

Rohl, Seaman Dominate Indoors

Atlanta, March 4 (From Al Heppner)--At the Indoor National Championships in the Georgia Dome, Tim Seaman threw strategy out the window as he breezed to victory in 19:32.11, the second fastest 5 Km in U.S. history. It was Seaman's third title in a row and he has gone faster each time--19:54.86 in 1998 and 19:45.04 in 1999. In the women's 3 Km, Michelle Rohl took her fourth indoor title in the last six years, winning easily in 12:51.7.

Seaman decided to shoot for one of the toughest American racewalk records, the 19:18.40 set by Tim Lewis in 1987. Seaman, who trains at the ARCO Training Center in Chula Vista, Cal., was on pace at 3 kilometers with splits of 3:51, 3:48, and 3:51 (11:30). Training partner Curt Clausen, winner of the 50 Km Olympic Trials three weeks ago, couldn't match the pace after the first kilometer. "I tried to take it out from the first kilometer instead of sitting and kicking," Seaman said. "But I didn't expect to go out that hard."

Walking all alone, Seaman "slowed" the last 2 km (3:58 and 4:02), but it was more than enough to earn that third straight title. "My plan was to sit behind Tim and wait for him to make a mistake, but he didn't," Clausen said. "The 50 km trial race didn't affect me. The problem was we haven't done any speed work. For Clausen it was his third straight runner-up finish to Seaman.

Rohl continued her dominance on the women's side. The two-time Olympian steadily pulled away from upcoming Jill Zenner and veteran Debbi Lawrence. Lawrence, also a four-time winner ('92,'93,'94,'97), holds the meet (12:35.79) and U.S. (12:20.79) records.

"It was a pretty easy race. I wanted to go out early and break from the pack," Rohl said. I slowed down a little more than I wanted, but I'm happy." Rohl might be happy, but she is certainly not content. She has her sights set on loftier goals. "My goal is to break all the American records this year that I don't have. Actually, this year and next. It's a two-year plan."

Notable was the performance of the NAIA Indoor Champion Sara Stevenson, who walked a personal best time of 13:40.47. The 20-year-old collegian has been walking less than a year.

Results:

Women's 3 Km: 1. Michelle Rohl, Moving Comfort (Wis.) 12:51.17 2. Jill Zenner, Miami Valley TC (Ohio) 13:09.92 3. Debbi Lawrence, un. (Wis.) 13:26.06 4. Sara Stevenson, Olivet Nazarene 13:40.27 5. Cheryl Rellinger, Miami Valley TC 14:14.05 6. Katie Rualpugh, Cedarville College (Ohio) 15:27.91

Men's 5 Km: 1. Tim Seaman, NYAC 19:32.11 2. Curt Clausen, NYAC 19:53.98 3. Al Heppner, NYAC 21:13.66 4. Gary Morgan, NYAC 21:48.16 5. Steve Pecinovsky, Miami Valley 23:05.96

Hermann Pushes Olympic Champ in S.A. Championships

Lima, Peru, March 18-19 (From Al Heppner)--Andrew Hermann came within a blink of an eye of upsetting 1996 Olympic Gold Medalist Jefferson Perez of Ecuador in the 20 Km racewalk at the South American Championships. Perez needed a final surge in the last 100 meters

The Ohio Racewalker 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. E-mail address: jmortlan@columbus.rr.com
Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 20th of the month, but it is usually the 25th or later before we go to the printer, so later material will probably get in.

to claim victory by one-hundredth of a second. Both finished in 1:30:50. Curt Clausen was third in 1:31:24 and Philip Dunn seventh in 1:36:00. Clausen came back the next day to capture the 35 Km Championship race in 2:57:55 (pretty much a stroll in the park by Curt's standards).

In the 20, temperatures in the low 80s and a hilly course helped dwindle a pack of eight walkers down to four by 12 km--the two Americans, Perez, and hometown favorite Ivan Sanchez. "Jefferson kept trying to lose Sanchez, but he responded to every surge. We were concerned about the race coming down to a sprint, because in that situation Sanchez might have received the benefit of the doubt from the judges in his hometown," Hermann said.

Finally, with one lap to go on the 1.774 kilometer loop, Sanchez was DQ'd to the dismay of thousands of cheering fans. At that point, Hermann surged to open a 5-second gap on the quick-footed Clausen. With 1/2 lap to go, Hermann surged again, which was enough to leave Clausen, but not Perez. The pair roared down the final straightaway, with Perez pulling ahead by 1/2 step at the finish. "This gives me confidence that I could stay with Perez the entire race. I'm making the progress I need for a top ten finish in the Olympics," Hermann said.

Less than 24 hours later, the three Americans toed the line again for the 35 km. The trio led from the gun, but began to struggle. All of us were tired from traveling and it was even hotter than for the 20," Hermann said. Dunn stopped at 18 km and Hermann called it a day after 25. Clausen held on for the win.

The group had only planned to do the 35, but decided to dive into the 20 "because it would be fun to do and it's the premier event," according to Hermann. For the past few weeks, Hermann, Clausen, and Dunn have been training with Perez in his hometown of Cuenca, Ecuador with the other racewalkers from the ARCO Olympic Training Center. The training group will be competing in the Pan American Cup on April 8-9 in Poza Rica, Mexico.

Other Results

NAIA Indoor Championships, Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 25 Women's 3000 Meters--1. Sara Stevenson, Olivet Nazarene 14:02.85 2. Katie Rulapaugh, Cedarville 15:03.92 3. Laurie Starr, Hastings 15:14.88 4. Angie Neith, Wisconsin-Parkside 16:09.14 5. Kathleen Stuper, Wis.-Parkside 16:20.10 6. Heather George, Hastings 16:33.49 7. Traci Bridges, Olivet Nazarene 16:53.90 8. Katie Mendonca, Wis.-Parkside 17:00.36 9. Jane Hall, Dakota Wesleyan 17:11.56 10. Kimmy Morris, Concordia 17:26.51 11. Allison Manne, Wis.-Parkside 18:18.01 12. Kristin Lagerquist, St. Ambrose 18:22.14 13. Becky Rusthoven, Olivet Nazarene 19:27.22 DQ--Tessie Cole, Rio Grande **Men's 3000 meters**--1. Lachlan McDonald, Wis.-Parkside 13:04.48 2. Matt DeWitt, Wis.-Parkside 13:19.60 3. Steve Quirke, Wis.-Parkside 13:36.60 4. Jim Heys, Wis.-Parkside 14:01.93 5. Mike Sandelin, Taylor 14:45.68 6. Norbert Typek, Mary 14:58.32 7. Mike Stanton, Wis.-Parkside 15:02.73 8. Jeremy Ey, McKendree 15:30.96 9. Ryan Vitatote, Lindsey Wils 16:54.84

5 Km, Cambridge, Mass., March 12--1. Rick McElvery 27:02 2. Bob Ullman 29:27 3. Bill Harriman 29:39 **Conn. Indoor 1 Mile Championship, March 19**: Women--1. Maryanne

