

Two Big Surprises; Then Another Day At the Office For Korz

Following two surprising finishes in the 20 Km races, Poland's Robert Korzeniowski brought some order back to the racewalking world. His third straight Olympic win at 50 Km was his most convincing. Despite high temperature and humidity, he missed the Olympic record by just seconds and led a spread-out field by in what he says will be his finale. In 1996 he won by just 6 seconds over Mikhail Schennikov and in 2000 his margin over Aigars Fadejevs was just 1:18. It was his fourth Olympic gold. He also won the 20 in 2000.

A week earlier, Italy's Ivano Brugnetti, primarily a 50 Km specialist until this year, walked from the front to beat all the favorites in the men's 20 Km. His 1:19:40 was a personal best. Three days later, Greek's Athanasia Tsoumeleka, a complete outsider in pre-race speculation, became an instant national hero as she stunned the women's 20 Km field to win in 1:29:12, also a personal best.

The men's 20 Km started at 9 am on August 20 with a temperature of 75 F and relative humidity at 43 percent, relatively cool and dry compared to what had been anticipated. Nonetheless, with heat expected to be a factor, the race started at a very conservative pace that kept a large part of the field together in the early stages.

Brugnetti was showing at the head of the pack from the start and led through the first 2 Km in 8:11, with some 36 walkers within 5 seconds. Maintaining that "leisurely" pace, Brugnetti was still in front at 4 Km in 16:23, and though there were still 29 walkers in the lead pack, the finish order, surprisingly, was already established—Brugnetti, Spain's Francisco Fernandez, Australia's Nathan Deakes, and favorite Jefferson Perez of Ecuador were at the front.

Fernandez assumed the lead and dropped the pace a notch, going through the next 2 Km in 8:03 to reach 6 Km in 24:26, with Brugnetti, Perez, and Deakes right on his heels. That small acceleration dropped the pack to just 23, with some of those starting to drop off the back.

From there, the race was on. Laps of 7:56 each brought the leaders through the first 10 Km in 40:18. Perez was lagging slightly at this point, 2 seconds behind and behind him the race was really spreading out—Hatem Ghoul, Tunisia and Hongjung Zhu, China at 40:21, Noe Hernandez, Mexico 40:22, Juan Molina, Spain 40:25, Vladimir Andreyev, Russia 40:25, Yungfenmg Liu, China 40:31, Allesandro Gandellini, Italy 40:32, and Andre Hohne, Germany 40:34 rounded out the top 12. Mexico's Bernardo Segura, seeking to capture the gold medal he thought he had won in Sydney before his disqualification, had faded to 14th in 40:38. After struggling through another lap in 8:36 and dropping back to 18th, he called it a day before reaching the 14 Km mark.

When the pace dropped another second to 7:54, even Perez, last year's World Champion and the 1996 Olympic gold medalist, started to lose contact. The other three went through 12 Km

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together in 48:12, with Perez 5 seconds back. Hernandez, gamely trying to hang on was fifth in 48:22, a second ahead of Zhu and 7 ahead of Molina and Andreyev. Ghoulia was ninth in 48:30, 16 seconds ahead of Hohne.

Perez rallied himself and got back in touch with the leaders in the middle of the next lap. At that point, it was easy to think that he had just been biding his time and he was now ready to put the others away. But by the end of the lap he was starting to lose contact again and it became apparent that his move was in desperation and it wasn't to be his day. So, at 14 Km, Brugnetti led at 56:05 with Fernandez and Deakes a second back, and Perez 3 seconds down. Perez had covered the lap in 7:49, the fastest of day, which was equalled by Brugnetti and Fernandez two laps later when the racing got really serious.

Perez tried desperately to hang on, but lost another 2 seconds as the leaders went through 16 in 1:03:58, after a 7:53 lap, Perez was now 5 seconds back and could no longer stay in touch. Hernandez was just 20 seconds back, but got his third red card shortly after. When Brugnetti dropped the lap time to 7:49, he and Fernandez opened 3 seconds on Deakes and the race to the finish was soon a two-man affair. With a kilometer to go, they were still stride for stride. surely, this was it. The superior speed of Fernandez would be too much for the Italian, primarily a 50 Km walker until this year. But, Brugnetti was simply too strong and found another gear to pull away again and settle the issue. At the finish, he had a 5 second lead and a personal best of 1:19:40. Deakes had to give up the chase with about 1500 meters to go, but finished unchallenged for the bronze medal in 1:20:02. Perez needed 8:30 for his final 2 Km, but still had 17 seconds on Molina at the finish. Zhu was well back in sixth, with Andreyev seventh. Hohne covered his final 2 Km faster than anyone other than the first two (8:06), but missed collaring the Russian by 3 seconds.

The 27-year-old Brugnetti won the 1999 World Championships 50 Km, but had little success internationally since. He dropped out of 50s at both the 2000 Olympics and 2002 World Cup. Gearing his training to the shorter distance this year he found immediate success, finishing third in the Tijuana RW Challenge behind Perez and Robert Korzeniowski in what was then a personal best of 1:19:43. He followed that up with a sixth in the World Cup with 1:20:06, a win in his National Championships in 1:21:32, and a second to countryman Alessandro Gandellini at Sesto San Giovanni in 1:22:20. Still, he wasn't given consideration for even a medal here, let alone the gold. But he knew he was ready and proved it on the course. It's the seventh Olympic Gold for Italian racewalkers. Ugo Frigerio won three--3 Km in 1920, and 10 Km in 1920 and 1924.. Giuseppe Dordoni and Abdon Pamich won 50s in 1952 and 1964, and Maurizio Damilano won the 20 in 1980.

Fernandez, ranked number one in the World in 2002 and second behind Perez last year, was given the best chance of upsetting Perez in this one. That turned out to be no problem, but the Italian was more than he could handle. Deakes, who was 8th in the Sydney Olympics and fourth in the 2001 World Championships had come back from injury last year to break 3:40 in the 50 in December. A solid third in the World Cup race in May, behind Perez and Korzeniowski, stamped him as a contender in this race and he came through with Australia's first medal since Noel Freeman took a silver in 1960.

The US contingent had an excellent day. Tim Seaman and Kevin Eastler chose to walk together the whole way and paced themselves beautifully. An 8:39 on the first 2 Km was their slowest lap of the day, and they moved from 47th and 48th at that point to 34th and 35th at 10 Km (42:35) and 20th and 21st at the finish in times of 1:25:17 and 1:25:20, the fastest 20s in US Olympic history. (Marco Evoniuk had 1:25:42 in 1980.) John Nunn was just five places back in 26th with a 1:27:38. He chose to go out a bit quicker and was in 30th at 10 Km with 42:25.

To show just how well the U.S. contingent did, consider that of the six nations that had three walkers finish, the U.S. was second on the basis of total time (the three walkers combined): Spain 4:10:56, USA 4:18:15, Russia 4:18:42, Belarus 4:20:39, China 4:21:19; and Korea 4:29:42. (Thanks to Elliott Denman for this stat.)

