George West TC 59:18 14. Scott Stewart, Loveland, Col. 59:34 Women's 5 Km--1. Susan Armenta, Wis. Parkside 23:33.07 2. Deborah Iden, Bayport, N.Y. 24:39.48 3. Melissa Baker, Walk USA 25:16 4. Jennifer Grego, Outsiders TC 25:19 5. Lisa Chumbley, Clear Lake HS, Houston 25:42 6. Debra Carter, Outsiders TC 26:28 7. Sarah Gordon, Rye, N.Y. 27:30 8. Almee Parson, Boca Grande TC 27:53 9. Debra Scott, Westchester Shore 28:20 1 **Hour, Warren, Mich., Sept. 12--1.** Dan O'Brien 12,742 meters 2. John Hunyady (41) 11,632 3. Max Green (60) 11,451 4. John Elwarner (53) 11,037 5. Bob Campbell (47) 10,619 6. Gerald Bocci (54) 10,399 7. Leon Jasionowski (47) 10,178 8. Wally Lubzik (53) 9403 9. Greg Near (37) 9274 10. Johnny Parks (62) 9265 Women: 1. Jeanne Bocci (49) 10104 2. Susan Kott (47) 8535 3. Susan Lolli (40) 8101 5 **Km, Plainwell, Mich., July 26--1.** Gerald Haas 26:47 2. Joe Ferrara 28:24 3. Kenneth Cyr 29:10 4. Bob Wait 29:29 5. Tim Brostrom 30:18 Women: 1. Nacy Bly Latoszewski 27:09 2. Carol Achterhoff-Berry 29:59 **Gulf 1 Mile, Houston, July 24--1.** Dana Yarbrough 6:52.9 (First Texas under 7 minutes barely 4 months after becoming the first Texas woman under 8 minutes; 25 years old) 2. Lisa Chumbley (16) 7:25.9 3. Pat Perry 8:16 4. Amy Colwell 8:24 **Gulf Masters 1500 meters, Pasadena, Aug. 8--1.** Pat Perry 7:41.2 1600meters, Houston, Aug. 13--1. Lisa Chumbley 7:49.2 10 **Km, Houston, Aug. 15--1.** Lisa Chumbley 59:56 **Gulf 15 Km, Houston, Sept. 13--1.** Pat Perry 1:36:21 2. Jay Byers 1:36:52 5 **Km, Denver, July 18--1.** Mike Blanchard 25:56 2. Sally Richards-Kerr 26:33 3. Pater Armstrong (47) 27:46 4. Dennis Crock (44) 30:00 5. Chris Chase 30:03 6. Gerald Storie 30:16 5 **Km, Lafayette, Col., July 25--1.** Dan Pierce 24:01 2. Chris Amorosa (58) 28:26 3. Daryl Meyers (49) 28:57 4. Dennis Crock 29:39 5. Christine Chase 29:56 6. Dan Dea (41) 30:38 **Doc Tripp 10 Km, Boulder, Col.--1.** Sean Linehan (18) 54:26 2. Peggy Miller 56:04 3. Alan Yap (50) 58:05 4. Dee Walker 59:18 5. Dennis Crock (44) 61:35 6. Chris Amorosa (58) 62:24 5 **Km, same place--1.** Daryl Meyers 29:47 2. Christine Chase 29:53 3. Marianne Martino (42) 30:34 5 **Km, Denver, Aug. 2--1.** Claudia Leonard 24:35 2. Sally Richards-Kerr 24:47 3. Pat Cooper (42) 27:40 4. Daryl Meyers 27:43 5. Hal