Torrellas 7:49:98 2. Donna Chamberlain 7:57:95 3. Lee Chase 8:04 4. Ann Percival 8:31 5. Amanda Bergeron 8:46 5. Jean Tenan 8:57 7. Anne Favolise 8:58 9. Ginger Armstrong 9:34 10. Sheila Danahey 10:16 (2 DQs) Men--1. Beth Shorey 7:08.48 2. Nick Manuzzi 7:23.47 3. Stanley Sosnowski 7:26.03 4. Jim Carmines 7:39 5. Jon Chasse 7:53 6. David Baldwin 7:56 7. Andy Cable 8:22 8. Spencer Parrish 8:56 (12 finishers, 2 DQs) **National USATF Masters Indoor 3 Km, Boston, March 26**: Women 35--1. Marcia Gutsche, Mass. 14:33.27 2. Jean Tenan, Conn. 17:10 Women 40--1. Victoria Herazo, Nev. 13:58.06 2. Maryanne Torrellas, Conn. 14:19 3. Donna Chamberlain, Penn. 14:51 4. Ann Percival, Conn. 16:40 5. Jeanette Wineland, Mich 18:00 Women 45--1. Sally Richards, Col. 14:43.70 2. Janet Comi, Penn. 15:42 3. Lee Chase, Conn. 15:52 4. Debbie Topham, Mich 17:01 Women 50--1. Tish Roberts, Ind. 16:17.84 2. Ellen Schock, Mich 18:53 Women 55--1. Janet Higbie, Ind. 17:53.01 Women 60--1. Rita Sinkovec, Col. 18:34.85 Women 65--1. Jeanne Sheparadson, Mass. 20:24.57 (1 DQ) (Total of 25 participants) Men 35--1. Stephen McCullough, Conn. 17:55.47 Men 40--1. Rod Graig, Mich. 14:59.41 2. Richard McElvery, N.I. 15:14 Men 45--1. Stanley Sosnowski, R.I. 14:56.71 (1 DQ) Men 50--1. Bob Keating, N.H. 14:09.69 2. Norman Fable, Tex. 14:55 3. Robert Ullman, N.H. 16:17 4. Bill Harriman, Mass. 16:36 5. Ross Barranco, Mich. 16:50 Men 55--1. Rich Friedlander, Mo. 13:46.12 2. James Carmines, Penn. 14:14 3. David Baldwin, Maine 15:40 4. Tom Knatt, Mass. 16:45 5. Charles Mansbach, Mass. 18:19 (1 DQ) Men 60--1. John Elwarner, Mich 15:53.25 2. Gustave Davis, Conn. 19:27 Men 65--1. Bob Barrett, N.Y. 16:22.12 2. Alfred DuBois, Ill. 16:32 Men 70--1. Jack Starr, N.J. 17:46.31 2. Louis Candido, Mass. 20:20 (1 DQ) Men 75--1. John Nervetti, N.J. 20:00.69 Men 80--1. Paul Geyer, Minn. 23:18.70 (Total of 36 participants) **National Scholastic 1 Mile, New York City, March 12**, Girls--1. Coleen Schmidt, Wantagh, N.Y. (grade 10) 7:32.16 2. Elizabeth Paxton, Cypress, Cal. (11) 7:35.31 3. Aubrey Gray, Bohemia, N.Y. (12) 7:35.62 4. Theresa Chiarella, Lake Ronkonkoma, N.Y. (10) 7:40.71 5. Megan Sheehan, Pearl River, N.Y. (11) 7:43.26 6. Alina Zewleznova, South River, N.J. (12) 7:48.94 7. Lindsay Sestanovich, Washingtonville, N.Y. (12) 7:49.97 8. Alessandra Vavas, Port Jefferson, N.Y. 7:50.42 9. Anne Steffano, Fairport, N.Y. (12) 7:50.98 10. Kirsten Jordan, Rye, N.Y. (11) 7:52.45 (20 finishers, 2 DQs, 3 DNF) Boys--1. Daniel Gurick, Cnetereach, N.Y. (11) 7:50.97 (1 DQ) Where were all the boys? **5 Km, New York City, March 19**--1. Greg Dawson 23:25 2. Nick Bdera (51) 24:38 3. Heber Ramos 24:51 4. Robert Williams (19) 26:07 5. Will Navarro 26:14 6. Bill Vayo 27:04 7. Loretta Schuellein 27:13 8. Gary Null (55) 27:20 9. Vlado Haluska (48) 27:35 10. Bob Borrett (65) 28:55 11. LisaMarie Velluchi 29:00 12. David Wolf (40) 29:07 13. Bruce Lagan 29:50 14. Pat Bivona (59) 30:31 15. Alessandra Vavas (16) 30:56 (41 finishers) **Indoor 3 Km, Arlington, Va., Feb. 3**--1. Steve Pecinovsky (45) 13:13 2. Victor Litwinski (56) 17:58 3. Cara Larocca 18:10 4. Bob Ryan (52) 18:18 **5 Km, Washington, D.C., Feb. 19**--1. Vanessa Ryan 59:01 2. Vktor Litwinski 63:11 **5 Km, same place**--1. Bob Ryan 30:39 2. Victor Litwinski 30:58 **USATF South Regional 1500 meters Championship, Tampa, Fla., March 11**--1. Steve "Red" Renard 6:52 2. Phil Gura (40) 7:58 3. Ray Jenkins 8:09 4. Paul Cajka (42) 8:21 5. Dan Koch (56) 8:21 6. Bob Fine (68) 8:36 7. Steve Feith (53) 8:49 8. Galen Walker (51) 8:51 9. Andrew Crane 8:52 Women: 1. Sarah Perry 7:48 2. Sperry Rademaker (60) 8:33 3. Theresa Hellings (41) 8:52 4. Joanne Elliot (63) 9:06 5. Edna Ramsey 9:08 (46) (11 finishers) **5 Km, Orlando, Fla. Feb. 19**--1. Edgardo Rodriguez 28:07 2. Ray Jenkins 30:31 (8 finishers) Women--1. Lisa Sonntag 25:37 2. Beverly Burijon 30:14 (13 finishers) **12 Km, Orlando, Fla., Feb. 26**--1. C.S. Monte Carlo 1:14:55 2. Sperry Rademaker 1:18:37 3. Ray Jenkins 1:19:11 (17 finishers) **20 Km, Cooper City, Feb. 26**--1. Lisa Sonntag 1:50:16 2. Sherry Brosnahan 2:07:09 3. June-Marie Provost, Can. (65) 2:09:44 Men--1. Dave Romansky (62) 1:58:58 2. Janos Szalas (44) 1:59:25 3. Daniel Koch 2:18:05 4. Paul Cajka 2:19:03 **10 Km, same place**--1. Dona Pape 61:28 **5 Km, Lake Worth, Fla., March 4**--1. Janos Szalas 27:13 2. Bob Fine 31:00 Women: 1. Sara Perry 28:11 2. Valerie Silver 28:35 3. Linda Stein 30:42 4. June-Marie Provost 31:27 5. Barbara Grand (60+) 31:42 **Cedarville**

