

## 1997 World and U.S. Rankings

Beginning in 1971, the ORW has ended the year with its annual ranking of the world's best walkers at 20 and 50 Km. U.S. rankings for men were added in 1973, and women's rankings, both U.S. and World, at 10 Km in 1979. There really had not been enough activity in women's racewalking prior to that time to justify rankings. Initially, we had women's rankings at both 5 and 10 Km, the 5 being the more popular event in those years. We abandoned the 5 Km rankings in 1985 when the 10 became well established as the premier event.

The rankings are the editor's subjective judgment based on finish positions in major competitions, competitive record against other contending athletes, and collection of times. Accompanying the U.S. rankings are lists of the best times at each distance for the year, with only the best performance of each athlete listed. We will publish world lists next month.

### 1997 World 10 Km Rankings

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|--|--|
| 1. Anna Rita Sidoti, Italy<br>47:08 (13) Aztec Festival 3/15<br>42:41 (6) World Cup 4/19<br>42:10 (1) Sesto S.G. 6/8<br>42:35 (2) Medit. Games 6/15<br>42:56t(1) World Ch. 8/7<br>44:38 (3) World Univ. Games 8/26 | 5. Yan Gu, China<br>47:02 (12) Aztec Fest. 3/15<br>42:15 (3) World Cup 4/19<br>43:59 (12) Eisen. 5/10<br>44:25t(7) World Ch. 8/7<br>44:15 (5) Nat. Ch. 10/19 |
| 2. Erica Alfridi, Italy<br>44:46 (1) Aztec Festival 3/15<br>42:31 (4) World Cup 4/19<br>42:15 (5) Naumburg 5/25<br>44:00t (5) World Ch. 8/7  | 6. Valentian Tsybulskaya, Belarus<br>42:54 (11) World Cup 4/19<br>42:21 (3) Eisen. 5/10<br>53:50t(3) World Ch. 8/7   |
| 3. Irina Stankina, Russia<br>41:17 (1) Adler 2/9<br>41:52 (1) World Cup 4/19<br>DQ Naumburg 5/25<br>DQ World Ch. 8/7   | 7. Rosella Giordano, Italy<br>45:17 (4) Aztec Fest. 3/15<br>42:37 (5) World Cup 4/19<br>41:38 (1) Naumburg 5/25<br>44:31 (2) World Univ. Games 8/26          |
| 4. Olga Kardopoltseva, Belarus<br>46:10 (7) Aztec Fest. 3/15<br>43:08 (13) World Cup 4/19<br>42:29 (4) Eisen. 5/10<br>43:31t(2) World Ch. 8/7  | 8. Hongyu Liu, China<br>46:18 (8) Aztec Fest. 3/15<br>42:57 (12) World Cup 4/19<br>43:57t(4) World Ch. 8/7<br>DNF Nat. Games 10/19                           |

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 9. Larisa Khmelnitskaya, Belarus<br>45:45 (6) Aztec Fest. 3/15<br>42:46 (7) World Cup 4/19<br>41:56 (1) Eisen. 5/10<br>42:24 (6) Naumburg 5/25<br>DNF World Cup 8/7<br>44:01 (1) World Univ. Games 8/26 | 10. Tamara Kovalenko, Russia<br>45:02 (2) Aztec Fest. 3/15<br>42:51 (8) World Cup 4/19<br>42:02 (3) Naumburg 5/25 |
|---|---|

No one showed a lot of consistency, so the rankings were very difficult. However, Sidoti and Alfridi had the most consistent performances at the two premier events, the World Cup and World Championships. Alfridi beat Sidoti two of the three times they raced, but Sidoti's win at the World Championships gives her the nod. . . Stankina was on her way to a stellar year with the year's best time and an impressive World Cup win, but DQs in the final two races, including the World Championships, leave her no better than third on the year. . . Kardopoltseva beat Yan Gu three out of four races and came through with an outstanding race in the World Championships to take the fourth spot. . . Gu nearly matched the Italians for consistency in the two biggies and easily rates fifth. . . Tsybulska with her third in the World Championships gets the nod over Giordano, who didn't compete in that race. She was ill at the time and gave her spot on the team to Sidoti, who certainly took full advantage of the opportunity. . . There is little to choose between the final three, but Liu's fourth in the World Championships give her the nod. Khmelnitskiy beat Kovalenko by one spot in the World Cup and won the the World University Games to take the ninth slot.

### 1997 U.S. 10 Km Rankings

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Victoria Herazo<br>47:46 (2) Nat. Invit. 3/23<br>46:31 (50) World Cu 4/19<br>45:47 (18) Eisen. 5/10<br>46:37 (27) Naumburg 5/25<br>47:19 (3) USATF 6/14<br>DQ World Ch. SF 8/4 | 4. Sara Standley<br>48:08 (4) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>49:22 (82) World Cup 4/19<br>46:54 (2) USATF Ch. 6/14<br>48:06 (4) Can. Champ. 7/19   |
| 2. Debbi Lawrence<br>46:46 (1) USATF Ch. 6/14   | 5. Joanne Dow<br>48:34 (5) Nat. Inv. 3/27<br>47:23 (61) World Cup World Cup 4/19<br>49:50 (1) Boston 6/1<br>47:23 (4) USATF<br>52:19 (1) Buzz. Bay 6/21<br>47:20 (3) Can. Champ. 7/19 |
| 3. Gretchen Eastler<br>47:59 (3) Nat. Inv. 3/27<br>47:55 (66) World Cup 4/19  |   |

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|--|---|
| 6. Dana Yarbrough<br>48:53 (6) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>48:26 (73) World Cup 4/19<br>46:24 (1) Tarnobrzeg 5/2<br>45:52 (19) Eisen. 5/10<br>49:10 (7) USATF 6/14<br>50:11 (5) Can. Champ. 7/19 | 8. Debora Van orden<br>50:03 (9) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>48:42 (6) USATF Ch. 6/17<br>50:39 (6) Can. Champ. 7/19 |
| 7. Jill Zenner<br>49:20 (1) Kenosha 4/13<br>49:15 (10) Yellow Springs 5/11<br>48:11 (5) USATF 6/14<br>DQ World Univ. Games 8/26<br>49:46 (3) Dublin 9/27                               | 9. Lyn Burbaker<br>49:20 (8) USATF 6/14<br>49:34 (1) San Jose 8/10  |
|  | 10. Danielle Kirk<br>49:20 (8) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>51:30 (10) USATF Ch. 6/14<br>51:17 (5) Dublin 9/27       |