Link (43) 28:05 6. John Tarin (40) 28:37 7. Christine Chase 29:16 8. Gerald Storie (59) 29:43 (102 finishers) 5 Km, Littleton, Col., Aug. 23--1. Daryl Meyers 29:09 5 Km, Denver, Aug. 30--1. Andrzej CHylinski 21:26 2. Curtis Fisher 21:26 3. Andreas Luttmann, Germany 21:47 4. Dan Pierce 25:06 5. Carl Schueler 25:06 (started late) 6. Sally Richards-Kerr 25:43 7. Mike Blanchard 25:51 8. Claudia Leonard 26:02 9. Creg McGuire (44) 26:15 10. Pewggy Miller 26:30 11. Akbar Khalso (45) 26:57 12. Annette Sargent 26:58 13. M.B. Woods (45) 27:11 14. Alan Yap (50) 27:15 15. Patricia Cooper (42) 28:23 16. Gene Casey (44) 28:45 17. Daryl MEyers (49) 28:49 18. Dennis Crock (44) 29:05 19. Christine Chase 29:26 20. Jerry Quiller (50) 30:02 21. Marianne Martino (42) 30:04 (80 finishers) 5 Km, Boulder, Col., Sept. 5--1. Bob DiCarlo (58) 27:58 2. Patricia Cooper 28:04 3. Ray Franks (57) 29:39 5 Km, Ft. Collins, Col., Sept. 5--1. Mike Blanchard 25:17 2. Alan Yap 27:08 3. Douglas Gennetten 30:06 1 Hour, Aurora, Col., Sept. 7--1. Alan Yap 10,711 meters 2. BOB DiCarlo 10,537 3. Albert Liebold 9965 4. John Lyle (59) 9645 5. Vilmaris Strautins (58) 9487 6. Judith Cabrera 9340 7. Gerald Storie (60) 9306 8. Klaus Timmerhaus (67) 8852 5 Km, Denver, Sept. 7--1. Mike Blanchard 25:48 2. Sally Richards-Kerr 26:17 3. Daryl Meyers 27:57 4. Christine Chase 29:09

Tournament of Walkers, Pasadena, Sept. 12: 3 Km--1. Larry Walker 12:55 2. Murray Day 13:54 3. Andrew Hecker 15:59 4. Steve Leitner 16:07 5. Carl Warrell 16:46 6. Bill Neder 16:54 7. Carl Acosta 17:20 Women: 1. Donna Cunningham 16:48 5 Km--1. Richard Lenhart 24:25 2. Bill Neder 29:08 Women--1. Donna Cunningham 28:01 2. Helen Gerundo 30:08 10 Km--1. Murray Day 49:08 2. Chris Dreher 53:41 3. Richard Oliver 57:02 **National Jr. Olympics, Walnut, Cal., July 27:** Bantam Boys 1500--1. Tristan Ruoss, Ark. 7:18.43 2. Jonathan CHeney, Ore. 7:58 3. Isaac Ingersoll, Ill 8:20 Bantam Girls 1500--1. Elizabeth Paxtyon, Cal. 7:55.04 Midget Boys 1500--1. Jonathan Snowden, Ore. 7:35.55 2. Brian Colbey, Wis. 7:37 3. Nathan Williams, Cal. 8:07 4. Eric Wilson, N. Mex. 8:09 5. Lee Avila, Neb. 8:10 6. Justin Eastler, Maine 8:10 Midget Girls 1500--1. Lara Ruoss, Ark. 7:31.22 2. Lisa Kutzing, N.Y. 7:38 3. Virginia Jones, Tex. 7:44 4. Renee Castelo, Cal. 7:57 5. Sasha Devore, Maine 7:58 6. Nicole Jenkins, Ariz. 8:15 Youth boys 3 Km--1. Aaron Mendonca, Cal. 15:54.64 2. Shaun Michelson, Cal. 16:61.92 3. Ryan Edmiston, Ore. 16:52 4. Justin LaFreniere, Maine 17:17 Youth Girls 3 Km--1. Anya-Maria Ruoss, Ark. 14:46.66 2. Dori Caracchiolo, Cal. 16:27 3. Adrienne Corker, Kan. 16:37 4. Erin Taylor, Ore. 16:44 5. EWElizabeth Younger, Tex. 16:49 Intermediate Boys 3 Km--1. Justin Marrojo, Cal. 13:38.78 2. Jose Cabrera, Cal. 15:36 3. Juan Plascencia, Cal. 16:15 4. Michael Hersey, Maine 16:18 5. Caleb Simpson, Maine 16:22 (9 finishers, 3 DQs including Kevin Eastler, Maine) Intermediate Girls 3 Km--1. Aimee Parson, N.M. 16:43.66 2. Anna Davis, Wash. 17:01 3. Rebecca Parson, N.M. 17:17 Young Men 3 Km--1. Sean Albert, N.J. 14:11.11 2. Adam Mendonca, Cal. 14:26 3. Mike Tomasulo, Cal. 14:27 4. Mauricio Flores, Cal. 14:55 5. Joseph Sheppard, Cal. 15:01 Young Women 3 Km--1. Maya Ruoss, Ariz. 15:55.00 2. Kathleen Law, Wash. 16:31 5 Km, Paradise, Cal., Aug. 29--1. Karen Stoyanowski 26:16 2. Randy Avellar 28:14 3 Km, Seattle, Aug. 22--1. Stan Chraminski 14:43 2. Bob Novak 15:33 4 Mile, Seattle, Aug. 23--1. Bob Novak 33:50 2. Sarah Klaudt 37:22 3. Bev LaVeck 37:30 4. Steve Fredrickson 37:44 5. Dave Snyder 39:21 2.8 Mile, Seattle, Sept. 3--1. Allen James 18:54 (Smashes Dan Pierce's course record of 19:27) 2. Stan Chraminski 22:35 3. Bev LaVeck 26:21 4. Claude Wrathall 26:51 1/2 Marathon, Seattle, Sept. 8--1. Allen James 1:37:33 2. Stan Chraminski 1:54:46 3. Bev LaVeck 2:13:09 4. Claude Wrathall