Invitational, Cedarville, Ohio, March 25: Men's 5 Km--1. Steve Pecinovsky 23:55 2. Mike Sandelin 25:17 3. Eric Smith 26:01 4. Ed Fitch 27:18 5. Jerry Muskal 30:12 6. Jack Shuter 32:14 7. Bill Martin 35:00 DQ--Nick Cross **Women's 3 Km--1.** Jill Zenner 13:55 (Did triple duty. Helped judge the men's race, which negated her warm-up for this one, and then doubled back to take fifth in the women's 5 Km run with a personal record.) 2. Katie Rulapaugh 15:55 3. Paddy Jones 17:09 4. Tesia Cole 17:50 5. Tina Peters 20:23 **Nike Indoor Classic High School Meet, Bloomington, Ind., March 12: Girls--1.** Robyn Stevens, Cal. 7:07.82 2. Andrea Albergo, N.Y. 7:12.70 3. Amanda Bergeron, Maine 8:28.63 4. Jenny Woodbury, manin 8:28.63 5. Mandy Hildenbrand, N.Y. 8:37 6. Christine Taffiaferri, N.Y. 8:46 7. Maghan Hunter, N.Y. 9:08 (2 DQs) Boys--1. Daniel Pendergrast, Maine 7:12.91 2. Jonathan Chase, Maine 8:02 3. Eduardo Pasko, Col. 8:03 (Again, where were the guys?) **Indiana State 20 Km, Evansville, March 25--1.** Max Walker 1:54:10 2. Drew Swonder 1:54:51 3. Abigail Oliver 2:02:55 4. Steve Clutter 2:09:57 5. Londa Swonder 2:13:01 (7 finishers, 5 DQs, 1 DNF) **15 KM, Kenosha, Wis., March 12--1.** Matt DeWitt 1:10:35 2. Lachlan McDonald and Debbi Lawrence 1:13:25 4. Will Leggett 1:14:50 5. Ali DeWitt-Bahr 1:18:35 6. Mike DeWitt (49) 1:18:50 7. Deb Iden 1:20:41 8. Mike Rose 1:31:01 **10 Km, same place--1.** Steven Quirke 47:53 2. Sara Stevenson 48:53 (The first 10 Km for this promising newcomer) 3. Jim Heys 49:07 4. Will Preischel 49:55 5. Angie Nieth 57:28 6. Mike Stanton 58:08 7. Kathleen Stuper 59:46 **Indoor 3 Km, Milwaukee, March 5--1.** John Miller 16:47 2. Ron Winkler 17:08 **USATF Midwest Masters Indoor 1500 meters, Glenview, Ill., March 18--1.** Richard McGuire (52) 7:09.9 2. Michael Rose 7:39.1 3. Ron Winkler (49) 8:12.5 4. John Miller (51) 8:42.7 5. Alice Winkler 9:52.6 **5 Km, Denver, Feb. 13--1.** Francisco Pantoja 19:56 2. Jose Pantoja 19:57 3. Sally Richards (47) 25:37 4. Daryl Meyers (57) 28:34 5. Lorie Rupoli (48) 30:34 **5 Km, Denver, Feb. 20--1.** Francisco Pantoja 21:52 2. Jose Pantoja 21:53 3. Daryl Meyers 28:36 **Colorado State 3 Km Indoor Championship, Colorado Springs, Feb. 27--1.** Francisco Pantoja 12:38 2. Jose Pantoja 13:21 3. Terry Femmer (47) 16:27 4. Eric Pasko (18) 16:29 5. Ray Franks (65) 18:21 **Indoor 1 Mile, Boulder, Col., March 4--1.** Francisco Pantoja 6:25 2. Jose Pantoja 6:27 3. Terry Femmer 8:27 4. Viisha Sedlak (51) 8:56 **5 Mile, Denver, March 5--1.** Jose Pantejo 33:23 1. Francisco Pantoja 34:31 (Not feeling well) 3. John Tarin (47) 47:57 4. Daryl Meyers 49:25 5. Lorie rupoli 51:09 **Arizona USATF 3 Km, Phoenix, March 18--1.** Ed Bernal 18:16 2. Christy Smith (50) 18:17 3. Bob Daniel (59) 18:18 **10 Mile Handicap, Pasadena, Cal., Jan. 30--1.** Sloan Zsiros 1:51:37 2. Susan Jupena (50) 1:59:38 3. Mark Green (44) 1:17:17 (Fast time. Started last, 40 and 45 minutes behind the two that beat him) 4. Arvid Rolle (66) 1:43:22 5. Jolene Steigerwalt (56) 1:44:31 6. Ed Bouldin (52) 1:45:09 7. Bob Mimm (75) 1:50:37 8. Margaret Govea 1:32:30 10. Richard Lenhart (41) 1:29:53. . 15. Christoph Dreher (42) 1:30:46. . 18. Masashi Noritake (75) 1:54:37 **Los Angeles Marathon, March 5--1.** Dave McGovern 3:52:48 2. Doug Johnson 4:15:59 3. Judy Fierro 4:53:13 (49 finishers). Weather was about as bad as the 50 Km Trial in Sacramento--Upper 40s, windy, 2 inches of rain during the race. Also in the race was, finishing fifth in the handbike division, was your editor's son Derek. He doesn't remember much of the last couple of miles and wound up in the hospital with hypothermia. His body temperature was around 94 at the finish and they couldn't get him warmed up in the first aid tent. In the meantime, I had a call from his friend who won the race wondering if we had heard anything from Derek. This was maybe 3 hours after Rich had finished and he hadn't seen Derek come in. So, I had to wonder what was going on for another hour-and-half until Derek called after he left the hospital fully recovered. **3 Km, Kentfield, Cal., Feb. 27--1.** Jack Bray 16:38 **1 Mile, Berkeley, Cal., Feb. 18--1.** Jack Bray 8:36.05 2. Peter Corona 9:46 3. Doris Cassels 9:58 **5 Km, Palo Alto, Cal., March 19--1.** Shoja Torabian (50-54) 25:20 2. Jck Bray (65-59) 25:35 3. Jim Currier (50-54) 28:45 4. Ed Lane (60-64) 29:40 5. John Doane (55-59) 29:55 (36 finishers) **Second Annual Top O-Tabor 3 Km, Portland, Ore., March 18--1.** Rob Frank 15:29 2. Pat Detloss 17:48 3. George Opsahl 17:54 (8

finishers) Women--1. Barbara Thiele 18:57 (5 finishers) The race is held on a loop at the top of Mr. Tabor, the only extinct volcano within the city limits of a U.S. city. **Ontario Masters 3 Km, Toronto, March 4--1.** Rod Crag, Mich. 14:54.4 2. Thom Jenkins 15:01.1 3. Stuart Summerhayes (65+) 16:59 Women--1. Joni Bender 14:27.6 2. Sherry Watts (45+) 17:36 3. Lily Whalen (45+) 17:49 5. Ann Marie Rosenitch (55+) 18:29 **Vancouver International Racewalks, March 5: 50 Km--1.** Tim Berrett 3:52:48 20 Km--1. Gordon Mosher 1:29:25 2. Jean-Sebastian Beaucage 1:33:52 3. Patrick Boisvert 1:33:55 4. Blair Miller 1:34:08 5. Karen Foan 1:47:25 6. Gerry Dragomir 1:50:50 7. Sally Richards, US 1:50:57 8. Catherine Sousa Neves 1:53:03 9. Kelly Murphey Glenn, US 1:54:03 10. Sue Hornung 1:55:52 11. Jeff Hoyen 1:58:17 12. Joanne Fox 1:58:22 10 Km--1. Eric Roze 51:40 2. Stan Charsinski, US 55:50 3. Bob Novak, US 56:45 **United Kingdom National 20 Km, March 12--D.** Stone 1:27:08 2. A. Penn 1:28:47 3. M. Hales 1:31:50 4. D. Bearman 1:32:38 5. G. Brown 1:32:43 6. A. O'Rawe 1:37:19 **UK National Women's 20 Km, March 12--1.** L. Kehler 1:39:28 2. N. Menendez 1:44:55 3. K. Braznell 1:48:14 4. S. Tonks 1:49:51 **Greek Championships, Marathon, March 18: Men's 50 Km--1.** Spyridon Kastanis 3:56:47 2. Theodoros Stamatopoulos 3:57:44 Women's 20 Km--1. Christina Deskou 1:31:38 (National record) 2. Christina Kokotou 1:36:36 Jr. Women's 10 Km--1. Evaggelia Xynou 49:41 **Spanish Championships, Cieza, March 19: Men's 50 Km--1.** Jesus Garcia 3:45:14 2. Mikel Odrozola 3:45:57 3. Mario Avellandeda 3:52:52 4. Santiago Perez 3:53:08 5. Jose Rodriguez 3:54:28 6. Trond Nymark, Norway 4:00:14 7. David Sanchez 4:04:19 8. Francisco Pinardo 4:06:02 (Daniel Plaza, DQ) Women's 20 Km--1. Eva Perez 1:32:03 (Spanish record) 2. Rocio Florido 1:35:26 3. Vanesa Espinoza Perez 1:38:43 Men's under 21 20 Km--1. Jorge Silva 1:23:48 2. Jose Aledo 1:27:49 **50 Km, Sint-Oedenrode, Netherlands, March 12--1.** Chris Maddocks, Eng. 3:57:10 2. Mark Easton, Eng. 4:07:33 **200 Km, France, March 12--1.** Vladimir Boidatchenko, Russia 22:19:40 2. Lubos Mackanic, Slovakia 22:53:45 3. Sergei Dvoretzki, Russia 23:30:48 4. Jeanick Landormy, France 23:16:36 5. Jose-Mora Bernardo, Spain 23:42:15 (Only finishers under 24 hour limit; 27 competitors still walking at finish) Women--1. Sandra Brown, Eng. 23:46:27 for 183.242 Km 2. Irina Putinseva, Russia 23:46:47 for 176.060 km **30 Km, Portugal, Jan. 30--1.** Joao Vieira 2:13:55 **Women's 15 Km, same place--1.** Susana Feitor 1:09:39 **Portuguese 50 Km Championship, March 5--1.** Robert Korzeniowski, Poland 3:41:50 (It would appear he plans a strong defense of his Olympic title.) 2. Pedro Matins 3:55:55 3. Dennis Franke, Ger. 3:58:26 4. Jose Magalhaes 4:08:56 5. V. Soares 4:11:34 6. Jose Urbano 4:14:29 **Portuguese Women's 20 Km Championship, March 3--1.** Karen Radtke, Ger. 1:33:52 2. I. Goncalves 1:39:00 3. S. Avoila 1:42:56 **Indoor 5 KM, Genova, Italy, Feb. 12--1.** Alessandro Gandellini 18:27.15 2. Giovanni DiBenedictis 18:34:59 3. Michele Didoni 18:47.94 4. Giovanni Perricelli 19:06.28 5. Ivano Brugnetti 19:09.78 6. Lorenzo Civallo 19:38.19 7. Enrico Lang 19:41.84 8. Alessandro Mistretta 19:46:41 9. Massimo Fizialetti 19:50.96 10. Denny Galanello 20:04.31 (16 finishers under 21:00) **Women's Indoor 3 Km, same place--1.** Erica Alfridi 12:10.18 2. Anna Rita Sidoti 12:14.51 3. Cristiana Pellino 12:16.92 4. Elke Ennemoser 12:45.28 5. Elisa Rigauda 12:50.40 6. Lisa Barbieri 12:56.88 7. Emanuela Perilli 13:08.64 8. Rachele Camasale 13:54:34 **Swedish Indoor 3 Km, Gothenburg, Feb. 26--1.** Tobias Persson 20:27.6 2. Bengt Bengtsson 20:36.3 3. Bo Gustafsson 20:50.4 **Women's 3 Km, same place--1.** Monica Svensson 13:55.5 2. Linda Tennngren 14:07.4 **Danish Indoor 5 Km, same place--1.** Jacob Sorensen 21:11.2 **Finnish Indoor 5 Km, Kuopio, Feb. 12--1.** Jani Lehtinen 20:52.88 2. Antti Kempas 21:27 3. Juha Kinnunen 21:38 **Women's 3 Km, same place--1.** Tiina Muinonen 13:40.68 2. Outi Sillanpaa 13:44 **Norwegian Indoor Women's 3 Km, Stange, Feb. 5--1.** Kjersti Tyssse Platzter 12:29.34 2. hanne Liland 13:46 **Men's 5 Km, same place--1.** Erik Tyssse 20:52.23 2. Kristian Ludne Lyssand 21:31 3. Henning Havsgard 21:42 **50 Km, Dudince, Slovakia, March 25--1.** Valentin Kononen, Finland 3:39:34 (6th fastest performer