Herazo was the first U.S. walker at both the National Invitation and World Cup races, had the year's best time in an excellent race against a strong field at Eisenhuettenstadt, and was very consistent, except for her DQ in the World Championships. Victoria's highest ranking previously was second in 1992. . . Lawrence won the U.S. title, with Herazo third, in her only race, but that doesn't seem enough to take the top spot from Victoria. Debbi, ranked number one in 1988, 1990, 1991, and 1992, has been second, third, fourth, and second since. She has been in the top three most years since 1984. . . Eastler had an abbreviated seson, but beat Standley in both races. . . Standley and Dow broke even in four races against each other, but Sara was on top in the two big domestic races, including the National title race. . . Yarbrough had two outstanding races in Europe and takes sixth over Zenner, who beat her at the USATF title race. . . Van Orden and Brubaker earn the next two spots with their USATF races. . . Danielle Kirk won two of three races from Margaret Ditchburn, who finished one place ahead of her at USATF, and edges Margaret for the final spot.

### 1997 World 20 Km Rankings

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Daniel Garcia, Mexico<br>1:23:51 (3) Aztec Festival<br>1:18:27 (2) World Cup 4/19<br>1:18:59 (1) Eisen. 5/10<br>1:21:43 (1) World Ch. 8/2<br>1:23:20 (1) Apodoca | 1:18:32 (4) World Cup 4/19<br>1:23:03 (5) World Ch. 8/2<br>1:20:46 (1) Nat. Games 10/19  |
| 2. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador<br>1:23:01 (1) Aztec Festival 3/15<br>1:18:24 (1) World Cup 4/19<br>1:24:46 (14) World Ch.  | 5. Yevgeniy Misyula, Belarus<br>1:25:46 (8) Aztec Fest. 3/15<br>1:18:55 (6) World Cup 4/19<br>1:19:27 (3) Eisen. 5/10<br>1:23:10 (6) World Cup 8/2 |
| 3. Mikhail Schennikov, Russia<br>1:19:45 (9) World Cup 4/19<br>1:19:05 (1) Naumburg 5/25<br>1:21:53 (2) World Ch. 8/2   | 6. Ilya Markov, Russia<br>1:18:30 (3) World Cup 4/19<br>1:20:39 (5) Eisen. 5/10<br>DQ World Ch. 8/2<br>1:25:30 (1) World Univ. Games 8/26          |
| 4. Zewen Li, China<br>1:24:20 (5) Chin. Cham<br>1:24:23 (4) Aztec Fest. 3/15  | 7. Mikhail Khmelnitskiy, Belarus<br>1:20:51 (25) World Cup 4/19<br>DNF Eisen. 5/10<br>1:22:01 (3) World Ch. 8/2                                    |



8. Guohui Yu, China  
1:22:49 (1) Chin. Ch.  
1:22:08 (40) World Cup 4/19  
1:22:57 (4) World Ch. 8/2  
1:25:46 (8) Nat. Games 10/26
10. Rishat Shifikov, Russia  
1:19:02 (2) Adler 2/9  
1:19:27 (7) World Cup 4/19
9. Julio Martinez, Guatamala  
DNF Aztec Fest. 3/15  
1:18:51 (5) World Cup 4/19

Garcia with a second and first in the two big races, plus a fast race at Eisenhutttenstadt, is clearly number one. . . Perez, who beat Garcia in both the Aztec Festival and World Cup certainly had a clear shot at number one with a good race at the World Championships but he faded badly in the final stages of that race. He just edges Schennikov for second. Had Schennikov managed to hold onto Garcia and beat him at the World Championship it would certainly have been very interesting between the top three. . . Li with his fourth and fifth easily ranks ahead of everyone else. Only Misyulya, among the rest, was consistent in the two big races. His two sixths earn him the fifth slot over others who beat him at one of the two big races but were poor in the other. . . Khemel-nitsky and Yu were well back at the World Cup but swept to third and fourth in the World Championship and take the next two spots. . . Martinez DQ at the World Championship cost him a much higher ranking. . . Shafikov did well at the World Cup, but wasn't heard from after that.

#### 1997 U.S. 20 Km Rankings

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Curt Clausen<br>1:27:33 (4) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>1:24:41 (60) World Cup 4/19<br>1:25:32 (16) Eisen. 5/10<br>1:27:12 (i) USATF Ch. 6/15<br>1:32:05 (34) World Ch. 8/2 | 5. Gary Morgan<br>1:42:36 (20) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>1:30:24 (4) USATF Ch. 6/15  |
| 2. Andrew Hermann<br>1:26:16 (3) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>1:26:07 (75) World Cup 4/19<br>1:28:23 (2) USATF Ch. 6/15<br>1:29:11 (8) Span. Ch. 7/7                            | 6. Jonathan Matthews<br>1:30:49 (5) USATF Ch. 6/15   |
| 3. Tim Seaman<br>1:25:59 (2) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>1:31:12 (103) World Cup 4/19<br>DNF Eisen. 5/10<br>1:30:00 (3) USATF Ch. 6/15<br>1:34:41 (12) World Univ. Games 8/26  | 7. Al Heppner<br>1:29:52 (7) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>1:38:11 (1) Kenosha 4/13<br>1:36:24 (9) USATF 6/15<br>1:29:43 (4) Dublin 9/27                       |
| 4. Philip Dunn<br>1:28:08 (5) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>1:26:36 (76) World Cup 4/19<br>1:28:32 (24) Eisen. 5/10<br>DQ USATF Ch. 6/15<br>1:29:46 (5) Dublin 9/27              | 8. William Van Axen<br>1:30:50 (8) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>1:31:24 (6) USATF Ch. 6/15<br>1:36:59 (110) World Univ. games 8/26<br>1:32:39 (9) Dublin 9/27 |
|  | 9. Michael Roh.<br>1:32:13 (9) Nat. Inv. 3/23<br>1:31:49 (7) USATF Ch. 6/15<br>1:36:01 (4) Abbotsford 7/20   |