2:17:21 **Ultramarathon of Panama, Sept. 6** (50.4 miles across the isthmus)--Steve Fredrickson, Kent, Wash. 12:07:34 (Only race walker) **US-Canada Junior T&F Meet, Winnipeg, July 31:** Men's 10 Km--1. Pascal Pedneault, Can. 47:02.11 2. Sean Albert, US 47:46.36 3. James Spahr, US 48:56.88 Women's 5 Km--1. Susan Armenta, US 24:47.86 2. Mylene Dupere, Can 25:46.77 3. Deborah Iden, US 26:53.25 4. Joanne Fox, Can. 28:17.80 **World Junior Games, Seoul, Sept. 20--Women's 5 Km--1.** Hongmiao Gao, China 21:20.03 2. Jane Saville, Australia 21:58.64 3. Miki Irakura, Japan 22:25.58 5 Km, West Meath, Ireland, July 26--1. Philip Dunn, U.S. and Pat Ryan 22:37 **Irish under 23 National 10 Km, Dublin, Aug. 9--1.** Pat Ryan 46:55.5 2. Philip Dunn same time

PLANNED PERAMBULATORY PROGRESSION PARTIES (Scheduled races, to some)

Sat. Oct. 10	5 Km, Dearborn, Michigan, 9 am (E) 2 Mile, Rockport, Texas (BB)
Sun. Oct. 11	5 Mile, Deal, N.J. (A) 4 Mile, Denver, 9 am (H) 2 Mile, El Paso, Texas (M)
Sat. Oct. 17	New Mexico State 10 Km, Albuquerque (L) 10 Km, Seaside, California (Y) Metropolitan 30 Km, New York City (X) 15 km, Grand Island, NY, 9:30 am (CC) 5 Km, Virginia Beach, 9:30 am (AA) 5 Km, Hollywood, Florida, 7:30 am (Q) North American Masters 20 Km, Midland, Texas (BB)
Sun. Oct. 18	1 Hour, Arlington, Virginia (J) National TAC 2 Hr, Women's/Master's 1 Hr, Canbridge, Mass. (U) Metropolitan 5 Km, New York City, 9 am (Z) Detroit Free Press Marathon (O)
Sat. Oct. 24	Metropolitan 40 Km, New York City (X) 5 Km, Cleveland, Ohio, 9 am (P) 5 Km, Denver (H) 5 Km, Dearborn, Michigan, 9 am (E) 10 Km, Seaside, Cal., 9 am (D) Gulf 25 Km and 10 Km, Houston (BB)
Sun. Oct. 25	Henry Laskau 5 Mile, Miami, Florida, 8 am (Q)
Sat. Oct. 31	5 Km, Denver (H)
Sun. Nov. 1	New York City Marathon, 10:40 am 20 and 50 Km, Columbus, Ohio, 8 am (T)
Sun. Nov. 8	5 Mile, Manalapan, N.J., 11:15 am (A) 5 Km, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 7:30 am (Q) 5 Km, Clarksburg, Cal. (Y)
Sat. Nov. 14	10 Km, Denver (H)
Sun. Nov. 15	5 Km, New York City, 10 am (G) 1 Hour, Monmouth, NJ, 10 am (A)