all-time; 8th fastest time--Ronald Weigel has three faster times. The 1995 World Champion left some good walkers far in his wake. Too much, too soon? We might have posed the same question regarding Korzeniowski, above. We will see on Sept. 29 when everyone assembles in Sydney. Go Curt.) 2. Peter Korcok, Slovakia 3:54:56 3. Zoltan Czukur, Hungary 3:55:48 4. Alexander Rakovic, Yugoslavia 3:56:56 5. Vitaliy Popovich, Ukraine 3:58:27 6. Zujus Dougvinas, Latvia 3:58:39 7. Marek Jacek, Slovakia 3:58:49 8. Kazimir Verkin, Slov. 3:59:16 9. Martin Popis, Slov. 4:03:30 10. Milos Batovsky 4:05:33 **Australian 20 Km Championships, Jan. 26--1. Nathan Deakes 1:21:47 2. Joel Sanchez, Mexico 1:21:55 3. Nick A'Hern 1:22:15 4. Dion Russell 1:24:09 5. Luke Adams 1:25:29 6. Craig Barrett, N.Z. 1:26:09 7. Troy Sundstrom 1:26:37 8. Giovanni Perricelli, Italy 1:28:56 9. Brent Vallance 1:29:48 10. Ivano Brugnetti, Italy 1:30:05 11. Liam Murphy 1:30:34 12. Brad Malcolm 1:31:23 13. Darren Bown 1:31:58 14. Duane Cousins 1:32:07 **Women's 20 Km, same place--1. Erica Alfridi, Italy 1:30:06 2. Elisabetta Perrone, Italy 1:30:36 3. Jane Saville 1:30:58 4. Kerry Saxby-Junna 1:33:51 5. Lisa Paoline 1:34:35 6. Cheryl Webb 1:36:14 7. Yuan Yu Fang, Malaysia 1:36:14 8. Simone Wolowicz 1:40:06 **10 Km, Papakura, New Zealand, March 5--1. Gary Little (58) 48:24 **New Zealand 3 Km Championship, Christchurch, March 10--1. Craig Barrett 11:47.09 **New Zealand 20 Km Championship, Christchurch, March 12--1. Barrett 1:25:52 2. Tony Sargisson 1:33:30 (Gary Little DQd) **5 Km, Victoria, Aust., March 16--1. Jamie Costin, Ireland 19:55.29 2. Pierce O'Callaghan, Ireland 20:13 3. Scott Nelson 20:36 **Women's 20 Km, Taranto, Italy, March 3--1. Erika Alfridi 1:29:10 2. Elisabetta Perrone 1:29:10 3. Cristiana Pellino 1:31:33 4. Elisa Rigaud 1:32:50 5. Gisella Orsini 1:32:57 6. Annarita Sidoti 1:34:08 7. Emanuela Perilli 1:37:26 8. Annarita Fidanza 1:39:06 **10 Km, Lanciano, Italy, March 12--1. Elisabetta Perrone 43:39 2. Cristiana Pellino 45:04 3. Olga Panfiorova, Russia 45:40 4. Elena Nikolayeva, Russia (These two are walking for Italian clubs. I don't know if there are any citizenship changes already in effect or imminent.) **30 Km, Pescara, Italy, March 3--1. Marco Giungi 2:06:20 2. Francesco Galdenzi 2:08:01 3. Alessandro Mistretta 2:08:24 4. Lorenzo Civallo 2:11:27 5. Ivano Brugnetti 2:11:44 6. Massimo Passoni 2:12:21 7. Alfio Corsaro 2:12:36 (14 under 2:20) **25 Km, Pescara, March 3--1. Patrik Ennemoser 1:52:51 2. Ivano Medagli 1:54:56 3. Tiziano Desantis 1:55:12 4. Paul Gassebner 1:56:23********************

YO! Put On Your Walkin' Shoes and Get On Down To:

- Sat. April 8 2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
10 Km, Long Island (F)
5 Km, Cupertino, Cal. (R)
- Sun. April 9 5 Km, Cambridge, Mass, 9 :30 am (G)
- Sat. April 15 5 Km, Delray Beach, Fla., 7:30 am (Q)
- Sun. April 16 10 Km, Kenosha, Wis. (O)
National USATF 30 Km, Masters Womens 20 Km, Flushing, Mich. (I)
Metropolitan 10 Km, New York City, 9 am (F)
35th Annual Capt. Ronald Zinn Memorial 10 Km, Wall, N.J., 11 am (A)
3 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)
5 Km, Littleton, Col. (H)
5 Km, Auburn, Cal. (P)
- Sat. April 22 10 Km, Seattle, 10 am (C)
15 Km, Long Island, 9 am (F)
5 and 10 Km, Washington, D.C. (J)
Penn Relays 5 and 10 Km, Philadelphia
- Sun. April 23 5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)