10. Dave McGovern  
1:29:44 (6) Nat. Inv. 3/23  
1:33:29 (112) World Cup. 4/19  
1:35:00 (8) USATF Ch. 6/15

Clausen was only the third U.S. finisher in the season's first race (the National Invitational won by Canada's Arturo Huerta), but was number one from there, including a decisive win in the National title race. . . Hermann was the second U.S. walker at the World Cup and second at the National Championship to take the second slot. . . Seaman was very impressive at the National Invitational, but his season went down from there and he ranks third. . . Dunn, though DQ'd at the National Championship race, had a good consistent season otherwise and rates fourth. . . The old men, Morgan and Matthews, came through as usual at the National race to take the next two spots. . . The last four are pretty much a tossup. Van Axen certainly rates ahead of Rohl, finishing one spot ahead of him in both the National Invitational and the National Championship. And, they both seem to clearly rate ahead of McGovern, who they beat decisively in the National Championship. That leaves Heppner. I rate him ahead of Van Axen, who he beat in two of three race, both by a good margin. Since I rate Van Axen ahead of Rohl and Rohl ahead of McGovern, Heppner must be seventh. However, if I look just at Heppner and McGovern, I give the nod to Dave, who was one spot ahead of Heppner at both the major races. Anyway, I went with my first inclination. One of the joys of such subjective rankings. Maybe we can arrange a match race among the four of them, winner take all.

#### 1997 World 50 Km Rankings

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Jesus Garcia, Spain<br>3:48:50 (1) Span. Ch. 3/2<br>3:39:54 (1) World Cup 4/20<br>3:44:59 (2) World Ch. 8/7         | 6. Valentin Kononen, Fin. and<br>3:41:09 (3) World Cup 4/20<br>3:53:40 (9) World Ch. 8/7                      |
| 2. Robert Korzenowski, Poland<br>3:44:46 (1) World Ch. 8/7   | 7. Sylvain Caudron, France<br>3:46:38 (7) World Cup 4/20<br>3:51:17 (7) World Ch. 8/7                         |
| 3. Oleg Ishutkin, Russia<br>3:40:12 (2) World Cup<br>3:50:04 (4) World Ch., 8/7  | 8. Nikolay Matyukhin, Russia<br>3:41:36 (4) World Cup 4/20<br>3:58:18 (15) World Ch. 8/7                      |
| 4. Miguel Rodriquez, Mexico<br>3:58:37 (4) Aztec Fest. 3/16<br>3:42:45 (6) World Cup 4/20<br>3:48:30 (3) World Ch. 8/7 | 9. Fumio Imamura, Japan<br>3:50:27 (6) World Ch. 8/7  |
| 5. Tomasz Lipiec, Poland<br>3:41:58 (5) World Cup 4/20<br>3:50:14 (5) World Ch. 8/7                                    | 10. Rene Piller, France<br>3:47:19 (8) World Cup<br>3:55:06 (11) World Ch. 8/7<br>3:57:34 (2) French Ch. 9/14 |

Garcia and Korzenowski shared the two world titles, but Garcia was right on Korzenowski's heels in the World Championship and had an impressive World Cup win to back up that performance, while Korzenowski had just the one race. . . Ishutkin was clearly third with his second and fourth place finishes. . . the rest work out pretty easily based on their finishes in the two major races. .

.Garcia was also ranked number one in 1993. In that year, his Mexican namesake, Daniel, was second in the 20, his highest ever ranking until this when he joins Jesus on top.

### 1997 U.S. 50 Km Rankings

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Andrew Hermann<br>3:58:24 (1) U.S. Champ. 2/16<br>DQ World Cup 4/20              | 5. Marco Evoniuk<br>4:16:59 (5) U.S. Champ. 2/16<br>4:17:24 (68) World Cup 4/20 |
| 2. Andrzej Chylinski<br>4:16:04 (4) U.S. Champ. 2/16<br>4:07:15 (44) World Cup 4/20 | 6. Carl Schueler<br>4:28:55 (6) U.S. Champ. 2/16<br>4:19:46 (72) World Cup 4/20 |
| 3. Mark Green<br>4:14:20 (3) U.S. Champ. 2/16<br>4:13:16 (12) World Cup 4/20        | 7. Herman Nelson<br>4:55:13 (7) U.S. Champ. 2/16<br>4:34:12 (1) Alberta 10:11   |
| 4. Jonathan Matthews<br>4:12:26 (2) U.S. Ch. 2/16<br>DNF World Cup 4/20             |   |

Obviously, it didn't take a genius to work out these rankings. Where are the last three? No one else finished a 50 to our knowledge during the year, so we can go only seven deep. Last year we bemoaned the fact that there were only 12 walkers under 5 hours for the year. There had been only 2 years since 1976 with fewer than that under 5. So now we have only seven even finishing a 50. Our table reflecting these numbers, published in January, went back to 1972. The fewest under 5 hours previously was eight. And way back in 1972, there were 20. The peak was 1979, with 32 under 5 hours and there were 23 as recently as 1991. Since then, participation in the event has plummeted. Why? You tell me. But there is apparently no interest out there in walking this demanding event, Olympic event though it may be.