- Half Marathon and 5 Km, Miami, 7:30 am (Q)
 1 Hour, Marin, Cal. (Y)
 Sat. Nov. 21 10 Mile, Clarksville, Tenn., 8:30 am (R)
 MAC 40 Km, New York Clty, 10 am (X)
 5 Km, Plainview, NY (S)
 8 Km, Naples, Florida, 7:30 am (Q)
 Sun. Nov. 22 Coney Island 10 Mile Handicap, 9 am (K)
 1 Hour, Monmouth, NJ, 10 am (A)
 Northeast 10 Km, Concord, Mass. (F)
 Thu. Nov. 26 10 Km, Detroit (O)
 4 Mile, Denver (H)
 Fri. Nov. 27 5 Mile, Freehold, NJ, 11am (A)
 Sun. Nov. 29 5 Km, New York Clty, 10 am (G)
 Gulf 35 Km, Houston and 10 Km (BB)
 Tue. Dec. 1 5 Km, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 6:30 pm (Q)
 Sat. Dec. 5 5 Km, Miami, 8:15 am (Q)
 5 and 10 Km, Miami, 6:30 pm (Q)
 Sun. Dec. 6 Shore AC 1 Hour, Monmouth, NJ, 10 am (A)
 5 Km, Miami, 6 pm (Q)
 4.4 Mile, Denver, 9 am (H)

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LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED AND SEEN REGARDING OLYMPICS AND TV COVERAGE

Dear Editor:

After disappointing coverage of the men's 20 Km and women's 10 Km racewalks on the Olympic Triplecast, we finally received the coverage we wanted of the 50 Km race, due in large part to the lack of events on the track during the final stages of the race. Unfortunately for those who support racewalking, the athletes and judges let us down. Marty Liquori and Frank Shorter, two admitted non-experts in racewalking, even showed our rules are difficult to understand by trying to read and interpret the rule book on the air. If nothing else, the wording of warning versus disqualification needs to be changed. It doesn't make sense to call something a disqualification and then need three of them to be actually disqualified. Maybe if we simply call these warnings and points, with 3 points equaling disqualification. Or how about strikes--3 strikes and you're out. That's something the American public could understand.

This wasn't the worst of it though. Carlos Mercenario, the silver medal winner, bent his knees and jogged around the curved course turnarounds. The cameramen were not shy about showing this to us nor were the commentators shy about pointing it out. The advantage of slow motion showed Perlov, the winner, to be lifting every step of the race. (Ed. See photo page 15, but, again, remember judging is with the naked eye on the spot and no one as yet has come forth with a practical alternative.)

Perhaps we're doing it backwards using "experienced" judges. All they seem to do is give more benefit of the doubt. Maybe we need some type of impartial "off the street" judges (like the U.S. jury system?). Read them the rules of walking and let them at it. Then the premium will be on who looks the most like they are walking versus who can bend the rules and, as the commentators mentioned, create the illusion of being on the ground when they are not. As it is, the writer who recently said we don't want to get TV exposure because of these problems was correct. Our sport became a joke in front of millions (billions?) of viewers. Making the human eye the judge is fine, but not when the technology exists to show its failings so readily. Even the most ardent defender of our sport would have had a difficult time of it at this broadcast.

What's the answer? Perhaps racewalking, along with many other limited participation sports, should just be eliminated from the Olympic venue and allowed to be what it is, a minor sport for real diehards, most of whom are in it, at least in our country, due to injury or lack of success at other events. Either that, or anyone who appears to be floating at all must be disqualified, even if that means we all have to walk a minute a mile slower to "look" like we are walking. Or maybe all the "races" should be held on treadmills where a beep goes off when we break contact and three beeps and your are out. Last person standing wins. A solution,

either through technology or some type of rules change, needs to be found if the sport is to continue to exist.

Stan Chraminski
Seattle, Washington

Another view, in a letter that also comments on the U.S. Trials:

Dear Mr. Editor:

In his Track and Field News report, Bob Bowman touched on the judge's frustration at trying to work in the dark at the Olympic Trials. The SE region's major publication *Running Journal* was more blunt, describing the walks trials as a "complete fiasco". As a competitor, I would have to say that race conditions were unfair on both the athletes and the judges.

Martin Rudow's comments were astute, but I suggest that instead of placing blame for the poor choice of start times and the inclusion of an inexperienced judge in the men's race, we should try to avoid any recurrence. Maybe TAC rule 150 Section 4 (c) should be amended to ensure that all parts of walking events are sufficiently illuminated to permit accurate judging.

(Regarding TV coverage) After the Triplecast's efforts to avoid any coverage of the 10 and 20, I was lucky enough to be contacted by a reporter for *USA Today*, who wanted to know if I thought the transmission was worth the money. ...I felt much better after telling exactly what I thought! Ironically, the following day, NBC added 50 Km coverage to the schedule, most likely because the first round of the relay was cancelled. The film of the race was excellent, but the commentators were in need of some random drug testing.