Following the race, Brugnetti said, "This is like a dream come true. Four years of hard work in training have finally paid off. I have always believed in my abilities. I knew I was in shape for winning a medal here, but I honestly didn't think that medal would be the gold one." Later, "I knew the gold medal would be mine if I managed to stay with Fernandez up to the last kilometers because he is not as strong as I am mentally in the finishing stages of the race. I love the heat. I wish all races could be held in such hot cities. I was successful in Seville (1999 World Championships), which was even hotter, and Tijuana this winter, so I believe the conditions were perfect for me today."

The results:

1. Ivano Brugnetti, Italy 1:19:40 2. Francisco Fernandez, Spain 1:19:45 3. Nathan Deakes, Australia 1:20:02 4. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador 1:20:38 5. Juan Manuel Molina, Spain 1:20:55 6. Hongjun Zhu, China 1:21:40 7. Vladimir Andreyev, Russia 1:21:53 8. Andre Hohne, Germany 1:21:56 9. Aigars Fadejevs, Lithuania 1:22:08 10. Joao Vieira, Portugal 1:22:19 11. Hatem Ghoulia, Tunisia 1:22:59 12. Benjamin Kucinski, Poland 1:23:08 13. Marcol Giungi, Italy 1:23:30 14. Jose Alessandro Bagio, Brasil 1:23:33 15. Takayuki Yanii, Japan 1:23:38 16. Luke Adams, Australia 1:23:52 17. Rolando Sanquipay, Ecuador 1:24:07 18. Omar Segura, Mexico 1:24:35 19. Yevgeniy Misyulya, Belarus 1:25:10 20. Tim Seaman, USA 1:25:17 21. Kevin Eastler, USA 1:25:20 22. Viktor Burayev, Russia 1:25:36 23. Ivan Trotskiy, Belarus 1:25:53 24. Luis Fernando Lopez, Columbia 1:26:34 25. Yunfeng Liu, China 1:27:21 26. John Nunn, USA 1:27:38 27. Valeriy Borissov, Kazakhstan 1:27:39 28. Gintaras Andriuskevicius, Lithuania 1:27:56 29. Il-yong Shin, Korea 1:28:02 30. Gyula Dudas, Hungary 1:28:18 31. Moussa Aouanouk, Algeria 1:28:38 32. Matej Toth, Slovakia 1:28:49 33. Dae-ro Lee, Korea 1:28:59 34. Feofosly Chumachenko, Moldavia 1:29:06 35. Andrei Taiashko, Belarus 1:29:36 36. Eleftherios Thanopoulos, Greece 1:30:15 37. Jose David Dominguez, Spain 1:30:16 38. Vladimir Parvatkin, Russia 1:31:13 39. Predrag Filipovic, Serbia and Montenegro 1:32:18 40. Chil-sung Park, Korea 1:32:41 DQ--Xavier Moreno, Col. (1:17:04 in 25th at 18 Km); Robert Heffernan, Ireland (41:03 in 20th at 10 Km); Noe Hernandez, Mexico (1:04:18 in 5th at 16 Km), and Jiri Malysa, Czech Republic (1:28:40 in 43rd at 18 Km) DNF--Bernardo Segura, Mexico (49:04 in 18th at 12 Km); Alessandro Gandellini, Italy (66:16 in 15th at 16 Km); and Yuki Yamazaki, Japan (32:52 in 27th at 8 Km).

The women's 20 was four days later and went off under nearly identical temperature and humidity conditions. Like the men, who had started their race at a pace that would have brought a 1:22, the women were conservative at the start with a 9:13 for the first 2 Km (1:32:10 pace). And it took even longer for the race to break up. There were 39 walkers grouped within 6 seconds of the lead at 2 km, with all the favorites at the front of the group. Russia's Olimpiada Ivanova, 2001 World Champion and World record holder, took the lead and quickened the pace to 9:05 (18:18 at 4 Km), but there were still 35 women in the lead pack, with Tsoumeleka back in 28th, but just 5 seconds behind).

Ivanova and her countrywoman Yelena Nikolayeva quickened the pace further and after laps of 9:02 and 8:57 they were together in 36:17 and a lead group of 22 was starting to spread. Spain's Maria Vasco was third with the same time, Tsoumeleka, Germany's Melanie Seeger,

Australia's Jane Saville, China's Honguan Song, Norway's Kjersti Platzer, Italy's Elisa Rigaud, Belarus' Margarita Turova, and China's Liping Wang, (the defending titlist) were a stride behind in 36:18. and three others were just a second further back.

Ivanova led through 10 Km (45:16), but there were still 13 others within a second of the lead and they stayed right there as Ivanova dropped from 8:59 to 8:56 to reach 12 km in 54:12. Ivanova accelerated further to an 8:51, but that dropped only three walkers. At 14 Km, Ivanova was first in 1:03:03, followed by Saville, Turova, Tsoumeleka, Vasco, Platzer, Yelena Ginko of Belarus, Yuliya Voyevodina of Russia, Wang, Rigaud, and Seeger. After another lap in 8:52, only Voyevodina was starting to drop off the back end.

Then the unknown Tsoumeleka exploded into the lead. Covering the next 2 Km in 8:32, she escaped from Saville and Ivanova by 5 seconds and blew the race open. With 2 Km to go it was Tsoumeleka in 1:20:27, Saville and Ivanova in 1:20:32, Rigaud and Turova in 1:20:42, Wang in 1:20:43, Seeger in 1:20:46, Vasco in 1:20:47 Ginko in 1:21:06, and Platzer in 1:21:15. Ivanova made a desperate move over the next kilometer and got back in touch with the Greek lady, but only for a few meters. Then Tsoumeleka moved away again and entered the stadium with about a 15 meter lead, which she held to the finish. Saville gradually dropped away over the final 2 Km, but was able to stay well clear of Turova to capture the bronze. It was a gutsy performance for her, as she has apparently overcome the style problems that have plagued her career, beginning with her disqualification as she led the Sydney Olympics with about 400 meters to go. She had proven herself with a fourth in the World Cup earlier this year and was able to go one better here.

Tsoumeleka was a complete surprise as was Turova in fourth. Just as Brugnetti in the men's race, Tsoumeleka was the only one in the race to set a personal best. She wasn't completely unheard of, having finished 14th in the World Cup in May, with a personal record of 1:29:51. But finishing nearly 2 and-a-half minutes back of the winner certainly didn't suggest a gold medal here.

Teresa Vaill, the lone U.S. walker and the oldest entrant in the Olympic track and field program at 41, didn't have her best day and finished in 43rd place, which was about where she walked the entire race, in 1:38:47.