### 1997 U.S. Women's 10 Km List

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 45:47 Victoria Herazo    | 52:52 Pam Tucker          |
| 45:52 Dana Yarbrough     | 53:11 Chris Sakelarios    |
| 46:46 Debbi Lawrence     | 53:15 Valerie Silver      |
| 46:54 Sara Standley      | 53:28 Samantha Cohen      |
| 47:20 Joanne Dow         | 54:10 Kaisa Ajaye         |
| 47:55 Gretchen Eastler   | 54:29 Barbara Duplichain  |
| 48:11 Jill Zenner        | 54:33 Monette Roberts     |
| 48:42 Deborah Van Orden  | 54:40 Kelly Murphy Glenn  |
| 49:11 Michelle Rohl      | 55:02 Tara Shea           |
| 49:20 Lyn Brubaker       | 55:18 Gloria Rawls        |
| 49:20 Danielle Kirk      | 55:31 Debbie Benton       |
| 49:39 Kim Wilkinson      | 55:41 Julie Hecksel       |
| 49:41 Margaret Ditchburn | 55:58 Marykirk Cunningham |
| 50:52 Susan Armenta      | 56:06 Margaret Govea      |
| 51:47 Fran Bustos        | 56:28 Melissa Horn        |
| 51:47 Anne Lankowicz     | 56:29 Therese Iknoian     |
| 51:50 Lisa Sonntag       | 56:55 Peggy Müller        |

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 57:21 Daryl Ann Kidder | 58:53 Joann Nedelco    |
| 57:40 Janet Comi       | 58:54 Chris Anderson   |
| 57:47 Marianne Martino | 59:05 Elton Richardson |
| 57:58 Jeanette Smith   | 59:23 Christine Vanoni |
| 58:02 Gayle Johnson    | 59:30 Marlene Coe      |
| 58:08 Anne Gerhardt    | 59:32 Tish Roberts     |
| 58:13 Sandy DeNoon     | 59:36 Jackie Reitz     |
| 58:48 Roswitha Sidelko |                        |

### 1997 U.S. 20 Km List

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1:24 41 Cuet Clausen      | 1:38:16 Warrick Yeager      |
| 1:25 59 Tim Seaman        | 1:38:26 Dan O'Brien         |
| 1:26:07 Andrew Hermann    | 1:39:32 John Soucheck       |
| 1:26:36 Philip Dunn       | 1:39:21 David Michielli     |
| 1:29:44 Dave McGovern     | 1:39:32 John Nunn           |
| 1:29:52 Al Heppner        | 1:40:02 Herman Nelson       |
| 1:30:24 Gary Morgan       | 1:41:56 Keith Luoma         |
| 1:30:49 Jonathan Matthews | 1:44:11 Marco Evoniuk       |
| 1:31:24 William Van Axen  | 1:43:09 Sean Albert         |
| 1:31:49 Michael Rohl      | 1:43:20 Richard Friedlander |
| 1:35:14 Ioan Froman       | 1:44:14 Don DeNoon          |
| 1:35:53 Carl Schueler     |                             |
| 1:36:16 Eliot Taub        |                             |

(We didn't mention the 20 above when discussing the lack of depth at 50, but it certainly applies here, as well. From 1982 through 1983 there was only one year with fewer than 30 walkers under 1:40, peaking at 40 in 1987 and 43 in 1988. The last three years there have been 27, 28, and 23 breaking 1:40. This year--only 18.)

### 1997 U.S. 50 Km List

- |                           |
|---------------------------|
| 3:58:24 Andrew Hermann    |
| 4:07:15 Andrzej Chylinski |
| 4:12:36 Jonathan Matthews |
| 4:13:16 Mark Green        |
| 4:16:59 Marco Evoniuk     |
| 4:19:46 Carl Schueler     |
| 4:34:12 Herman Nelson     |

## A Collection of Results

**1 Hour, Alexandria, Vir., Nov. 8--1.** Warrick Yeager (43) 12,567 meters 2. Jim Carnines (54) 12,164 3. Dave Romansky (59) 11,702 4. Ron Shields (54) 10,400 5. Tim Good 10,236 6. Geroe Fenigsohn (50) 10,140 7. Paul Cajka (40) 10,055 8. Sal Corrallo (66) 9,933 9. Victor Litwinski (54) 9,663 10. Larry Freeman (56) 9,393 **Women:** 1. Lois Dicker (58) 9,376 **5 KM, Aventura, Florida, Dec. 7--1.** Rodolfo Puime 25:00 2. Rod Vargas (48) 25:14 3. Juan Mora (45) 28:01 4. Adam Bookspan 28:01 5. Daniel Koch (54) 31:06 **Women:** 1. Tammie Corley 29:30 2. Linda Talbott 30:39 3. Andreina Rodriguez 31:08 (82 finishers total) **5 Km, Miami, Dec. 13--1.** Tim Nicholls 22:18 2. Rod Vargas 26:00 3. Juan Mora 28:30 4. Bob Cella (60) 28:31 5. Phil

Valentino (51) 29:52 6 Joe Ballester (43) 30:09 Women: 1. Roswitha Sidelko (44) 28:08 2. Tammie Corley 29:23 3. Linda Talbott 30:59 **5 Km, Erie, Pa., Nov. 27--1.** Matt Newara 30:40 Women: 1. Jan Comi 29:10 **5 Km, Denver, Oct. 19--1.** Brad Bearsheart 28:50 2. Daryl Meyers (54) 28:57 **1 Hour, Aurora, Col., Nov. 2--1.** Mike Blanchard 10,323 meters 2. Scott Richards (47) 10,097 3. Christine Vanoni (46) 10,005 4. John Lyle (64) 8817 **1 Hour, Kentfield, Cal., Nov. 16--1.** Shoja Torabian 10,825 meters 2. Jack Bray 10,693 3. Jim Stuckey 10,228 4. John Schulz 9713 5. Bob Mimm 9593 6. Shirley Dockstader 9200 **1 Hour, San Francisco, Nov. 23--1.** Therese Iknioian (40) 10,570 meters 2. Ann Gerhardt (46) 10,258 3. Art Klein (44) 9917 4. John Doane (54) 9,256