- 5 Mile, Westerly, Rhode Island (N)
- Sat. April 29 5 Km, Grove City, Ohio, 8:30 am (Z)
Michigan 5 Km, Kalamazoo (CC)
- Sun. April 30 3 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)
8 Km, Westerly, R.I. (DD)
5 Km, Denver (H)
West Regional 5 Km, Las Vegas, Nev. (B)
- Sat. May 6 5 Km, Sioux Falls, S.D., 7 am (Y)
- Sun. May 7 10 Km, Eugene, Ore. (C)
1/2 Marathon, Long Island (F)
15 and 30 Km, Foster, Rhode Island (BB)
Jack Mortland 5, 10, and 20 Km (the 20 is an Ohio and North Zone Championship, Yellow Springs, Ohio (M)
Southeast Masters 20 Km, Raleigh, N.C. (AA)
- Fri. May 12 Southeast Masters 5 Km, Raleigh, N.C., 6:30 pm (AA)
- Sat. May 13 5 Km, Long Island, 9 am (F)
- Sun. May 14 3 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)
New England 5 Km, Cambridge, Mass., 9:30 am (N)
15 Km, Kenosha, Wis. (O)
Southeast Masters 20 Km, Raleigh, N.C. (AA)
- Sat. May 20 **National USATF 15 Km, El Grove, Ill. (S)**
Metropolitan 20 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (F)
- Sun. May 21 5 Km, Littleton, Col., 8:30 am (H)
5, 10, and 20 Km, Point Pleasant, N.J., 9:30 am (A)
- Sat. May 27 10 and 20 Km (Track), Broomfield, Col., 8 am (H)
- Sun. May 28 3 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)
5 Km, Kentfield, Cal. (P)
5 and 10 Km, Toronto
- Mon. May 29 10 Km, Boulder, Col., 8 am (H)
- Sat. June 3 20 Km, Eisenhower Park, L.I., N.Y., 9 am (F)
5 Km, Miami, 7 pm (Q)
20 Km, Kenosha, Wis. (O)
- Sun. June 11 5 Mile, New Hyde Park, L.I., N.Y. (F)
3 Km, Alexandria, Vir. (J)

Contacts

A--Elliott Denman, 28 N. Locust, West Long Branch, NY 07764
B--Richard Oliver, 11431 Sunshine Terrace, Studio City, CA 91604
C--Bev LaVeck, 6633 N.E. Windermere Road, Seattle, WA 98115
D--Walking Club of Georgia, PO Box 190011, Atlanta, GA 31119
E--Sierra Race Walkers, P.O. Box 13203, Sacramento, CA 95813
F--Howard "Jake" Jacobson, P.O. Box 640, Levittown, NY 11756
G--Justin Kuo, 30 Oakland Road, Brookline, MA 02146; 617-566-7600
H--Bob Carlson, 2261 Glencoe St., Denver CO 80207
I--Mark O'Donnell, 5214 Ole Saybrook, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
J--Mil Wood, 5302 Easton Drive, Springfield, VA 22151
M--Vince Peters, 607 Omar Circle, Yellow Springs, OH 45387
N--Steve Vaitones, 90 Summit Street, Waltham, MA 02451
O--Mike DeWitt, U. of Wis. Parkside, Kenosha, WI, dewitt@uwp.edu
P--Jack Bray, Marin Racewalkers, P.O. Box 21, Kentfield, CA 95813

Q--Florida Athletic Club-Walkers, 3331 NW 22nd St., Coconut Creek, FL 33066
 R--Ron Daniel, 1289 Balboa Court, Apt. 149, Sunnyvale, CA 94086
 S--Diane Graham-Henry, 442 W. Belden, Chicago, IL 60614
 T--Columbia, TC P.O. Box 1872, Columbia, MO 65205
 V--Pat Walker, 3537 S. State Rd. 135, Greenwood, IN 46143
 W--New Mexico Racewalker, P.O. Box 6301, Albuquerque, NM 87197
 Y--Glen Peterson, 1906 S. Hawthorne Avenue, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57105
 Z--Melissa Ungerleider, 1315 Great Hunter Court, Grove City, OH 43123
 AA--Andy Briggs, 917-575-4164
 BB--Russell Wolfgang-Smith, The Sherwood Foundation, P.O. Box 874, Providence, RI 02901
 CC--Bill Reed, 8242 Greenfield Shores, Scotts, MI 49088
 DD--Joe Light, 34 George Street, Westerly, RI 02891

From Heel to Toe

Junior Nationals and beyond. The 2000 Junior Nationals are scheduled for June 23-24 at the University of North Texas, Denton Texas. The women's 10 Km will go off at 7 am on the 23rd and the men's 10 at 8 am on the same day. Qualifying standards for women are 16:00 for 3 km, 28:20 for 5, or 59:45 for 10. For men the standards are 15:00, 25:28, or 55:15. The top two finishers in each race will qualify for a pair of junior matches in Montreal July 17-23. Top finishers will also be considered for the 1st NACAC (North American, Central American, Caribbean) meet for athletes under 25 in Monterey, Mexico in early August. The World Junior Championships are in Santiago, Chile October 17-22. Their is a 44:30 qualifying standard for the men, but no standard for women. Whether two women will be sent, regardless of time, is another question. The meet will involve a preliminary round for both men and women. The men will walk the preliminary race on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 8 am and the final on Thursday, Oct. 19 at 4:55 pm. The women go on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 8 am and Friday, Oct. 20 at 5:45 pm. **Pan Am Cup teams.** U.S. teams for the Pan American Cup in Poza Rica, Mexico in April have been named. For the women's 20 Km we will send Michelle Rohl, Susan Armenta, Danielle Kirk, Jill Zenner, and Sara Standley. The men's teams will be Curt Clausen, Tim Seaman, Jonathan Mathews, Andrew Hermann, and Kevin Eastler at 20 km, and Gary Morgan, Mark Green, Will Leggett, Andrzej Chylinski, and Theron Kissinger at 50. There will also be a 20 Km "B" team of Philip Dunn, Al Heppner, Sean Albert, and Dave McGovern. A woman's "B" team was also picked, composed of Gretchen Eastler, Margaret Ditchburn, Sara Standley, and Cheryl Rellinger, but Gretchen, Margaret, and Cheryl decided not to go, and Sara was moved up to the "A" team to replace the injured Joanne Dow (who is reportedly back training). The women's race is at 7 am on Saturday April 8, followed by the men's 20 at 9 am. The men's 50. . . ? I seem to have lost the second page of the correspondence that would give us this vital piece of information. Sorry fans. But that's the type of service you get for 10 bucks a year. **Where were the boys?** We asked that question in reporting the results of the two national scholastic meets earlier in this issue. Daniel Gurick, who won the New York race against just one other competitor (who was disqualified), noted: "Nobody wants to walk in the winter. The talent is there, but we need to get more guys interested in competing." Incidentally, another newspaper report on the races (in *Newsday*, a Long Island paper), described the races as follows: "Long Island *runners* (italics mine) accounted for only two victories, and both were in the racewalk. Yesterday, Coleen Schmidt of Wantagh grabbed a gold, *running* away with the victory in 7:32.16." I assume no editorial comment on the mode of progression was intended. . . **Weinacker Cup.** This year's Weinacker Cup competition (an annual Ontario vs. Michigan affair with a men's 10 km and women's 5 km, will be held in Toronto, Sunday, July 9. The organizers are inviting participation of teams from states or provinces as well. New York, Ohio, Quebec, Pennsylvania are logical candidates, but they might