The results:

1. Athanasia Tsoumeleka, Greece 1:29:12 2. Olimpiada Ivanova, Russia 1:29:16 3. Jane Saville, Australia 1:29:25 4. Margarita Turova, Belarus 1:29:39 5. Melanie Seeger, Germany 1:29:39 6. Elisa Rigaud, Italy 1:29:57 7. Maria Vasco, Spain 1:30:06 8. Liping Wang, China 1:30:16 9. Elena Ginko, Belarus 1:30:22 10. Athina Papayianni, Greece 1:30:37 11. Rossella Giordano, Italy 1:30:39 12. Kjersti Platzer, Norway 1:30:49 13. Yuliya Voyevodina, Russia 1:31:02 14. Hongjuan Song, China 1:31:27 15. Valentina Tsybulskaya, Belarus 1:31:49 16. Sabine Zimmer, Germany 1:31:59 17. Yelena Nikolayeva, Russia 1:32:16 18. Elisabetta Perrone, Italy 1:32:21 19. Kristina Saltanovic, Lithuania 1:32:22 20. Susanna Feitor, Portugal 1:32:47 21. Sylwia Korzeniowska, Poland 1:33:06 22. Zuzana, Slovakia 1:33:17 23. Sonata, Milusauskaite, Lithuania 1:33:36 24. Barbora Dibekova, Czech Rep. 1:33:37 25. Ines Henriques, Portugal 1:33:53 26. Maribe Goncalves, Portugal 1:33:59 27. Norica Campean, Romania 1:34:30 28. Svetlana Tolstaya, Kazakhstan 1:34:43 29. Maria Ana Groza, Romania 1:34:56 30. Rocio Florido, Spain 1:35:32 31. Hristina Kokotou, Greece 1:35:43 32. Jing Jiang, China 1:35:56 33. Yeliz Ay, Turkey 1:36:02 34. Victoria Palacios, Mexico 1:36:07 35. Yufang Yuan, Malaysia 1:36:34 36. Natalie Saville, Australia 1:36:54 37. Daniela Cirlan, Romania 1:37:24 38. Cherry Webb, Australia 1:37:40 39. Marie Polli, SUI 1:37:53 40. Mayum Kawasaki, Japan 1:37:56 41. Geovana Irusta, Bolivia 1:38:36 42. Vira Zozyulya, Ukraine 1:38:45 43. Teresa Vaill, USA 1:38:47 44. Edina Fusti, Hungary 1:39:45 45. Anita Liepina, Latvia 1:39:54 46. Sandra Zapata, Columbia 1:42:22 47. Nicolene Cronje, South Africa 1:42:37 48. Alessandra Picagevicz, Brazil 1:46:21 49. Tereita Collado, Guatemala 1:46:41 50. Yelena Kuznetsova, Kazakhstan 1:49:08 51. Yolande Raffin, Mauritius 1:49:28 53. Fumilay Fonseca, Sao Tome and Principe DQ--Maria Teresa Gargallo, Spain (1:03:50

at 14 Km); Mi-jeong Kim, Korea 1:05:39 at 14. DNF--Maria del Rosarao Sanchez, Mexico 46:28 at 10; Nevena Mineva, Bulgaria 32:04 at 6; Olive Loughnane, Ireland out at 14 Km

The 50 on August 27 started with the temperature at 75 F (as with both 20s) and a relative humidity of 50 percent. But, of course, the race went more than 2 hours longer (how much longer depending on where one finished) and the temperature climbed considerably before the finish, with a decided effect. Even the mighty Korzeniowski slowed at the end.

The race started almost leisurely for these athletes--a first 5 Km in 22:21, which translates to a 3:43:30 finish. Still, few were willing to follow on a hot day and a group of six quickly established themselves at the front--Korzeniowski, recent world record setter Russia's Denis Nizhegorodov; Australia's Nathan Deakes; third in the 20; Caohong Yu of China, second in this year's World Cup; Latvia's Aigars Fadejevs, 2000 silver medalist; and Andreas Erm of Germany, third in last year's World Championships. Aleksey Voyevodin, winner of this year's World Cup, was 29 seconds back in 12th.

The pace slowed slightly the second five as the lead group reached 10 Km in 44:48 with Voyevodin moving to seventh just 9 seconds back. Then the walk in the park ended. Nizhegorodov moved to the front and pushed the pace--21:39 on the third 5, 21:27 on the fourth to reach 20 Km in 1:27:54, now a sub 3:40 pace. Fadejevs and Voyevodin wanted none of that and started to drop away. They reached 20 in 1:29:03 and 1:29:25, with Spain's great veteran, Jesus Angel Garcia, now with the Russian. Erm tried to hang on, but by 20 had dropped 5 seconds off the lead. So it became a four-man race. Korzeniowski pushed the next 5 down to 21:24, but Nizhegorodov, Yu, and Deakes were still right there as they reached halfway in 1:49:18. Erm was now 13 seconds back. Voyevodin (1:51:29) had moved ahead of Fadejevs and Garcia (1:51:34). The next pack was another 2 minutes back.

The pace slowed slightly on the next 5 (21:39) and the four leaders stayed right together. Erm was still within striking distance. They were still gaining on the field and Voyevodin was nearly three minutes back in sixth with Fadejevs right on his heels and Garcia just behind him.

The next 5 was decisive as Korzeniowski put on the pressure. Erm, trying to close back up on the pack, soon got his third red card. Only Deakes could cover the Pole's move, but the Aussie already had two red cards and he soon picked up the third as tried to match strides. Apparently, he wanted the gold or nothing, knowing that he had the two red cards, not to mention a caution from practically every judge on the course. Out on his own after Deakes was pulled, Korzeniowski covered that 5 in 21:15 and had 30 seconds on Nizhegorodov at the 35 Km mark (2:32:12.). Yu was spent and was 52 seconds back.

From there, it was a question of how much Korzeniowski's margin would widen by the finish. He continued to apply pressure with a 21:32 for the eighth 5, picking up another 21 seconds on his Russian opponent. Yu was in a real struggle at this point, slowing to 23:22, but he still had nearly 2 minutes on Voyevodin at 40 Km. At that point it was Korzeniowski 2:53:42, Nizhegorodov 2:54:33, Yu 2:56:26, Voyevodin 2:58:31, Garcia 2:59:43, Jefferson Perez 3:00:18, and Fadejevs 3:00:52. Perez had moved up from 14th at 25 Km and had his fastest 5 at 22:14 from 35 to 40. As it turned out, he had spent it all on that spurt.

Even Korzeniowski couldn't live with the pace he had been setting, but he came closer than the others and continued to widen his lead despite slowing to 22:06 and 22:58 on his final laps. Nizhegorodov suffered the most, holding on for a 22:47, but needing 26:14 for his final 5. He was staggering and weaving over his final quarter mile but gamely hung on for the silver medal. With 5 Km to go, Voyevodin was still 1:28 behind Yu, but he pulled out a 22:34 on his final 5 to overhaul Yu with about 200 meters to go. Garcia was closing but was never a threat to Yu. Korzeniowski's Polish mates, Roman Magdziarczyk and Gregorz Sudol, walking steady races and taking advantage of attrition, moved into the sixth and seventh spots, ahead of Spain's Santiago Perez and Russia's Yuriy Andronov. All of these walkers moved up several positions the second half of the race as

Fadejevs faded to 11th and Perez to 12th after his surge. Perez actually stopped and was ready to abandon the race at 45 km, but then got back on course and struggled through to the finish.

Many are ready to name Robert Korzeniowski the greatest walker of all time and who is to argue. Four Olympic Golds, three World Championships, and surely the most dominant over both Olympic distances throughout his long career. And, a style carefully honed to perfection following problems with the judges early in his career. A great champion.