Ian Whatley

And Ian had the following letter published in *USA Today*:

I participate in racewalks. So I was interested in the Triplecast because the ads said they would cover all the track and field finals in their entirety. It's a lie. We had maybe 4 minutes of the men's 20 Kilometer racewalk, about 1 minute 40 seconds of the women's 10 Km, and there will be no coverage of the men's 50 Km. (Ian's letter came before the 50.) I'm so disgusted, I'm going to ask for my money back. It was misleading advertising. When they have every throw in women's javelin, every round of the 100 meter races, it's pretty pathetic to show only parts of the women's racewalk final. And the commentators don't even know what they're talking about. It's been a complete ripoff.

Ian Whatley, Greenville, S.C.

Copy of a letter to Mr. Ray Wright, President, NBC TV:

Dear Mr. Wright,

Despite Bob Costas' excellent prime-time "salute to the race walkers" feature, I feel that NBC again really missed the boat in terms of its race walking coverage in the 1992 Olympics, and 80 million recreational racewalkers in the U.S. would certainly agree.

It is a fact that in at least three Olympics—1968, 1972, and 1984—the loudest crowd reaction (noise level, cheering) to any track and field event was for a racewalk. And in Barcelona, "the locals went loco" for the 20 Km walk in the words of Bob Costas.

The spectators in the Olympic Stadium, like the general TV audience, are not die-hard track and field fans who only care about certain events or certain stars. So why do they get so excited about the long races, which, like the marathon, are mainly held outside the stadium? My theory is that by updating them on the progress of the races (by way of the stadium TV screen and/or PA announcer) suspense builds and builds. People start hoping for a certain athlete (or country) to win and really get involved emotionally. Remember, these people are not watching most of the race, which is outside the stadium, but it is on their mind.

With NBC's "coverage", we did not know what athletes were in the racewalk events, how they were doing, or even that the races had started. Only one athlete was even mentioned by name, and that was the winner of the 20 Km walk, Barcelona native Daniel Plaza, as he approached the finish line! (Too late to build any excitement.)

You have tried to build such emotional involvement by profiling "stars" before various events. Racewalkers need role models too! It is a shame that 10 Km walker Michelle Rohl, the athlete in your MCI commercial, had to call home to tell family and friends how she did. Can you imagine any of the top American track athletes having to do that? It would have been nice for the Triplecast announcers to have told us how the Americans did in this most historic event.

Yes, historic. You blew a historic opportunity. In 1984, the first Olympic women's marathon was held in LA—a real big media event. 1992 featured the first women's Olympic racewalk and the U.S. was represented by three beautiful women—one of whom, Debbi Lawrence, was a medal contender. NBC totally ignored this event. Why?

Though Marty Liquori was very positive in his comments during the Triplecast, your track experts are surprisingly ignorant of racewalking rules and procedures to disqualify athletes. Why not have them read a rulebook or, better yet, get a racewalker who knows what is going on. For example, it was said that an athlete gets a warning and is disqualified if he gets another one. Wrong. This went about 20 years ago. To protect the athlete, it now takes three judges (from three different countries) to independently disqualify the walker. The DQ calls are posted on a board; and when an athlete gets three marks he is out. The trade-off is that it takes a while for the calls to be collected and recorded on the chart, so athletes in violation rules are often not disqualified immediately. On occasion, they may even get the bad news after they have finished the race. People ignorant of this—including the Triplecast announcers—conclude that athletes are cheating and getting away with it.

Likewise, judging must be done from a position that is perpendicular to the athletes direction of travel. When viewed from the front or rear, racewalkers often look like they have lost contact and are breaking the rules.

Enough of the technical stuff. The starts of the Olympic racewalks—with more than 100 athletes on the line—are visually exciting events sure to please your viewers. None were shown. Why?

A parallel was the use of the underwater tracking camera in swimming. I hate swimming and don't even follow its "stars", but I kept watching it because the camera was so beautiful.

My biggest complaint is that the 20 Km walk final was not given more air time even though it was scheduled to go against meaningless qualifying heats in the sprints. Something is wrong when athletes going for medals are ignored while sprinters are glorified while jogging to qualify in their events. That's not drama.

Though things are getting a little better (no clown music or wisecracks this time), it clearly appears that some high level NBC track and field producer or director has been making a conscious decision to keep race walking subordinate to the other track and field events. Why?

Jim Hanley
Westlake Village, California

Jim also sent a copy of a letter to Bob Costas:

Dear Bob,

As one of the racewalkers who has written you in the past, I just wanted to drop you a note complimenting you on your prime-time Olympic race walking feature that aired on August 8. It was great.