consider others. If interested, contact Roman Olszewski at the Ontario T&F Association, 45 Wellandvale Drive, Welland, ON L3C 7C4, Canada. Phone 905-732-9955 or e-mail olsz@iaw.on.ca **Customized shoes.** Bart Hersey in Maine makes customized shoes that many masters walkers are swearing by. Hersey builds a custom shoe for each foot, and every foot on every athlete is different. And his shoes are ultra-light and can be resoled three and four times, bringing the cost down to less than most racing shoes on the market. If interested you can call Bart at 107-778-3130. . . **A nice story.** Look back at the results of the NAA Indoor 3 Km on page 2 and you will see: 7. Mike Stanton, Wis. Parkside 15:02.73. A bit more about Mr. Stanton, as told by Michael Rohl: "Mike was an outstanding small school wrestler (3rd in Class C Wisconsin). He was also a 12-foot pole vaulter and the star running back on the football team. But as fate would have it, he hurt a knee vaulting and then had his appendix rupture the summer before his senior year. I met Mike when I was subbing at the school. After talking to me about his injuries, he said he would come out for the team once he was a little more fit. Three weeks later, this young man, who had never run distance showed up ready to run. He was not in great shape, but good enough to start. He lived on every word I said and eventually improved to 19:00 in just 3 weeks. (Ed. Presumably for 5 km cross country.) He was a good all around athlete and I suggested he might try the walk. I took him to Parkside with another boy to see the campus on a day when I was doing a 5 km workout in 21:10. I told him then that some day he would be as fast. For family reasons, Mike could not go to school this fall and I was not sure if he would. I ran with one day and reminded him that Coach DeWitt's scholarship offer was still there. Much to my happiness, he arrived this January. He has been walking just 6 weeks. I never taught him--Mike did that. (Ed. That's Mike DeWitt. This story is just full of Mikes. Mike takes Mike to Mike and all three Mikes are happy.) But, because Mike took a chance on a kid that I sent his way, this quiet and serious young man is now racewalking and more importantly he is going to college--which he may not have been able to do without the scholarship. This my friends is what athletics is all about." . . **World Class camp.** I have seen many positive comments on Dave McGovern's World Class clinics and camps and never anything negative, so obviously, Dave is doing a lot of things right. Well, here is another chance for you to get some of Dave's tips for improvement, delivered with his ready wit. He will be in Helena, Montana, known as the The Queen City of the Rockies, for a 5-day camp from July 26 to 31. The camp will be at Carroll College, where Professor Jonathan Mathews holds forth. So, you might get a little help from Jonathan, as well. At 4100 feet in the Northern Rockies, Helena's July days include only about 6 hours of darkness, so when Dave whips you from dawn to dusk, you will really be whipped. Actually, Dave may give you a little time to enjoy the mountain sunsets and lingering twilights that take hours to end. Contact Dave by e-mail at RayZwocker@aol.com, or Jonathan at 1633 Flowerree Street, Helena, MT 59601. . . **More walkers of the century.** Richard Harper in Brooklyn was inspired by our on-going commentary on the best walkers of the century to do an in-depth analysis on the international level. His detailed comments are too extensive for these pages, at least at this time, but he has a summary of his conclusions. First he broke the century seven time periods, based on evolution of the sport. He then listed nominees for each period, with their credentials, and from these selected semifinalists and then a single finalist for each period, with supporting supporting reasons for his selections. So in summary, his picks for each period were: 1904-16: Nominees--George Goulding, Canada; George Larner, Great Britain; and Ernest Webb, Great Britain. Semifinalist--George Larner. Finalist--George Larner. 1920-29--Just one nominee, who was, of course, the finalist--Ugo Frigerio, Italy. 1932-40. Just one nominee, Harold Whitlock, Great Britain, but he was not picked as either a semifinalist or finalist. 1946-54 (He did not include the war years in his analysis because of the hiatus in significant competition.)--Nominees--Josef Dolezal, Czechoslovakia; John Ljunggren, Sweden; John Mikaelsson, Sweden. Semifinalist and Finalist--John Ljunggren. 1956-1975--Nominees--Ken Matthews, Great Britain; Vladimir Golubnichiy, USSR; Christoph Hohne, East Germany; Abdon Pamich, Italy; Bernd Kannenberg, West Germany. Semifinalists--

Golubnichiy, Hohne, Kannenberg. Finalist--Golubnichiy 1975-1988. Nominees--Daniel Bautista, Mexico; Maurizio Damilano, Italy; Hartwig Gauder, East Germany; Raul Gonzalez, Mexico; Jose Marin, Spain; Ronald Weigel, East Germany; Sur Orr Cook, Australia; Margareta Simu, Sweden. Semifinalists--Bautista, Gonzalez, Weigel, Simu. Finalist Gonzalez. 1987-1999. Nominees--Mikhail Schennikov, Russia; Jesus Garcia, Spain; Andrei Perlov, Russia; Robert Korzeniowski, Poland; Carlos Mercenario, Mexico; Yelena Nikolayeva, Russia; Kerry Saxby-Junna, Australia. Semifinalists--Schennikov, Perlov, Mercenario, Saxby. Finalists--Schennikov, Saxby. And Richard Harper's ultimate winners are: Gold--Vladimir Golubnichiy. Silver--Raul Gonzalez. Of course, many will reach different all the way down the line, but Richard has done a great job of delving into the history of the sport and putting us in touch with past and present heroes. . . **Even more great walkers.** As I was typing the above, the day's mail arrived. And in it was some comment from Elliott Denman on our discussion of the greatest U.S. walkers. Usually, such things arrive the day that I have taken an issue to the printer. But not this time. (Some of the Italian results above also arrived in today's mail, just in time. A red letter day. Not that I wouldn't have filled the issue, but the fresher, the better.) Anyway, Elliott says: "In the whole matter of 'Greatest USA Walkers ever', some magnificent performers in their own right have never even been mentioned. Well, I'll mention some right here and now: Joe Pearman, whose silver medal in the 1920 10 km is still the best-ever USA Olympic finish. Richard Remer, who earned a bronze in the 1920 Olympic 3 km. The great Willie Plant!! And Eddie Renz!! And how about, of later vintage, the magnificent Ernie Crosbie, three times an Olympic 50 km walker and many-time National champion (as well as one of the very small handful of athletes to span the World War II years and return to the Games in 1948. Also, Adolph Weinacker, like Crosbie a Michigan State man and many-time champion, as well as three-time 50 km Olympian. His seventh place in 1956 was the highest-ever USA 50 km finish (topping Crosbie's eight in '32) and still fourth best ever behind Larry Young's two thirds and Carl Schueler's sixth in '84. Men who deserve more applause than they got, too, were four-time Olympians Schueler and Marco Evoniuk, who did so many great things for so many years. Not enough praise was heaped on Todd Scully and Dave Romansky, either. Who could ever forget Todd's classic 5:55 Millrose Games mile walk, making him the 'Roger Bannister of racewalking.' And Dave, for all his great deeds, championships, US and world records, and international honors, from the sprints to the 50. Take note that Dave place second in the National 2 Hour last October. Has a sexagenarian (note to all: the word merely reflects age, not proclivities) ever placed that high in an Open National Championship walk before?? (Ed. I'm sure not. But, not to detract from Dave's prowess, while he produced a tremendous result for a 60-year old, the place was much more a function of who was not there than Dave's performance. I can remember being embarrassed to accept a 6th place National award for a 52:09 10 km when I was 42, which I got only because no one showed up. Of course, Dave was walking a couple of minutes faster than that at 60. So we'll give him his due.) And let's not forget George Bonhag and his gold medal in the 1906 1500 meters, but at a Games still considered 'unofficial.' While speaking of that, how about launching the movement to declare the 1906 Games (still listed in many Olympic histories) as an 'official Games?'"

Commentary

Danger Signals

by Elliott Denman

(Also in the mail received from Elliott Denman, always a keen and astute observer of our sport, was his take on the present status of that sport. With even more to follow by and about Elliott, and at the risk of making this an Elliott Denman issue--which isn't bad--we publish the following observations from one of the great contributors to and boosters of the sport.)

There are obvious danger signals out there, and, if not addressed immediately, the sport we've all worked so long and hard for may be in for some major blows to its status and recognition within the greater USA track and field community.

Consider:

Just five male walkers competed at the USATF Indoor National Championships in Atlanta (four of them representing one club).

Just six female walkers competed in Atlanta.

Unlike the situations in past years, when walkers outnumbered the athletes in some other events, no other events had as few entries as the walks.

Just five walkers (I believe) competed in the prestigious Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden.

The March 10-12 weekend saw both the National Scholastic Classic in New York City and Nike Scholastic Classic at Indiana University. Just two male walkers entered the NYC meet and just four competed in Indiana. (Ed. We have already commented on this.)