Not a good day for the U.S. Curt Clausen apparently just had a bad day. If there was a reason, we don't know it yet (a few hours after the race as I type this.) He started off well back in the pack with a 23:14 for his first 5. That was probably about what he wanted, planning to move through the field as the temperature rose. But, he slowed immediately, hitting 46:57 at 10 and 1:34:42 at 20. He was still under 4 hour pace at 25 Km (1:59:21), but a 24:39 on that fifth 5 started a slow down over the next 20 Km, which was more than 11 minutes slower than the first 20. He did manage to pick up again the final 10 (50:49) to finish in 4:11:31 in 32nd place. Nursing an injury all summer, Philip Dunn was simply short of his top shape. He was never on the pace that he is capable of with splits of 50:58, 1:41:56, 2:32:31, 3:22:54, and 4:12:49. He was one of only two in the race to cover the second half of the race faster than the first (negative splits). Korzeniowski, on a much faster pace, was close with 1:49:18 and 1:49:28.

The results:

1. Robert Korzeniowski, Poland 3:38:46 2. Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia 3:42:50 3. Aleksey Vovayevod, Russia 3:43:34 4. Caohong Yu, China 3:43:45 5. Jesus Angel Garcia 3:44:42 6. Roman Magdziarczyk, Poland 3:48:11 7. Gregorz Sudol, Poland 4:49:09 8. Santiago Perez, Spain 3:49:48 9. Yriy Andronov, Russia 3:50:28 10. Latangadasu A, China 3:51:55 11. Aigars Fadejevs, Latvia 3:52:52 12. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador 3:53:04 13. Trond Nymark, Norway 3:53:20 14. Peter Korcok, Slovakia 3:54:22 15. Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Mexico 3:55:42 16. Yuki Yamazaki, Japan 3:57:00 17. German Sanchez, Mexico 3:58:33 18. Milos Batovsky, Slovakia 3:59:11 19. Andrey Stepanchuk, Belarus 3:59:32 20. Sergey Korepanov, Kazakhstan 3:59:33 21. Eddy Riva, France 4:00:25 22. David Boulanger, France 4:01:32 23. Aleksandr Rakovic, Serbia and Montenegro 4:02:06 24. Zoltan Czukur, Hungary 4:03:51 25. Modris Liepins, Latvia 4:04:26 26. Sergio Galdino, Brazil 4:05:02 27. Dong Young Kim, Korea 4:05:16 28. Jani Lehtinen, Finland 4:05:35 29. Craig Barrett, New Zealand 4:10:31 30. Daugvinas Zujus, Lithuania 4:09:41 31. Tim Berrett, Canada 4:11:31 32. Curt Clausen, USA 4:11:31 33. Jose Antonio Gonzalez, Spain 4:11:51 34. Jorge Costa, Portugal 4:12:24 35. Philip Dunn, USA 4:12:49 36. Kazmir Verkin, Slovakia 4:13:11 37. Rustam Kuvatov, Kaz. 4:13:40 38. Milos Holusa, Czech Rep. 4:15:01 39. Yeoryios Aryiropoulos, Greece 4:17:25 40. Mario Santos, Brazil 4:20:11 41. Janos Toth, Hungary 4:29:33 DNF-- Flores (2:19:00 in 26th at 30), Han (2:32:37 in 50 at 30), Andre Hohne, Germany 2:38:58 in 11th at 35), Garcia (3:12:17 in 26th at 40), Kastonis (2:44:12 in 36th at 35), Denis Langlois, France 2:42:00 in 17th at 35, Martins (2:23:02 in 35th at 30), Stamatopolous, Greece (2:06:25 in 50th at 25). DQ--Giovanni de Benedictis, Italy (1:10:43 in 30th at 15), Andreas Erm, Germany (2:11:13 in 5th at 30), Nathan Deakes, Australia (2:10:57 in 2nd at 30), Martinez, Guatemala (1:10:24 in 26th at 15), Tani, Japan (46:02 in 23rd at 10)

It was great to be able to watch all three races in their entirety (minus many commercial breaks) on MSNBC. Of course, that required being awake at 2 in the morning here in the Eastern Time Zone. We could pick at the commentary, which was often inaccurate and filled with incorrect suppositions, but must be appreciative of the fact that they carried the races. Tom Feur and Marty Liquore had obviously done a lot of research and interviewing to try and gain knowledge and understanding of our sport, but that comes with years in the sport, not a crash course. But, they were respectful. The biggest irritant to me was Liquori's constant references to how the athletes might be trying to take advantage of the judges, as if it were a game and as if everyone is a cheat at heart. Not true in my experience. And, there were times they seemed to be completely ignorant of the graphics

on the screen--and the graphics didn't always keep us as much abreast of the race as they might have. But again, let us be thankful that we were allowed to witness the races from start to finish.

To wrap this all up, and reiterate what I suggested about Robert Korzeniowski's status in the pantheon of racewalking, two-time Olympian Allen James said: "We've seen the end of an era in many ways. Robert retiring, two 37-year-old Mexicans and several other athletes with birthdates from the 1960s contrasted to the 24-year-old Russian silver medalist and others who have yet to hit 30. Age usually isn't as much of a factor in walking, but many of these athletes have competed in at least three Olympics. For many, it will be time to move on. Athens was an event, something to look forward to. Beijing--most of these guys have already been there done that in 1995. Not to say that China won't put on a spectacular show, but its another couple of trips around the world (miles on the road) between now and then.

"Many of us were all there to see the last races of Damilano and Canto for the last changing of the guard. Now we usher in the era of a new group of athletes, something that already played itself out in the 20 Km. Farewell Robert; thanks for not sporting a G.O.A.T. on your arm, but rather simply living it out. A first class gentleman and competitor, you are the greatest racewalker of all time."