### Test Your Early Season Form At These Events

Sat. Jan. 10 2.8 Mile, Seattle, 9 am (B)  
 Sun. Jan 11 Disney World Marathon and Half-Marathon, Orlando, Fla.(I)  
 Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Vir., 8:30 am (J)  
 Sat. Jan 17 Indoor 3 Km, Carbondale, Ill. (AA)  
 5 Km, Denver (H)  
 Sun. Jan. 18 10 Mile Handicap and 5 Km, Pasadena, Cal., 8 am (B)  
 Sun. Jan. 25 Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Vir., 8:30 am(J)  
 5 Km, Denver (H)  
 Sun. Feb. 1 Half Marathon, Las Vegas (Roberta Hatfield 702-256-6938)  
 5 Km, Honolulu (Barbara Steffens 808-942-9567)  
 Sun. Feb. 8 **USATF National 50 Km, Palo Alto, Cal. (R)**  
 Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Vir., 8:30 am (J)  
 Indoor 1500 meters, Portland, Ore. (B)  
 Sat. Feb. 14 8 Km, Carmichael, Cal. (E)  
 Indoor 3 Km, Carbondale, Ill. (AA)  
 Sun. Feb. 15 Masters Indoor 3 Km, Reno, Nev. (P)  
 Sun. Feb. 22 4 1/2 Mile, Kansas City area (Y)  
 Fri. Feb. 27 **USATF National Indoor 5 Km Men, 3 Km Women, Atlanta (X)**  
 Sun. March 1 15 Km, Palo Alto, Cal. (P)  
 Sat. March 7 Half Marathon, Chico, Cal. (E)  
 Midwest Masters Indoor 3 Km, Indianapolis (BB)

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 W--New Mexico Racewalker, P.O. Box 6301, Albuquerque, NM 87197  
 X--USATF Track & Field, P.O. Box 120, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
 Y--Heartland Racewalkers, 3645 Somerset Drive, Prairie Village, KS 66208  
 Z--Ross Barranco, 3235 Musson Road, Howell, MI 48843  
 AA--Don Denoon, SIUC Track, Male Code 6628, Carbondale, IL 62901  
 BB--Vern LaMere, NIFS, 250 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202

### 1998 USATF National Championship Racewalks

Feb. 8 50 Km, Palo Alto, Cal.(Pan Am Cup Trial). Contact: Ron Daniel, 1289 Balboa Court, #149, Sunnyvale, CA 94086, 408-743-7228  
 Feb. 27-28 Men's 5 Km, Women's 3 Km Indoors, Atlanta. Contact: USATF Championships, USATF Track & Field, P.O. Box 120, Indianapolis, IN 46206, 317-261-0500  
 March 29 Masters Indoor 3 Km, Boston. Contact: Steve Vaitones, USATF New England, P.O. Box 02146, Brookline, MA 02146, 617-566-7600  
 May 3 Women's and Junior Men's 20 Km, Men's 30 Km, Albany, N.Y.. Contact: Elaine S. Humphrey, 7048 Suzanne Lane, Schnectady, NY 12303, 518-473-9117  
 May 24 15 Km, Men and Women, Elk Grove, Ill. Contact: Diane Graham-Henry, 442 W. Belden, Chicago, IL 60614, 773-327-4493  
 June 19-21 Men's 20 Km, Women's 10 Km, New Orleans. Contact: USA Track & Field, P.O. Box 120, Indianapolis, IN 46206, 317-261-0500  
 June 26-27 Junior Women's 5 Km, Men's 10 Km, Edwardsville, Ill. Contact: Nick Adams, SIU, Campus Box 1129, Edwardsville, IL 62026, 618-692-2871  
 July 11 10 Km, Men, Niagara Falls, N.Y. Contact: David Lawrence, 94 Harding Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217, 716-875-6361  
 July 30-Aug. 2 Masters Championships, Women 5 and 10 Km, Men 5 and 20 Km, Orono, Maine. Contact: Rolland Ranson, U. of Maine, Memorial Gym, Orono, ME 04469, 207-581-1077  
 Aug. 23 5 Km, Men and Women, Wilkes-Barre, Penn. Contact: Jim Wolfe, c/o SALLIE MAE, 220 Lasley Avenue, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18706, 717-821-6504  
 Sep. 12 Masters 5 Km Road Championships, Men and Women, Kingsport, Tenn. Contact: Bobby Baker, 318 Twinhill Drive, Kingsport, TN 27660, 423-349-6406



- Sep. 13 40 Km, Ft. Monmouth, N.J. Contact: Elliott Denman, 28 N. Locust Avenue, West Long Branch, N.J. 07764, 908-222-9080
- Oct. 4 1 Hour Women and Juniors, 2 Hours Men, Worcester, Mass., Contact: Justin Kuo, 39 Oakland Road, Brookline, MA 02146, 617-731-9889

### Other Major 1998 Events

- March 28 National Invitational Racewalks, Women's 10 Km, Men's 20 Km, Junior Women's 5 Km, Junior Men's 10 Km, Youth 3 Km, Open 5 Km, Washington, D.C. Contact: Bobby Briggs, 6207 Duntley COutr, Springfield, VA 22152, 703-913-6335
- July 19-26 Goodwill Games, Women's 10 Km, Men's 20 Km (I think), New York City. By invitation
- July 28-Aug. 2 US Junior Olympics, Seattle, Wash. Contact: Darlene Hickman, 1960 9th Avenue West, Seattle, WA 98119, 206-284-1028
- July 28-Aug. 2 IAAF World Junior Championships, Annecy, France
- Sept. ? Pan American Racewalking Cup, Canada (Date and site to be announced.)

### FROM HEEL TO TOE

The books on our sport keep coming. Dave McGovern, a member of the U.S. National Racewalk Team whose articles we carry from time to time, has just published *The Complete Guide to Racewalking Technique and Training*. It's 41 chapters and 240 pages include six sections: technique; physiology and training; psychology; "other stuff you need to do" (stretching, drills, weights, etc.); competition; and "loose ends" (miscellaneous stuff like advice for youth and masters walkers, advice on shoes and nutrition, etc.). In addition, 15 U.S. National Racewalk Team members give their opinions on racewalking technique and training. Bob Bowman, Chairman of the IAAF Racewalk Committee, gives his endorsement: "*The Complete Guide to Racewalking Technique and Training* is easily the most complete and accurate source of racewalking technical information I have ever read. Dave has left no stone unturned in providing practical information on all aspects of racewalking for novice and veteran walkers alike--this type of Guide has been needed for years." If you're interested, contact Dave McGovern at 43 West Hathaway Road, Mobile, AL 36608. He will ask you for \$17.95, plus \$2.00 for shipping and handling. Discounts on orders of more than 10 copies. . . Let us remind you of other books out in the past year, which we have described in earlier issues: Bob Carlson's *Walking for Health, Fitness, and Sport* at \$15.95 from Bob at 2261 Glencoe Street, Denver, CO 80207; Ron Laird's *The Art of Fast Walking, Use the Olympic Race Walking Style To Get Fit and Lose Weight*, for \$19.95 for Ron Laird at 4706 Diane Drive, Ashtabula, OH 44004; Jeff Salvage and Gary Westerfield, *Walk Like An Athlete: Maximizing Your Walking Workout*, for \$14.95 plus \$3.00 S&H from Walking Productions, 86 Five Crown Royal, Marlton, NJ 08053; and Martin Rudow's latest edition of *Advanced Race Walking*, from Technique Publications, 4831 NE 44th Street, Seattle, WA 98105. Martin also has excellent videos, the latest *Race Walking To Win*, which costs \$22.50 plus \$1.75 S&H. Also, Jeff Salvage has now added a *Walk Like An Athlete* video to complement his book. . .