My feeling: we'd better develop some good, fast young walkers to compete at a high level soon or we'll soon hear it from the powers-that-be asking why these walking events are included in their meets in the first place. And that would be truly horrible; a vast, horrendous step backward!!!

While a small team of athletes based in Chula Vista is doing incredible things and making major progress, there is too little being done around the rest of the country to encourage and nurture our good, fast, younger walkers, and bring them to the level where they'll be competing in the biggest races in the land.

And, even while some great times are being turned in, in some cases there are ongoing problems in monitoring style, technique, and 'legality'. Let us not forget that while a single USA walker did magnificently at the 1999 World Championships, that three of the other six USA walkers entered would up on the DQ list. Let's not forget the many USA DQs, too, at the last World University Games. Please, also, let's not say this is a result of some form of judges' bias. It's always the athletes' responsibility to deal with these situations, not the other way around.

While all this is happening, masters racewalking is undergoing a huge boom and there's a vast number of athletes supporting this phase of our sport. The USA masters walkers lead the world in many divisions!!

But, even here, there are danger signals as many masters walkers are upset that the 'old rules', which served our sport so well and for so long, have been replaced by the 'new rules', which were primarily designed to deal with situations on the international, elite level. (And, which continue to focus on the more obvious 'crime' involved in the straightening phase, while failing to be more vigilant in judging the harder-to-detect contact phase.)

Bottom line as I see it:

Let us all get to work and keep on developing the good, fast young ones, finding ways to get them to the big races, and keeping them in our sport as they grow' all the while working on all our great local clubs around America so that the 'base' is always there. Without a base, of course, we're sunk."

* * * * *

Continuing with the "Elliott Issue" we have to include the following article, since four readers saw fit to send us a copy hoping we could use it. The article, entitled "Olympian, One Step At A time" appeared in *Newsday* under the byline of John Jeanson. And following that, is a nostalgic, review and preview article that Elliott wrote as the Olympics return to Australia, where he competed in 1956. Elliott, since retiring from the *Asbury Park Press* last year, has caught on to a job as correspondent for NBCOlympics.com, which will carry him back to Australia in the fall.

AS WITH ALL things, before the Olympics could run, it had to walk. Thus, the symbolism of a Michael Johnson, representing the modern millionaire jock, running in this September's Sydney Olympics, compared to New York native Elliott Denman, very much an amateur the last time the Games went down under 44 years ago, walking.

That was Denman's event in the 1956 Melbourne Games: the 50-kilometer race walk. Beyond the evolutionary analogy, though, is the contrast in fact: He had no agent, no paid coach, no shoe contract. It was "so different than it is now," he said. "It couldn't happen to a guy like me now."

Now, of course, fabulously compensated stars have become the norm, two decades since Olympic amateur rules began to be phased out. Just this month, International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch was leaning on global soccer officials to release their most celebrated, highly salaried players to appear in Sydney—just as Samaranch invited NBA heroes into the expanding Olympic tent in 1992.

COUNTDOWN TO SYDNEY



185 DAYS
TO GO

And that is fine with Denman, 65, who chronicled the whole thing as a sports reporter for two New Jersey newspapers over 39 years, until his retirement last year. "It's great that athletes have a chance to make money," he said, "but the old feeling is not there."

The old feeling was Denman, at 14, passing a travel agency window on Manhattan's 96th Street and seeing photographs of London's preparations for the 1948 Olympics "and getting really fired up." His older brother was a sprinter for LIU, but the closest this son of a dentist got to a track career at Taft High School in the Bronx was as manager of the team which, on a single occasion, "needed a relay anchor man for the C team and I was pressed into duty."

He enjoyed exercise. "I was the only kid in Boy Scouts who actually liked the 14-mile hikes," he said. But it wasn't until his sophomore year at NYU that he "presented myself to the NYU track coach." The coach, elderly mentor Emil Von Elling, ran a powerhouse college team but saw no reason not to encourage the 6-1, 168-pound Denman to try race walking.

"The Olympics?" Denman said, incredulously. "I was just thinking of being in the Junior Mets. In those days, it wasn't based on age, but on previous performance, so the Junior Mets were for anyone who'd never won a race. I won the first time I was in it, the one-mile walk in 8:11.3. I was ready to retire after that. What more was there?"

That was 1954. Von Elling introduced Denman to two prominent Long Island-based race walkers—Mineola's Henry Laskau, training for his third Olympic team, and Port Washington's Bruce MacDonald, who would make the team in 1960 and '64. By the summer of 1956, having just gotten his degree in business administration and holding a part-time job, Denman signed up, almost off-handedly, for the 20-kilometer and 50-kilometer Olympic Trials walks, held three weeks apart. He finished deep in the 20k pack and had "never even walked as far as 50k at the time of those trials"—on a brutally hot mid-September day in Baltimore.

The Olympics? "I was just hoping to finish, maybe make the top 10," he said. "But guys kept dropping out, and leaders kept falling back to the pack after going out too fast. I finished fourth." Alas, one spot away qualifying for Melbourne.

"Then my whole life changed in the shower room after the race," Denman said. "Jim Hewson had finished third, but he already had made the Olympic team in the 20k and preferred that race. He said to me, 'Hey, kid, you can have my place.' Words I'll never forget: 'Hey, kid, you can have my place.'"

Denman, laughing, put his hands over his face in the retelling. "It was like, 'Really, sir?' It was, 'Here I come! I'm on the Olympic team!'"

His trip to Los Angeles for processing and pre-Olympic training was the first airplane ride of his life; the long haul to Melbourne days later—with three refueling stops—was his second. When he got to Australia, he recalled, he had a special pair of race walking shoes made (for the princely sum of \$35) and, after he finished a respectable 11th in the Games, passed the shoes onto MacDonald, who wore them in two subsequent Olympics.

Of course, Denman continued to compete, winning the national title at two distances in 1959. He still walks competitively, having participated in the New York City Marathon 20 years in a row and, in 1987, he returned to Melbourne to walk in the world masters' championships. Of course, he will be in Sydney in September, still "in love with the Olympic mystique." He will remind his old newspapers colleagues: "Write something about the race walk."

It's a good place to start.

Racewalking obscure but entirely Olympic

by Elliott Denman, NBCOlympics.com correspondent

"Come on Texas, come on Texas," so many citizens of Melbourne, Australia, seemed to be saying. The visitor to whom the Aussies' cheers were directed 43 years ago was a 22-year-old kid just out of New York University. He had trained for the Olympic 50-kilometer racewalk, not in the Lone Star State, but on the sidewalks of New York City.

To the people of Melbourne, Texas and New York represented the entire U.S.A.—huge and heady. To the kid, the 1956 Olympic 50 km racewalk was an experience of a lifetime. For both, the transcontinental encounter was a summation of the Olympic spirit.

Leading up to the Melbourne Games, the kid had been in racewalking for just 3 years. But he had been fortunate to meet such men as Henry Laskau and Bruce MacDonald, racewalk veterans who were kind enough to take him under their wing.

Listening and learning, the kid became inspired to walk himself into exhaustion. Time after time, Big Apple mile after Big Apple mile, training for the 50 kilometer racewalk Olympic Trials became his passion. Making the Olympic Team was his dream.

Ans so, 43 years ago, after making the grade in the 50 km Olympic Trials held in Baltimore, I, Elliott Denman, was Down Under-bound with teammates Adolf Weinacker of Detroit and Leo Sjogren of Brooklyn. (Long Islanders Laskau and MacDonald would walk the 20 km race, along with Buffalo's Jim Hewson.) My passionate dream had become a reality.

In 1956, similar to as it is now, the 50 km was underappreciated. It is the longest footrace on the Olympic program (at 31 miles 120 yards, it is nearly 5 miles longer than the 26.2 mile marathon), but few outside walking's inner circle ever recognize that fact. And the manner in which the race is conducted adds to that feeling of obscurity. After a lap or two on the stadium track, walkers are shown out of the stadium and instructed to return several hours later. So, as other events rage on inside the stadium, the men in the 50 are waging their own battle—a battle relatively few ever notice.