Veterans Capture National 10 Km Titles

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Aug. 21--It was a good day for the old folks at the National USATF 10 Km Racewalking Championships today. In the men's race, 40-year-old Allen James, the nation's premier walker in the early to mid '90s, topped the field with a winning time of 45:54. In the women's race, it was 39-year-old Michelle Rohl, reportedly in her final race, winning in 48:37. Surprisingly it was the first 10 Km title for James, who won 14 titles at other distances. To day, he was too strong for National Team members Sean Albert and Theron Kissinger, as those two held off the threat of 17-year-old Zach Pollinger. Dave McGovern, a contemporary of James at 39, took the fifth spot. Rohl was able to stave off Amber Antonia, 15 years her junior, who finished just 10 seconds back. Marina Crivello and Deb Huberty also bettered 50 minutes. The results:
Women: 1. Michelle Rohl 48:37 2. Amber Antonia 48:47 3. Marina Crivello 49:18 4. Deb Huberty 49:22 5. Bobbi Jo Chapman 50:19 6. Maria Michta (18) 54:51 7. Marcia Rutledge (42) 54:51 8. Loretta Schuellein 56:53 9. Laura Feller 57:56 10. Dorit Attias (42) 58:14 11. Rosalind Adams (17) 58:34 12. Gloria Rawls (47) 59:39 13. Pat Motschwiller (46) 61:21 14. Mary Woolland 61:30 15. Donna Vered (16) 61:54 16. Alice Tam 64:39 17. Angie Aguilar (17) 67:56 18. Jesse Monahan (15) 68:19 19. Ashley Lozito (17) 68:48 20. Maria Ferraro (47) 68:50 21. Joan Murray (45) 69:52 22. Bernadette McNulty 71:30
Men--1. Allen James (40) 45:54 2. Sean Albert 46:21 3. Theron Kissinger 46:42 4. Zach Pollinger (17) 47:45 5. Dave McGovern 48:14 6. Mel McGinnis (44) 51:04 7. Bill Vayo (40) 51:34 8. Dave Lawrence (49) 51:47 9. John Soucheck 52:05 10. Michael Kazierczak (17) 52:47 11. Rod Craig (46) 53:11 12. Nicholas Bdera (55) 53:13 13. Joe Tiapponi (55) 53:24 14. Dan O'Brien 53:42 15. Mike Bartholomew 55:42 16. Bill Reed (51) 57:20 17. Alexis Davidson (48) 57:39 18. Jack Lach (60) 58:58 19. Tim Davidson (17) 59:40 20. Maare Olshan (59) 59:49 21. Tom Quattrocchi (53) 59:52 22. Jerry Goodwin (48) 59:52 23. Robert Barrett (70) 60:12 24. William May (70) 62:55 25. Alfred Lozito (54) 62:57 26. Bill Goodwin (58) 70:05

National USATF Masters, Decatur, Ill.--Men's 5 Km, Aug. 6: 40-44--1. Alberto Medina, Tex. 27:28 45-49--1. Mark Green, Nev. 23:01.50 2. Albert Leibold, Kan. 24:23 3. Rod Craig, Mich. 24:57 4. Tommy Anun, Wash. 27:07 5. Damon Clements, Ill. 29:24 6. Barton Kale, Wash. 29:55 50-54--1. David Ciccone, Cal. 23:13.40 2. Bill Reed, Mich. 26:40 3. Bob Shires, Iowa 27:34 55-59--1. Michael Wiggins, Iowa 24:45.30 2. Leon Jasionowski, Mich. 25:24 3. Max Walker, Ind. 26:00 4. Richard McGuire, Ill. 27:19 5. Norm Frable, Tex. 27:31 6. Peter Armstrong,

N.M. 30:11 60-64--1. Don DeNoon, Fla. 25:53.66 2. Jim Carmines 27:36 3. Bob Weeks, Cal. 29:27 4. Allen Albert, Ind. 29:55 5. Gary O'Daniels, Iowa 30:39 (8 finishers) 65-59--1. Paul Johnson, Ark. 27:36.43 2. Ted Moore, S.C. 29:29 3. Richard Zerbe, Wash. 33:03 4. Pete Romero, Tex. 33:15 5. Spencer Parrish, Conn. 33:53 70-74--1. Jack Bray, Cal. 27:35.90 2. Max Green, Mich. 30:00 3. Franklin Brown, Iowa 33:51 4. George Solis, Cal. 37:30 (3 DQs) 75-59--1. Jack Starr, Del. 32:09.44 2. Jerard Hargis, S.D. 34:53 **Women's 5 Km, Aug. 6--45-49--1.** Maryanne Daniel, Conn. 26:37.68 2. Judy Myers, Wis. 29:37 3. Lynette Heinlein, Mich. 29:39 50-54--1. Lyn Tracy, Wis. 26:53.97 2. Debbie Topham, Mich. 27:38 3. Donna Green, Ill. 30:43 4. Cathy Mayfield, Ind. 31:30 55-59--1. Kathy Frable, Tex. 31:11.61 2. Doris McGuire, Ill. 32:44 3. Pat Walker, Ind. 36:44 60-64--1. Jolene Steigerwalt, Cal. 31:48.49 2. Dorene Mangan, Wis. 36:55 (2 DQs) 70-74--1. Claire Elkins, Ariz. 40:51 75-79--1. Kate Marrs, Wis. 35:16 **Men's 10 Km, Aug. 8--40-44--1.** Alberto Medina, Tex. 60:52 45-49--1. Mark Green 48:27 2. Albert Leibold 52:50 3. Rod Craig 53:03 4. Tommy Aunan 55:42 (1 DQ) 50-54--1. Bill Reed 55:55 2. Bob Shires, Iowa 58:31 3. Mike DeWitt, Wis. 59:53 55-59--1. Michael Wiggins 51:35 2. Leon Jasionowski 53:25 3. Max Walker 54:19 4. Norm Frable, Tex. 56:06 5. Richard McGuire 57:11 6. Peter Armstrong 63:21 (8 finishers) 60-64--1. Don DeNoon 54:57 2. Jim Carmines 57:33 3. Bob Weeks, Cal. 61:58 4. Gary O'Daniels 63:38 65-59--1. Papul Johnson 58:12 2. Ted Moore 65:22 70-74--1. Jack Bray 60:52 2. Alfred DuBois, Wis. 61:57 3. Max Green 64:03 4. Cedric Hustace, Ind. 67:33 (7 finishers) 75-59--1. Jack Starr, Del. 67:29 (3 finishers) **National Junior Olympics, July 28-29:** Bantam Girls 1500 meters--1. Ariana Guzman, South Texas 9:22.36 2. Diana Flores, S. Texas 9:29 3. Samantha DuBois, N.J. Striders 9:30 (13 finishers, 1 DQ) Midget Girls 1500--1. Claudia Ortiz, S. Texas 8:00.44 2. Damonysha Smith, PS Vegas Flyers 8:09 3. Irais Vill, Elgin Sharks 8:14 4. Ariel Callis, Texas Storm 8:20 5. Nylasia Packer PS Vegas Flyers 8:20 (18 finishers, 3 DQs) Youth Girls 3 Km--1. Caroline Muraida, Albuquerque 16:19.75 2. Corina Ortiz, S. Texas Flyers 16:55 3. Merceded Mancha, Elgin Sharks 16:58 4. Nicole Lajeunesse, Silver State Striders 17:05 5. Ashley Ramsay, NY Starz TC 17:11 6. Allison Shnchowski, Walk USA 17:49 (16 finishers) Intermediate Girls 5 Km--1. Dana Vered, Walk USA 26:46 2. Christina Peters, Miami Valley TC 17:19 3. Le'erin Voss, Lake Co. Walkers 27:41 4. Louren Forgues, Maine RW 17:46 5. Helen Pottle, Maine RW 28:41 6. Devin Philson, Spartanburg 30:31 (12 finishers) Young Women 5 Km--1. Jennifer Reekie, Racewalkers 26:53.19 2. Keelin Yennay, Sterling 29:05 3. Kristine Ewald, Lake Co. 29:41 4. Kate Dickinson, Maine RW 30:49 Bantam Boys 1500--1. Anthony Pryatel, PS Vegas Flyers 8:35.10 2. Kyle Barron, Pacer 9:46 (4 finishers, 3 DQs) Midget Boys 1500--1. Trevor Barron, Pacer 7:32.43 2. Andrew Adams, Spartanburg 7:52 3. Matthew Forgues, Maine RW 8:04 4. Ricardo Mancha, Elgin Sharks 8:11 5. Leonardo Salinas, Elgin Sharks 8:15 6. Josh Haetel 8:17 (19 finishers) Youth Boys 3 Km--1. Robert Vergara, South Texas WC 14:37.40 2. Ricardo Vergara, ST WC 15:04 3. Christopher Stuart, New England Walkers 15:58 4. Eric Lawson, Elgin Sharks 16:32 5. Abraham Villarreal, ST WC 16:43 (8 finishers, 3 DQs) Intermediate Boys 5 Km--1. Paul Regal, Elgin Sharks 24:58.88 2. Padric Gleason 27:27 3. Nathan Dalebout 30:50 (4 finishers, 1 DQ) Young Men 5 Km--1. Jared Swehosky, Salem TC 22:13.12 2. Zach Pollinger, NJ Striders 22:47 3. Terran Swehosky, Salem TC 24:04 4. Ernesto Vergara, ST WC 25:56 5. Adrian Jaime, ST WC 26:35 (6 finishers, 1 DQ) **Bay State Games 3 Km, Cambridge, Mass., July 10--1.** Steve Vaitones 15:45 2. Stephen Peckiconis 16:01 3. Brian Savilonis 16:25 4. Tom Knatt 17:55 5. Charles Mansbach 18:53 (9 finishers, 1 DQ) **East Regional Masters 5 Km, Springfield, Mass., July 24--1.** Maryanne Daniel (formerly Torrellas) 26:11.16 Men--1. Nicholas Harding 25:56.18 2. Reynaldo Carrazana (46) 26:00 3. Bob Barrett (70) 29:15 4. Charles Mansbach (59) 32:41 (9 finishers) Metro 3 Km, New York City, Aug. 8--1. Andres Chocho 14:09 2. Paul Schwartzburg 14:17 3. Bill Vayo (40) 15:02 4. Tim Davidson (16) 15:54 5. Rosalind Adams (17) 16:11 6. Alexis Davidson (48) 16:39 7. Alejandro Vele 16:48 8. Bruce Logan 16:53 9. Robert Penafiel 16:54 10. Edoardo (61) 16:55 11. Bob Barrett (70) 17:09 12. Alice Tan 17:54 13. David Lee (49) 17:55 14. Ellen O'Shaugnessy (44)