Ron Zinn Memorial Racewalk Awards for 1997 were announced at the USATF Convention in Dallas the first week of December. These go to the outstanding athletes, contributor, and association for the year. This year's awards were presented to Debbi Lawrence in the 10 Km, Curt Clausen in the 20, Andrew Hermann in the 50, Bev LaVeck as a contributor to the sport, and the New England Association. Also announced were Masters Racewalk Awards for the year. Dave Romansky and Jane Dana were named the outstanding masters for the year. Awards were also presented by age category as follows: Men 35-39--Keith Luoma, 40-44 Jonathan Matthews, 45-49--Enrique Camarena, 50-54--Rich Friedlander, 55-59--Dave Romansky, 60-64 Jack Bray, 65-59--Max Green, 70-74--Bill Flick, 75-59--Tim Dyas and Paul Geyer, 80-84--Bill Tallmadge, 90-94--Sam Gladless; Women 35-39--Victoria Herazo, 40-44--Lyn Brubaker, 45-49--Marianne Martino, 50-54--Joann Nedelco, 55-59--Elton Richardson, 60-64--Bev LaVeck, 65-59--Grace Moreman, 70-74--Miriam Gordon, 75-59--Jane Dana, 80-84--Mary Lathram, 85-59--Dorothy Roberts. . Michelle Rohl, ranked first in the U.S. for the past 3 years, delivered her third child on August 25 (a daughter, Ayla). On Oct. 18, she was back in competition, finishing second to Debbi Lawrence in a 5 Km race in Indianapolis. Three weeks later, she won a 10 Km in Mobile, Ala. in 49:11. Not enough to win a spot in this year's rankings, but an impressively quick return to very competitive walking. . . When Olimpiada Ivanova was disqualified from her World Championship medal in August for a positive drug test, we reported it as the first ever drug disqualification of a race walker. Unfortunately, there is now another that in reality predates Ivanova's disqualification. . . *Track & Field News* reports: "Another long-contested drug case has finally resulted in a steroid suspension, this one for Spanish walk vet Daniel Plaza, the 1992 Olympic 20 K champ. The pre-Atlanta positive was tied up in Spain's legal bureaucracy for some 18 months. Those pointing nasty fingers at USATF in the Mary Slaney case should note that despite his positive test in June of '96, Plaza competed not only in the Olympics, but also in this year's World Cup and World Championships. . . Al Clowser in Savannah, Georgia is working on a graduate degree in Health Science with a thesis topic of "Age-related performance decline among veteran racewalkers." He is trying to determine what proportion of performance loss (if any) is due to the aging process itself, versus loss caused by environmental factors, such as changes in training frequency and intensity, onset of chronic diseases, more frequent occurrences of curable diseases, and changes in body composition. He would like to get information racewalkers 55 and over who have competed for at least 5 years. Walker's input will consist of filling out a short questionnaire. He anticipates this will require less than 30 minutes of your time. The questionnaires will be number coded to keep the information as confidential as possible. If you would like to participate, contact Al at 65 Red Fox Drive, Savannah, GA 31419, phone and FAX 912-925-9138. Say Al, the ORW editor would be glad to participate, but I guess I haven't told you yet. Send me a questionnaire. . . There will be good racewalking representation on the staff for the U.S. 1999 Pan American Games team. Steve Vaitones is the men's assistant manager and Maryanne Torrellas the women's assistant manager. The Games are to be held in Winnipeg. . . Walking was featured recently on the program "Good Morning, Sacramento, in Sacramento, Cal.. The show's fitness reporter, Tanya Anguay, featured racewalking as a healthy and exciting way to stay fit. Several Team Sierra members demonstrated the art of racewalking. The slim and trim Tanya also walked and talked with the participants to gain insight for the early morning broadcast. Featured performers were Ann Gerhardt, Paul Smith, Carl and Sandra Hammer, Thelma Brafford, Sydney Perryman, and Laurie Smith. As a contrast, Anguay also featured a small Mall walking contingent keeping fit in the air conditioned environment.

### Laskau Get Long-overdue Recognition

Nominated for the ninth time, Henry Laskau was finally elected to the USATF Hall of Fame with the 1997 class. With his 42 national titles and three Olympic teams, Henry deserved admission



before this. Also named were sprinters Evelyn Ashford and Henry Carr, and hurdler Renaldo Nehemiah. Henry joins Ron Laird as the only two racewalkers among the Hall's 172 members. Now, we can start working for Larry Young. The following tribute to Henry was written by Kurt Freudenthal, a retired Indiana UPI sports editor. Like Henry, Kurt was a track athlete who emigrated from Germany and recalls finishing behind Laskau in a mile race circa 1942.

**Racewalk Great, Holocaust Survivor to Enter Hall of Fame.** As a youngster, Henry Laskau was a promising miler, but as a racewalker he blossomed into an elite athlete. He became so good, in fact, that he had no equals in the U.S. for a number of years—a period in the 1940s and 1950s when he set one record after another, compiling an amazing success story.