Later, sometimes after the rest of the day's program has concluded, the 50 km men return to the stadium to finish their quest for an Olympic medal, and to etch their names into the ever-growing Olympic archives. Those who do not make the medal podium can take solace in the fact that they at least toughed out the longest of all Olympic tests.

The 50 entails style, technique, and a gamesmanship that a sprinter would never know and a shot putter would never experience. Yet, it is not just strength and stamina. "Going the distance" is just part of it. If the 50 km athlete's style is even slightly faulty—and hours on the road will do strange things to any athlete's technique—there is the matter of the IAAF rulebook.

IAAF judges will be lining the Olympic course, noting any transgression of the two basic racewalking rules. First, walkers must maintain constant contact with the ground—no hopping, skipping, jumping, or outright jogging. Second, walkers, with each stride, must maintain a straight leg on initial contact with the road.

The Melbourne Games were staged later in the year than any other Olympics—November 22 to December 8. A marvelous man named Norm Read—a transplant from Steyning, England—captured the 50 km gold medal for New Zealand, walking the Soviet Union's Yevgeniy Maskinkov into the Dandenong Road tarmac in the second half of the race. Weinacker led the U.S. delegation in seventh. Yours truly wound up 11th and Sjogren was 12th. Such notables as Don Thompson of Britain and Georgi Klimov of the Soviet Union never even reached the finish line, done in by brutal 90-degree heat. Thompson's great day would come four years later at the Rome Games. After heat training for four years in his home-built steam chamber, Thompson walked off with the 50 km gold in 1960. There have been 10 Olympics since Melbourne, and America's 50 km men will again be walking off to Australia in 2000.

Not since Larry Young's second consecutive bronze in 1972 has the U.S. won an Olympic 50 km medal, and he's the best we've ever had--no American has ever won the event.

After a fourth place at the 1999 World Championships in Seville, Spain, Curt Clausen, New Jersey born, Wisconsin reared, North Carolina schooled, and California trained, is considered a definite medal contender in Sydney in September. Gold is even a possibility.

Forty-three years later, the Olympic 50 km walk is so much different. The racing (out of the stadium) is over a short loop course--flat and fast, with no out-and-back tours of the city, no hills, and no traffic. The walkers are faster and fitter. Perhaps Norman Read--and all who pursued--would be left in the Down Under dust.

Then again, some things never change. 50 km is 50 km is 50 km. And although the U.S. team will be a non-Texas squad this time around, the exultant Aussies good on 'em, probably won't even notice. For it is the Olympic spirit that endures, not the individual.

Looking Back

35 Years Ago (From the March 1965 ORW--Vol. I, No. 1)--Dr. John Blackburn was reported as the winner of the New Year's Eve 6 Mile Handicap, which became the First Annual race the following year when we conducted the second. With a 5-minute start, Doc finished a full minute ahead of son Jack in 49:32. Jack's 50:32 was the fast time on the rather treacherous course (including a mudrun) at the Indian Village Day Camp where Jack lived at the time. Nearly 30 seconds behind him came a hobbling Jack Mortland. . . Later, however, Mortland won the first-ever indoor walking race in Columbus, a 2 miler, in 14:49, beating Jack B. by 0.1 second. . . Blackburn came back a month later to beat the Mort outdoors, 14:21 to 14:24. . . In between, Mortland captured a 10 miler in 1:20:48. As you can see, all we had in that first issue was local stuff, but that quickly changed.

30 Years Ago (From the March 1970 ORW)--There were two American records to report. Larry Walker did 13:20.2 for 2 Miles (outdoors) and Dave Romansky covered 20 Km on the track in 1:30:12. In that race, Steve Hayden was second in 1:32:06 and John Knifton third in 1:35:53. Romansky covered his final mile in 6:55. . . Greg Diebold won the IC4A indoor 1 Mile in 6:41, beating Clarence Bushart by 1 second. . . Bob Kuchar won the National Junior 50 Km in 5:18:57.

25 Years Ago (From the March 1975 ORW)--Paul Steward won the IC4A indoor mile title in 7:10.8. This collegiate race is no longer contested. . . Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller stormed around an indoor track in East Germany to complete 10 Km in 41:37, a world's indoor best. . . We published a brief capsule of the ORW history, noting that we started out charging \$1.20 per year for what was then a 5-page newsletter reproduced by the ditto process (which may mean nothing to our younger readers.)

20 Years Ago (From the March 1980 ORW)--Todd Scully won the first ever National Athletics Congress walking title (they were previously National AAU titles) as he captured the Indoor 2 Mile in 12:35.1, just 3 seconds off the world's best. Jim Heiring, who went on to win a few titles of his own, was second in 12:43.3, with Bruce Harland third in 13:07 and everyone else way back. . . The women's 1 Mile went to Sue Brodock in 7:06.9, ahead of Sue Liers in 7:11.3 and Esther Lopez in 7:21.8. (No one called me on this at the time, but the chances are Brodock won that first TAC title as the women's race generally went off first. Can anyone who was there provide the definitive answer to this provocative question so we can give proper credit?). . . Scully also won the Olympic Invitational 1500 meter in 5:41 and the IC4A title went to Jerry Katz in 6:30.6, ahead of Mike Morris, Gerald Pollet, and Troy Engle, all under 6:45. . . Heiring had a quick 43:53.4 for 10 Km in

California, with Dan O'Connor recording the same time. . . Carlo Mattioli had an 18:59.2 Indoor 5 Km in Italy, and a lot of Russians went under 40 minutes for 10 Km indoors, led by Viktor Semenov's 39:21.

15 Years Ago (From the March 1985 ORW)--Marco Evoniuk was an easy winner in the TAC 20 Km team race with a 1:28:40 in Monterey, Cal. Sam Shick trailed by more than 6 minutes, with Steve DiBernardo right on his heels. Lori Maynard won the women's race in 1:58:07, just over a minute ahead of Jolene Steigerwalt. Mary Baribeau was third in 2:00:27. . . Tom Edwards broke the American indoor 5 Km record in winning the Intercollegiate at Princeton in 20:17.55. Ed O'Rourke was second in 21:22. . . Ray Funkhouser covered 20 km in 1:30:07 in Long Branch, N.J.

10 Years Ago (From the March 1990 ORW)--Mikhail Schennikov (19:45:28--rather pedestrian for him) and Igor Plotnikov (19:48.71) finished one two in the 5 Km at the USA--Great Britain--USSR Indoor 5 Km in Cosford, England. Britain's Andy Drake was third in 19:57.72 and Dave McGovern fourth in 20:57.68. . . Gretchen Eastler (7:23.84) and Paul Tavares (6:30.39) won National Scholastic 1 Mile titles in Syracuse. Tim Seaman was fourth in the boy's race. . .

5 Years Ago (From the March 1995 ORW)--Michelle Rohl and Allen James won US Indoor titles in Atlanta. Michelle's 13:04.99 left Victoria Herazo 7 seconds back in the women's 3 Km, with Joanne Dow third. James took the 5 Km in 20:16.47, 13 seconds ahead of Jonathan Matthews with Rob Cole another 7 seconds back. Chad Eder and Gary Morgan were also under 21 in fourth and fifth. . . Mexico's Graciela Mendoza beat Rohl to win the Pan American Games 10 Km in Argentina with a 46:31.93. Michelle had 46:46.52. . . James won the Millrose Games Indoor 1 Mile in 5:52.75 with Matthews just 3 seconds back. Wojciech and Lukasz Szela were third and fourth ahead of Gary Morgan and Sean Albert, all between 6:03 and 6:10. (And what has become of the Szela boys?). . . Kevin Eastler did a 6:11.98 to win the National Scholastic Mile in Syracuse. Lisa Kutzing won the girl's race in 7:24.67. . . Mikhail Schennikov set a World's 5 Km Indoor record with an 18:07.08 in Moscow. . . Kerry Saxby and Nick A'Hern won Australian titles in 43:53 and 1:22:35.