18:22 15. Luannes Pennesi (49) 18:33 16. Jon Qalam (53) 19:28 17. Ora Kurland (48) 20:25 18. Ruth Gersh (51) 20:26 (32 finishers, 1 DQ) **New York State Empire Games: Men's 10 Km, July 29--1.** Dave Lawrence (49) 49:00 2. Mel McGinnis 49:52 2. Bill Vayo 51:15 4. Nicholas Bdera 51:41 5. David Talcott 51:56 6. Nicholas Harding 52:24 7. Joseph Trapani 53:43 8. Bruce Logan 55:17 9. James Miner 63:18 10. Michael Piplani 66:04 (1 DQ) **Women's 10 Km, July 29--1.** Loretta Schuellein 55:49 2. Rosalind Adams 56:31 3. Laura Feller 59:28 4. Ann Whalen 60:34 5. Eileen Lawrence 63:12 6. Nikki Wynne 66:53--Non-qualified athletes who were allowed to compete, but could not score--Christine Fina 60:50 2. Indiana Ripoli 63:10 **Men's 5 Km, July 30--1.** Mel McGinnis 23:35 2. Dave Lawrence 23:47 3. Bill Vayo 23:59 4. Moe Lalonde 24:05 5. Nicholas Bdera 25:21 6. Joseph Trapani 26:57 7. Neil Farley 31:38 8. James Miner 34:55 (1 DQ) **Women's 5 Km, July 30--1.** Maria Michta 24:57 2. Laura Feller 28:04 3. Laurie Smith 28:24 4. Alice Garland 28:28 5. Leila Sterman 29:13 6. Limie Tan 30:02 7. Katie Schutte 30:13 8. Sarah Lalonde 30:18 9. Jennifer Marlborough 30:55 10. Kate Lasorsa 30:58 (Nonqualified--Rosalind Adams 29:26, Ashley Lozito 32:29) **Men's Scholastic 5 Km, July 30--1.** Tim Davidson 24:29 2. Michael Kazmierczak 24:32 3. Chris Piplane (1 DQ) **Women's Scholastic 5 Km, July 30--1.** Brittany O'Brian 28:15 2. Irie Monte 28:34 3. Shani Brown 29:34 4. Angie Aguilar 30:05 5. Raven Pilgrim 30:18 (10 finishers) **Men's 20 Km, July 31--1.** Bill Vayo 1:48:15 2. Mel McGinnis 1:52:50 3. Dave Lawrence 1:53:03 4. Mike Bartholomew 1:54:17 5. Nicholas Bdera 1:57:12 6. Michael Kazmierczak 1:59:10 7. Lon Wilson 2:11:46 (2 DQs, 1 DNF) **Women's 20 Km, July 31--1.** Maria Michta 1:53:15 2. Loretta Schuellein 2:01:12 3. Christine Fina 2:06:17 4. Laura Feller 2:07:57 5. Eileen Lawrence 2:15:27 6. Jennifer Marlborough 2:19:11 8. Robin Olkowski 2:23:27 **Southeast Masters 5 Km, Clermont, Fla., June 26--Men 40--1.** Steve Renard 32:55 **Men 50--1.** Larry VonFossen 31:46 **Men 55--1.** TOM Forman 32:40 **Men 60--1.** Don DeNoon 27:12.20 2. Paul Alvord 33:39 **Men 65--1.** Peter Bayer 34:51 **Men 70--1.** Bob Fine 36:13 **Ohio 5 Km, Cincinnati, Aug. 8--1.** Tina Peters (16) 29:18 2. Danielle Doubt (14) 32:25 3. Liz Martini (45+) 32:45 4. Suzy Shrunk 5. Sue Diemer (40+) 33:33 6. Gwen Thomas (55+) 34:53 7. Miriam Kackobs (60_ 35:35 8. Barb Hensley (60+) 36:52 (11 finishers) **Men--1.** Eric Smith 25:39 2. Andy Peters (14) 28:54 3. Jerry Muskal (45+) 29:11 4. Darryl Davis (50+) 30:17 5. Vince Peters (50+) 30:25 6. John Fischer (60+) 31:36 7. Oscar Rosen (40+) 32:12 8. Larry Stebbins (45+) 32:19 9. Bill Whipp (60+) 32:22 10. Thomas Keller (65+) 33:38 11. Phil McDonald (60+) 35:30 12. Greg Stuart (45+) 36:23 **Women's 3 Km, Kenosha, Wis., Aug. 25--1.** Katy Hayes (17) 14:33.1 2. Judy Myers (48) 17:06.6 3. Kate Marrs (75) (6 finishers) **5 Km, Denver, July 25--1.** Ivo Majetic 25:33 2. Mike Blanchard (43) 26:47 3. Maiianne Martino (54) 29:00 4. Daryl Meyers (51) 30:25 5. Rita Sinkovec (64) 33:06 **5 Km, Evergreen, Col., Aug. 1--1.** Rita Sinkovec 32:10 2. Craig Drummond 33:22 **3 Km, Reno, Nev. July 24--1.** Ed Parrot 14:21.5 2. Bill Penner (57) 16:27.2 3. Ted Moore (65) 17:13 4. Nicolle Goldman (45) 17:57.6 5. Dick Petrucci (71) 18:58.4 6. Mary Baglin (57) 19:07.8 (14 finishers) **1 Mile, Fair Oaks, Cal., Aug. 15--1.** Nicolle Goldman (45) 8:41.9 2. Paula Kash-Mendell (54) 9:35.3 3. Terri Brothers (48) 9:48.2 4. Trish Caldwell (57) 10:43.3 (6 finishers, 1 DQ) **Men--1.** Ed Parrot 7:02.8 2. Ted Moore (65) 8:12.5 3. Bill Penner (57) 8:21 4. Joe Berendt (48) 8:22.4 5. Mike Counts (52) 8:35.1 6. Dick Petrucci (71) 9:10.8 7. Stu Kinney (64) 9:55.1 8. Joe Anderson (65) 9:55.3 **1 Hour, Kentfield, Cal., July 25--1.** Kevin Killingsworth 11,084 meters 2. Jack Bray 10,085 3. Ed Lane 8931 4. Jami Boshoven 8928 5. Shirley Dockstader 8876 6. Ann Lee 8852 7. Bonnie Houchen 8837 8. Natalie DeJarlais 8468 (12 finishers) **2.8 Miles, Seattle, July 10--1.** Stan Chraminski 24:25 2. Bob Novak 24:27 3. Kart Kale 25:00 4. Kathy Henley 25:31 5. John Backlund 26:34 6. Ann Tuberg 26:50 7. Corina Beuchet 26:53 **5 Km, Seattle, July 23--1.** Bob Novak (55) 27:42 2. Stan Chraminski (56) 27:42 3. George Opsahl (62) 29:04 4. Kathy Henley (44) 29:30 5. Doug Ermini (46) 29:56 6. Ann Tuberg (44) 30:46 7. Bart Kale (48) 30:57 8. Joslyn Slaughter (45) 31:58 9. Bev LaVeck (68) 32:24 10. Coco Beuchet (56) 33:08