Your comments about racewalkers writing letters were really funny. Importantly, this good-natured humor was not done at the expense of cutting down a great sport or its athletes. Thank you for your fine work.

You did make one mistake, however. You said that racewalking has been in the Olympics since 1932. Your researchers missed it badly, as our sport has been on the Olympic program since 1906, a year in which an American, George Bonhag, actually won a gold medal in a race walk.

Jim Hanley

(Ed. Note that 1906 was not an official Olympics, but the walk has been continuous since then, with the exception of 1928. That's probably what threw the Costas' researchers.)

And from on the scene, where things were apparently better, a brief note from Howie Palamarchuk:

Just back from Barcelona. Missed the 20 Km due to flight problems out of N.Y., but got to see women's 10 Km and 50 Km. Both excellent and exciting races. So nice to see the walks treated with respect and embraced by all those loving athletics. Witness the enclosed. (Ed. He sent copies of a *TV Guide* type magazine and the TV guide from a newspaper, the former featuring a photo of Jose Marin together with a blurb on the time for the live telecast of the 50 km, the latter giving

similar treatment to the women's 10 Km.) Could you imagine *TV Guide* listing the walks in such a fashion? Also a front page color picture of Daniel Plaza. As I left Spain, I noticed in the airport Plaza's picture on the cover of a Time-like magazine.

Howard Palamarchuk

A letter to the *LA Times*:

The professionalism of sport has reached its logical conclusion in the 1992 Olympic Games and the scene is ugly.

Charles Barkley elbows an Angolan in the opening Dream Team game and later states that the Olympics are not about making friends but about making money, marketing himself and the NBA. All three medalists in the shotput have just graduated from bans resulting from recent steroid use. And many are

When I made my first Olympic team (1976), Avery Brundage ran the Games, and the excesses were very different. An athlete who coached a high school team for a few hundred dollars would be banished forever from amateur sports. Old Avery was fanatic, but sports were much cleaner and somehow more noble.

Materialism wins the gold now, and the million-dollar contract rules supreme.

It is still true that most athletes do honor to their nations and to the talents they have been given, and they do so with an attitude of humility and a little awe. The Olympic Games still possess a greatness that sets them apart. But how many of us wometimes stop and wonder what has been lost?

Larry Walker
U.S. Olympic Teams 1976 and 1980, 20 Km walk

General comments from the editor: I didn't see the Triplecast. Since we were going to be off at a cabin in a state park for the primary week of track and field (dictated by when my wife could get away--no, it didn't upset me), I didn't subscribe. (It's not certain that I would of had I been home.) So I didn't even see much of NBC's coverage of track. I did see the 20 Km finish before we left and Bob Costas' comments, which were after we were home. I didn't feel quite so positive about what he said as did Jim Hanley. It seemed to me it was all tinged with a lingering bit of sarcasm, which he barely suppressed in his final comment, which was to the effect that he was biting his tongue. But, it was an improvement over the past. And I did see a tape of the Triplecast 50 Km coverage when Ron Laird stopped by on his way back to Ashtabula from several months in California. I agree with Jim here that some racewalking expertise was sorely needed. Stan Chraminski makes some valid points, but things weren't as bad as the announcers, in their lack of wisdom, made them appear. I'm not sure where Korzenowski picked up his red cards (but, he had five of them, so it wasn't a narrow decision), but from what I was seeing over the last 15 Km, I would certainly have been paying more attention to both Perlov and Mercenario. But, who cares, since I'm not a certified judge. Anyway, the photo on the last page suggests they were worthy of attention--and maybe they were getting it. It's still a question of how they look to the naked eye, on the spot, without the benefit of video, movies, or still photos.

Since this discussion has led us back to the age-old judging issue, Viisha Sedlak in the most recent issue of her *American Racewalk Association Quarterly Newsletter* has a long treatise on the subject. Perhaps we will have room to include it in a future issue. But a major point is her suggestion that the contact rule be eliminated—something suggested at length and quite eloquently by Ron Laird several years ago in these pages. Viisha says: "Lifting cannot be consistently judge at elite-level speeds. Why is there a rule that cannot be fairly judged by the human eye? It is ludicrous to have this rule and it should be eliminated. The straight leg of a racewalker creates the critical change in biomechanics that separates the technique from that of a runner. In any case, lifting away from the ground actually slows the racewalker because the walkers speed and power come from turnover." This refutes the old argument that without a contact we will just have "straight legged running." Obviously, that's not true, as there is a decided difference in the mechanics. But, I wonder about not gaining speed—why do athletes seem to lift more the faster they go?