And today, the native Berliner—who lost both parents and a brother in Hitler's death camps—will be accorded a signal honor: he'll be enshrined in the National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Because his event doesn't get much ink, the 81-year-old Laskau is only the second racewalker to be inducted into the Hall, located in the RCA Dome adjacent to USATF's national office in Indianapolis. The first was Ron Laird in 1986—but Laskau's election by a panel of media, officials, athletes, and Hall of Fame members is expected to draw a rousing cheer from those in attendance. They may not know it, but Laskau made it on his ninth appearance on the Hall of Fame ballot. Nobody endured a longer term of frustration before final recognition.

Many are convinced that Laskau's place in the Hall is long overdue. And they point with pride to his record: a three-time Olympian, Pan American Games gold medalist, four-time Maccabiah Games gold medalist, winner of 42 national titles, one of the highest on record. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. During an 11-year span, he set five national records. During nine of those years he was unbeaten by any American walker.

He didn't medal in the Olympics, but he represented his adopted country at the London Games of 1948, the Helsinki Games of 1952, and the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. In 1951, he set an indoor world best of 6:19.2 for the mile racewalk, a mark that lasted a dozen years. He won national titles at distances from the mile to 25 Km. He won 11 consecutive national titles at 10Km, 10 in a row at 1 mile indoors and 3km/2 miles outdoors.

When he retired from racewalking in 1957, this 5-8, 150-pounder continued to serve his sport as an official, promoter, coach, and national and international committee member. He was a key speaker at many racewalking seminars and conducted many clinics over the years.

"He has been a great ambassador for the sport," says Elliott Denman, Laskau's racewalk teammate at the 1956 Olympics and one of his closest friends. Denman, a sports reporter for the *Asbury Park (N.J.) Press*, was in Dallas as a convention delegate.

"Many athletes just bow out when they're finished, not Henry," Denman continues. "He gave a lot back to his sport." (Ed. As has Elliott.)

Not only that, Laskau decided to give it one more shot: In 1965, at age 49, he came out of retirement to compete in the Maccabiah Games. He won the gold at 3 Km.

Laskau won't be at Thursday's induction luncheon. He'll be at home at Coconut Creek, Fla. In 1995, he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and although he is doing quite well, his family thought it best for him to stay home. He'll be represented by sons Howard and Michael. And Denman will also attend.

"Physically, he is very well," says Hilde Laskau, his wife of 54 years who met her future husband in 1941 on a running track in New York. "His memory is very bad. It's a very gradual process."

With Hilde at his side, Laskau swims and walks daily. His weight is close to what it was in his racewalking days. When he learned of his impending induction into the Hall of Fame, Hilde says his response was: "Finally." "He feels very honored," she says.

As a youngster growing up in Berlin, Laskau was one of Germany's promising junior milers. His career, though, was cut short by Nazi pogroms. When his parents and a brother were dispatched to the death camps, Henry was herded into a labor camp. He escaped one night, made his way to France, then to Cuba, where he stayed 9 months before gaining entry into the U.S.

With World War II raging, Laskau went into the Army. He served overseas with the 28th Division and was later assigned to Counterintelligence, where he interrogated German prisoners. He resumed his athletic career in 1946. Emil von Elling, the legendary New York University coach, encouraged him to try racewalking. He took up the new challenge and before long was winning races. The rest is history.

Laskau and Denman became acquainted as racewalkers in 1954. Two years later, they were U.S. Olympians and they became close friends. "He took me under his wing," says Denman. "And after he quit competing, he coached thousands of people in Florida, where walking is big. He was a guru to all these people. They still have a Henry Laskau Racewalk in Coconut Creek."

Hilde Laskau was a sprinter when she left her native Germany, but didn't resume her running career in her new country. She and Henry were married before he went overseas. Once he became a world-class racewalker, she was usually at his side. She became an official for the sport. She remains a certified official to this day.

Obviously, Thursday's Hall of Fame induction won't be the first honor of Henry Laskau's brilliant athletic career. He also belongs to the Helms Athletic Foundation Hall of Fame, the Florida Track & Field Hall of Fame, and the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

But finally making the National Track and Field Hall of Fame must rank among his most prestigious honors and may give other racewalkers a special "lift" to excel in their sport.

(Ed. I first saw Henry compete when I went to the Cleveland K of C indoor meet in either 1951 or 1952. I remember going out on the track at Galion H.S., Galion, Ohio, my base of operations through my junior year in high school, and trying to emulate what I had seen Henry and a few others doing. I first met Henry in June 1953 in a hotel lobby in Dayton. The National AAU meet was in Dayton that year and I had gone down to see it with an old friend from Galion, Bill Goshorn. (I had just graduated from Upper Arlington H.S., a Columbus suburb.) Bill was an autograph hound and we were hanging out in the lobby before the meet. Bill recognized Henry coming through and, much more precocious than I, quickly asked him for autographs on our meet programs, which he graciously gave. I don't recall what, if any, conversation transpired. We also got Reggie Pearman's autograph. He was a half-miler from Elliott Denman's school and club—NYU and NY Pioneer Club. When I actually got into racewalking in the late '50s, Henry was always very encouraging and supportive of my efforts when I got to the New York area for meets, but I don't think I ever mentioned to him a hotel lobby in Dayton. So, now Henry, you know, that you were in some way an inspiration to yet another Olympic walker.)

## Some of My Life's Personal Lessons

by Bob Carlson

**Racewalking technique is composed of natural body movements.** I received my indoctrination to racewalking from Olympic Coach Bruce MacDonald in the autumn of 1971. He had a coterie of 10 or so athletes in Boulder preparing for the trials for the Munich Games in 1972. Bruce volunteered to help some of us runners get an understanding of what a great sport it is during his 3-week training camp. I liked the feeling and it induced me to cross train between the two because of the dearth of RW events in those days. I often wonder if I would have the total involvement in the sport today and the great benefits afforded me if it were not for Bruce's generous sharing his knowledge with me during those long-ago days. Training for racewalking loosened my hip cage and reduced tensions in my body, which directly improved my running times



for several years--4 minutes was reduced from my 10 Km time down to below 6 minutes per mile. I believe that we all should strive to convince more runners to cross train in this manner. In the following spring, I was at Scott Carpenter pool and heard the lifeguard yelling at three kids to stop running around the edge of the pool. I was amazed when they changed to a very fast walk that had the same elements of racewalking form that I had been working very hard on for several months. Of course, they had no knowledge of racewalking and probably never even heard of it. Yet, they did what came naturally to walk as fast as they could. I was convinced right then and there that racewalking is a very natural thing for the human body to do. (Ed. I made the same observation sometime in the past and have always used this example to try and convince people learning to racewalk that it is a natural extension of normal walking. A similar observation on the adult level: I worked in an industrial plant in the late '50s and early '60s where running on the plant floor was prohibited. When the bell rang at the end of the shift, there were always some people racewalking out of the plant to get to the parking lot first. Again, they had no knowledge of racewalking, but were showing some pretty good form.)