North American, Central American, and Caribbean (NACAC) Walks, Sherbrooke, Quebec, August 1—Women's 10 Km—1. Anne Favolise, US 52:12 2. Daisy Gonzalez-Alvarez, Mexico 42:21 3. Fabiola Perez Godinez, Mex. 53:48 4. Christine Tagliaferri, US 57:11 5. Jeditza Arroyo, Puerto Rico 59:30 Men's 20 Km—1. Horacio Nava Reza, Mexico 1:33:29 2. Matt Boyles, US 1:34:36 3. Alvaro Cracia-Coraoba, Mex. 1:36:15 4. Bernardo Calvo-Aguilar, Costa Rica 1:38:15 5. Michael Tarantino, US 1:47:03 6. Donald Cotge, Canada 1:57:56 **4th Northeastern Walks Cup Match, Torontom Aug. 7**—Women's 5 Km—1. Marina Crivello 23:21.8 2. Rachel Lavallee 25:30.05 3. Nanci Sweazey 27:07 4. Chelsea Rodriguez 27:38 (8 finishers) Men's 10 Km—1. Pierre Luc Menard 47:28.7 2. Donald Cote 52:13 3. Guy Paquin 54:39

German Championships, Braunschweig, July 10-11: Men's 10 Km—1. Andreas Erm 38:51.51 2. Andre Hohne 39:41.55 3. Maik Bergert 40:16 4. Jan Albrecht 41:07 5. Andre Katzinski 41:47 **Women's 5 Km**—1. Melanie Seeger 20:18.87 (German record) 2. Sabine Zinner 20:27.47 3. Barbara Brandenburg 23:03 **Iberoamerican 20 Km, Huelva, Spain, Aug. 7**—1. Cristian Berdeja, Mexico 1:24:30.20 2. Jesse Alessandro Baggio, Brazil 1:25:14 3. Freddy Hernandez, Colombia 1:26:17 4. Luis Garcia, Guatemala 1:27:01 5. Sergio Galdino, Brazil 1:28:00 6. Fausto Quinde, Ecuador 1:28:35 7. Augusto Cardoso, Portugal 1:29:17 8. Allan Segura, Costa Rica 1:30:47 **20 Km, Vaasa, Finland, July 30**—1. Jani Lehtonen 1:29:45 2. Antti Kempas 1:30:20 **Women's 10 Km, same place**—1. Outi Sillanpaa 48:38 **10 Km (track), Firenze, Italy July 11**—1. Lorenzo Civallero 40:13.45 2. Cian Luca Trombetti 41:01.1 3. Gian Piero Palumbo 41:01.9 4. Enrico Lang 41:04 5. Michele Didoni 41:20 6. Pasquale Sabino 41:25 7. Diego Cafagna 41:29 8. Alfio Alfredo Corsaro 41:35 **Women's 5 Km, same place**—1. Elisa Rigauda 21:08./96 2. Cristiana Pellino 21:47 3. Emanuela Perilli 21:57 4. Annarita Fidanza 22:29 5. Sibilia DiVincenzo 22:39 6. Valentina Farofalo 22:51 **20 Km, Latvia, July 3**—1. Modris Liepins 1:28:24 2. Juris Koniseva 1:28:50 3. Inguss Janevics (18) 1:29:29 4. Ugis Bruvelis 1:32:32 **Women's 10 Km, same place**—1. Anita Liepina 48:43 **Indian national 20 Km, Chennai, July 20**—1. Sita Singh 1:35:27 Wineb—1. Amandeep Kaur 1:54:47 **French National 20 Km, July 18**—1. Yohan Diniz 1:26:03 2. David Boulanger 1:26:25 3. Franck Delree 1:29:13 4. Rene Piller 1:30:37 5. Gregory LeClerc 1:31:18 6. Eddy Roze 1:31:25 7. Sebastien Delaunay 1:31:26 8. Christian aCouturier 1:31:31 (17 under 1:40, 2 DQs) Women—1. Tatiana Denize 1:36:21 2. Fatiha Ouali 1:38:43 3. Patricia Garnier 1:41:32 **Irish National Women's 5 Km, July 24**—1. Olive Loughnane 22:13.89 2. Ann Loughnane 24:08 DQ—Gillian O'Sullivan **Irish Men's National 10 Km, same place**—1. Robert Heffernan 39:00.04 2. Jamie Costin 39:10 3. Colin Griffin 40:57

Races Large and Small For Walking Mighty Tall

Sat. Sept. 4 Rocky Mountain Masters 3 Km, Boulder, Col., 8:15 am (H)
West Region 3 Km, West Valley, Utah (S)

Sun. Sept. 5 3 Km, Langley, Va. (O)