Before we leave the subject, Peter Marlow, chairman of the IAAF Committees on Rules and Publications, discussed judging issues at length in the May 1992 issue of the British publication *Race Walking Record*. As part of that discussion, he made the following proposals to help athletes and judges:

1. All walkers shall wear a shoe with a heel of at least 3/8 of an inch prominence. If this rule was enforced, a walker would almost certainly have to advance with heel down first, ensuring possibly both contact and straight leg. (Ed. Way back when I came into the sport, most walkers wore such shoes.)
2. Abolish the warning system. This rule states that competitors should be warned when they are "in danger of breaking the rule". I have never been able to understand this. (Ed. Nor have I.) A walker is either breaking the rule or not. Surely, all competitors, in theory, are in danger of breaking the rule.
3. Replace the white warning system with a yellow symbol. This yellow symbol would indicate that the competitor is breaking the rules in the judge's opinion and the judge is sending a red card to the chief judge. The system would then continue as at present, i.e., three DQ cards equals disqualification.
4. Before a competitor is disqualified, he must receive three DQ cards for contact or three for bent leg. I have always thought it very unfair, especially in a 50 kilometers race, when a competitor may receive two DQ cards in the first few kilometers for contact, settle down to walking without problems for the next 40 kilometers and then be disqualified because the chief judge receives a third red card for a bent leg offense when the athlete is tiring. (Ed. I would suggest that we change from three cards to a majority of the judges, but the cards may be for either offense. Thus, if there are eight judges, it will take five cards. I think judging needs to be tighter, but why should an athlete be disqualified when a majority of the judges feel he or she is okay, as is now the case? Of course, this is an improvement over the day when a single judge could toss you. But if judges knew that it was going to take a majority to disqualify a walker, they might be less lenient

than they tend to be now. They would be less on the spot as an individual. Just a thought.)

FROM HEEL TO TOE

With the next issue, the ORW is dropping its Second Class mailing permit. Everything will be mailed First Class. Nearly half the subscribers have been paying for First Class anyway and there is a lot of hassle with the second class mailing. As you will note in the statement at the top of page 2, the subscription rate is now a flat \$10.00. It has been a few years since our rates went up (we held the line with the last increase in postage rates), and this will cover us against future increases in postal rates. As always, we are just trying to break even, not make a fortune. For those who feel cheated because they have paid extra for first class postage, find the proverb of the men in the fields in your Bible—you are getting what you paid for and a better deal than those who must renew this month. If anyone who has just renewed at second class rates feels guilty, you can salve your conscience by sending more if you want, but I'm not asking for it. Again, you paid in good faith the going rate at the time. Subscribers in other lands, will note that the rate outside the U.S. is now \$12.00. . . Once again the National T&F Hall of Fame has bypassed racewalk great Henry Laskau and Ron Laird remains the only walker among the 146 athletes inducted to date. Not quite a fair proportion. Named this year were coaches Sam Bell and Jess Mortenson, sprinter Charlie Greene, and 400 meter runners Charlie Jenkins and Archie Williams. Others nominated besides Laskau were Willie Steele, Don Lash, and Lindy Remigino. It was the sixth time Henry has been nominated. His credentials far exceed those selected, except he has the stigma of being an (ugh) walker. . . A new subscriber wants to know if there are any electronic bulletin boards devoted to racewalking. I'm not aware of any. Is anyone else? Does anyone want to start one? . . Tom Eastler, of the Western Maine Racewalkers, passes on to our readers the fact that Veneto Sport Awards in New Jersey "is the source of some fabulous medals. Currently, there are two models, one with one male walker and one with five male walkers. The one walker model comes in four sizes, and the five-walker model comes in three sizes. These medals are imported from Italy and are beautifully detailed. . . a class act. My contact there assured me that if I supplied some photographs of female racewalkers, she would take them with her in October to Italy, and the company would have a women's version of the same medals designed by their artist and produced by as early as December or January. For a copy of their brochure write to: Veneto Sport Awards, ATTN: April, P.O. Box 778, Jackson, NJ 08527 or call (908) 363-6922." Tom goes on: "You'll find that these are the best racewalk medals on the market by far. They are also the least expensive, and the service is fantastic. I needed 35 sets of gold/silver/bronze 42mm single-person medals for my racewalk carnival and only found out about Veneto 4 days before the race. I had the medals in two days based on a phone call to April. I tried the only two other sources that I could identify, one in New York and one in Massachusetts, and what they had to offer was very expensive and they could not deliver the quantity I needed immediately." . . In the women's 10 Km at Barcelona, it turns out that Alina Ivanova, who crossed the line first only to learn of her disqualification, had picked up one red card out on the course. (We reported last month that she none as they approached the stadium.) She got another coming

through the tunnel into the stadium when she darted from third to the lead. But with the lead and only needing to hold form to win, she made a spurt to try and open a safer lead with about 150 meters to go and immediately got the third red card. We also learn that Italy's Ilean Salvador in fourth (third with Ivanova's DQ), just ahead of Chunxiu Li of China, only to learn that she, too, was DQ'd. So Li, thinking she was in fifth as she finished, got the bronze medal.