**Pay attention to helping others.** Our sport is special in one regard more so than in any other I have observed in my lifetime--there is an unexcelled camaraderie, friendship, and willingness to help others progress in a very unselfish manner. There is more attention to improving ones self rather than going into competitions with blood in the eye trying to leave the other competitors in the dust. In what other sport can you find Olympic caliber athletes willing to donate their time to help beginners learn the basics. See Bruce MacDonald above and remember what Carl Schueler has done locally in the past. The helpful mindset of most racewalkers has impressed me greatly over the past quarter century. I have learned that when you help others, most of the time you reap as many benefits or more than you have given.

## LOOKING BACK

**35 Years Ago** (From the Dec. 1962 Race Walker of Chris McCarthy)--Ron Laird was given the Mike Riban trophy as the Outstanding US Race Walker for 1962. Second in the national voting was Ron Zinn. . .Laird also turned in a 6:49.3 mile in Chicago, his home at that time and recoreded the fast time in an icy 10 Mile Handicap with 79:27, followed by McCarthy's 81:03 and Zinn's 81:08. . .Martin Rudow won a Portland 10 Km in 52:11. . .Fastest mile of the early season was 6:45.3 by Alan Blakeslee in New York. . .Ron Kulik won a rare 880 walk in the Newark Armory in 3:19, with Elliott Denman and Terry Anderson 8 seconds back.

**30 Years Ago** (From the December 1967 ORW)--Chuck Newell ignored the 15 degree temperature and 10 to 15 mph winds to win the Fourth Annual New Year's Eve Handicap in Columbus. Taking full advantage of his 5 minute headstart, he finished 45 seconds ahead of Jack Blackburn who had the evening's fast time of 47:59. . . In a lesser race, Goetz Klopfer set a new American record for 50 Km with a 4:30:29 on the Sonoma State College track. On the way, he picked up records at 35 Km, 25 miles, and 40 Km. . . In the National 35 Km in Kansas City, Dan Tothoroh easily beat Gerry Bocci and Bryon Overton with a 3:13:04. . . In a New jersey 10 Miler, Dave Romansky won in 1:19:12, followed by Steve Hayden, John Knifton, Ron Daniel, Ron Kulik, and Shaul Ladany--all international competitors at some time.

**20 Years Ago** (From the Dec. 1977 ORW)--The ORW World Rankings saw Mexico's Daniel Bautista and Raul Gonzales on top at 20 and 50 Km, respectively, with their countrymen dominating other positions. At 20, Domingo Colin was second and Gonzales fourth, sandwiching East Germany's Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller. Maurizio Damilano, Italy, was fifth. At 50 Pedro Aroche and Enrique Vera made in a 1-2-3 sweep for the Mexicans, with Italy's Paolo Gregucci and Soviet Veniamin Soldatenko taking the next two spots. The U.S. rankings saw Neal Pyke on top at 20

and Larry Young at 50. Todd Scully, Dan O'Connor, and Tom Dooley followed at 20, and Augie Hirt, O'Connor, and Bob Rosencrantz at 50. . .John Knifton won the National Postal 1 Hour, covering 8 miles 181 yards, just 24 yards ahead of Tom Dooley. Wayne Glusker also surpassed 8 miles and Larry Walker finished fourth. Ron Kulik won the Masters title with 7 miles 760 and Marco Evoniuk the Junior with 7 miles 399. (We weren't doing women's rankings yet because there wasn't that much activity in women's walking.)

**15 Years Ago** (From the Dec. 1982 ORW)--Dan O'Connor had fast time in the Coney Island 10 mile handicap race with 1:13:20 butr couldn't catch Pete Timmons who maade his handicap hold up with the second best time of 1:14:21. . .Chris Knotts won the 3rd Annual Doc Blackburn 75 Km in Springfield, Ohio with an 8:44:48. . . In the ORW World Rankings, Spain's Jose Marin was on top aat 20 Km, Mexico's Raul Gonzales at 50, the USSR's Aleksandra Deverinskaya at 5 Km and Australia's Sue Cook at 10. U.S. rankings saw Jim Heiring, Ray Sharp, and Marco Evoniuk leading the 20; Marco Evoniuk, Dan O'Connor, and Vincent O'Sullivan the 50; Susan Liers-Westerfield, Theresa Vaill, and Susan Brodock the 5; Liers-Westerfield, Brodock, and Vaill the 10

**10 Years Ago** (From the Dec. 1987 ORW)--In the ORW rankings, Irina Strakhova, USSR, led the women's 10 Km, followed by her compatriot, Olga Krishtop, and Aussie Kerry Saxby. Maryanne Torrellas, Debbi Lawrence, and Lynn Weik were the top-ranked U.S. women. At 20 K, Maurizio Damilano, Italy; Josef Pribilinec, Czech.; and Jose Marin, Spain led the World Rankings, with Tim Lewis, Carl Schueler, and Ray Sharp the top three in the U.S. At 50, the GDR's Hartwig Gauder and Ron Weigel were on top, followed by Vyatcheslav Ivanenko, USSR. Schueler, Marco Evoniuk, and Jim Heiring were atop the U.S. rankings. . .Bob Mimm and Viisha Sedlak were the top U.S. competitors at the World Veteran Games in Melbourne. Viisha won at both 5 (24:51) and 10 Km (52:38) in the women's 35-39 group, and Bob won at both 5 (26:42) and 20 (1:49:09) in the men's 60-64 group.