LOOKING BACK

25 Years Ago (From the Sept. 1967 ORW)—Ron Laird won the National 15 Km in 1:08:13, 3 1/2 minutes ahead of Steve Hayden, with Jack Blackburn a strong third. . The first U.S. 100 miler of this century was held on the track in Columbia, Missouri, and Montana's 60-year-old Larry O'Neill broke the long-standing record with 19:24:52, walking an amazingly even pace all the way.

20 Years Ago (From the Sept. 1972 ORW)—Olympic titles in Munich went to the GDR's Peter Frenkel at 20 Km in 1:26:42 and West Germany's Bernd Kannenberg at 50 Km in 3:56:12. Vladimir Golubnichiy took the silver at 20, his fourth Olympic medal at the distance—golds in 1960 and 1968, bronze in 1964. Hans-Gerog Reimann and Gerhard Sperling completed a near sweep for the GDR in the 20 with third and fourth places, and the USSR's Veniamin Soldatenko took silver at 50. For the U.S., Larry Young was brilliant with a 10th place finish at 20 preceding his bronze medal performance in the 50. He missed 4 hours by just 46 seconds. In the 20, Tom Dooley was 15th and Goetz Klopfer 19th, and at 50, Bill Weigle took 17th and Steve Hayden 27th.

10 Years Ago (From the Sept. 1982 ORW)—The U.S. finished ahead of Great Britain and Norway, but behind West Germany and Sweden in a five-team international. Sweden's Bo Gustavsson won the 50 in 3:53:22 with Maraco Evoniuk second in 4:03:13. Germany's Franz Josef Weber won the 20 in 1:24:46 as Jim Heiring walked 1:25:32 in third and Ray Sharp 1:26:48 in fourth. . Sports Festival titles went to Heiring at 20 in 1:28:19 and Ray Somers at 50 in 4:37:50. . Jose Marin of Spain won a brilliant double in the European Championships, winning the 20 in 1:23:43 and coming back 3 days later to take a silver at 50 in 3:59:19. Finland's Reima Salonen won that one in 3:59:19 and Sweden's Bo Gustavsson edged Hartwig Gauder for third. Czechs Josef Pribilinec and Pavol Blazek took silver and bronze in the 20.

5 Years Ago (From the Sept. 1987 ORW)—Italy's Maurizio Damilano won at 20 Km in the World Championship T&F Meet in Rome, defying heat and humidity to record 1:20:45. He controlled the pace throughout to beat Josef Pribilinec by 22 seconds with Spain's Jose Marin third. Tim Lewis was the first U.S. finisher with a 1:26:00 in 19th. The women's 10 Km went to Irena Strakhova, USSR, in 44:12, 11 seconds ahead of Australia's Kerry Saxby. Hong Yan of China was third. Lynn Weik led the U.S. with 46:51 in 15th. Debbi Lawrence was 40 seconds and five places back. Just as they had earlier in the year at the World Cup in New York City, the GDR's Hartwig Gauder and Ronald Weigel finished one-two at 50, but switched positions this time as Gauder took the gold in 3:40:53. Weigel had 3:41:30 and Vyatcheslav Ivanenko, USSR, 3:44:02 in third. Carl Schueler was 16th in 3:57:09 and Marco Evoniuk 17th in 3:57:43. Jim Heiring had a personal best 4:03:24 in 22nd, easily the most distinguished showing the U.S. team had ever made at 50 Km.



Above, early in the second half of the Olympic 50 Km race, Canada's Guillaume Leblanc (229), second at 20, duels with silver medalist Carlos Mercenario and gold medalist Andrei Perlov, both looking a little high. But it was Leblanc who got tossed. On the left is Rodriguez of Mexico (8th) with Robert Korzenowski, Poland (also DQ'd) over Mercenario's shoulder. (Dr. Howard Palamarchuk photo.) Bottom, top U.S. finisher in the women's Olympic 10 km, Michelle Rohl.