Mon. Sept. 6 5 Km, Roswell, N.M. (N)

Sun. Sept. 12 5 Km, Aurora, Col., 9 am (H)
1 Hour, Portland, Oregon (C)
Western Regional. 20 Km, Oakland, Cal. (R)
USATF National 40 Km, Ocean Township, N.J. (A)
5 Km, Cambridge, Mass. 10 am (AA)
5 Km, Denver, 8 am (H)

Sun. Sept. 19 5 Km, Denver, 8 am (H)
5 Km, Long Beach, N.Y. (BB)

Sun. Sept. 26 1 Hour, Kentfield, Cal. (P)
1 Hour, Columbus, Ohio (M)

Sat. Oct. 2 New Hampshire Marathon and 5 Km Racewalk, Bristol, NH ((Z))

Sun. Oct. 3 Sacramento Half-Marathon, Sacramento, Cal. (E)
Detroit Marathon (W)
West Region 1 Hour, Aurora, Col. (H)

Sat. Oct. 9 **USATF National 5 Km, Kingsport, Tenn. (J)**

Sun. Oct. 10 Metropolitan 30 Km, New York City (G)

Sat. Oct. 16 5 Km, Columbia, Missouri (K)

Sun. Oct. 17 East Regional 1 Hour, Waltham, Mass. (X)
10 Km, Dearborn, Mich. (W)
5.2 Miles, Interlaken, N.J., 12 noon (A)
North American Masters and Florida 15 Km, Coconut Creek, FL (Q)
Western Regional 1 Hour, Denver, 9 am (H)

Fri. Oct. 22 5 Km, Denver, 6 pm (H)

Sun. Oct. 24 1 Mile, Kentfield, Cal. (P)
94th Annual Coney Island 10 Mile Handicap, Brooklyn, NY, 9 am (B)
Marathon, Albuquerque (N)

Sat. Oct. 30 5 Km, Denver, 9:30 am (H)

Sun. Oct. 31 10 Km, Seaside, Cal. (R)
National USATF Masters and Womens 50 Km, Hauppauge, NY (BB)
5 Km, Denver, 9 am (H)
10 Km, Roswell, N.M. (N)

Sat. Nov. 6 5 Km, Kentfield, Cal. (P)

Sun. Nov. 7 5 Km, Clarksburg, Cal., 9:30 am (E)

Sat. Nov. 17 National Masters 20 Km, Clermont, FL. (Q)

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FROM HEEL TO TOE

Walkers involved. Beyond his judging of beauty pageants (see June issue), Jefferson Perez joined the Kid's Athletics event held in his home town Cuenca in the South of the country, strongly endorsing the program. "Physical education must learn to present athletics to the kids in a joyful manner. They should finish with the old concepts, which are boring and the main reason why so many children do not like athletics and move to other sports." The project was held as a joint venture with IAAF, who supplied a full set of Kids Athletics equipment. And last year's other World Champion, Robert Korzeniowski, has now been appointed an international ambassador for fitness, along with Carl Lewis and Jackie Joyner-Kersey, by McDonald's worldwide. Elliott Denman suggests that we should all encourage Robert K. and McDonald's to do all kinds of promotional and marketing things globally for racewalking. Elliott sees this as a great opportunity for racewalking to make major strides forward. . . **Talk about the luck of the Irish.** Ireland's Gillian O'Sullivan, expected to be a medal contender in Athens, had to scratch from the race because of a nagging hip injury that had bothered her all year and seriously curtailed recent training. Then, just two days before the opening ceremonies, Ireland's 50 Km hope, Jamie Costin, was involved in a serious auto accident, suffering back injuries, broken toes, and a hand injury, which ended his Olympic race before it began. A training partner of Robert Korzeniowski, he had dropped Robert off following a workout and was involved in a head-on collision with a truck as he returned to his own quarters. The extent of his injuries could put an end to his career at age 22. But, the Irish grief goes on. In the men's 20, Robert Heffernan was DQ'd just past the 10 Km mark, which he had passed in 20th place with a 41:03. Three days later, the country's remaining hope in the women's race, promising Olive Loughnane, became sick the night before the race and had to abandon her effort at 14 km, well off her normal pace. . . **Olympic Trials.** Steve Vaitones sent along some notes following the U.S. Olympic 20 Km Trials in July. Here are some excerpts: Tim Seaman noted that while the pace was slow for the first 5 Km, he didn't want it to lag for the entire race; after all, it was the Olympic Trials and it should be won with a respectable time. His solo effort over the final half pulled his finishing time to a meet record by a single tick of the clock. Tim's training this year differs in several ways. First, interval training sessions have longer intervals, more volume, and the rest between them is shorter; in the past they were much faster, almost all-out, and with short rest. Second, his easy days are easier, and he generally takes two easy days between the hard efforts. Training in Flagstaff with "Team Platzler" has got him using the lactate testing machine with every speed workout. He and Kevin Eastler have trained together regularly and are a good training pair. They don't do every workout together, but those they do are a good match. And the future? He'll try to convince his wife to let him give it one more year. Then, among other things, he wants to work coaching the South Texas Racewalking Club. "I had messages on my phone from the kids before the race was over asking how I had done." Kevin's wife had a baby within the week prior to the Trials and it was an easy delivery. Consequently, he got little sleep--including almost none the night before the race--and his system was out of whack. He lost most of the ground when he stopped to throw up several times around 12 Km (Tim had one "toss" as well). Ben Shorey was walking on his toes in sandals the day after the men's race; he had blisters that covered the entire heel of both feet and the skin had been removed and heavily bandaged. Teresa Vaill noted some things that changed this year and similar to Tim, her easy days

were easier, she tends to do almost all her work at 8 minute per mile or faster. She also raced a lot more this spring than she usually does. Joanne Dow has a fibroid cyst/growth the size of a grapefruit in her abdomen; only known by a very few people beforehand, but revealed in the post-meet quote sheet. It was discovered when she wasn't recovering from the World Cup Trial race in April. She didn't want it to be an excuse or reason, but in reality it was. "I needed to win today, and I didn't. It's just a case of bad timing." She'll now have surgery and hope to recover to use her "A" qualifier for the World Championships next year. At the press conference for the high jump, Jamie Nieto was asked about the black ribbon that he was wearing on his uniform. "I've been wearing it all year, it's to remember God, remember my mother, and remember my friend Al Heppner who did this year. He was my roommate at the Olympic Training Center, a good friend, and I hope his spirit will be with me in Athens." (Ed. The telecast of the Olympic 50 included a brief tribute to Al from the studio, which was well done. Earlier in the telecast, Tom Feur had made reference to Al's death, also handling it well. . . **McGovern.** Dave McGovern will conduct a racewalking clinic in Lilitz, Penn. on the weekend of Sept. 24-26. Contact Lisa Oberholtzer at lisao@ptd.net for further details. . . **Masters change.** Elliott Denman notes that: The World Masters Association is waiting for the IAAF to also adopt the 35-year-old basis for Masters. Indications are that it will be approved. If and when this happens, masters worldwide would start at age 35. Originally, Masters men started at 40 and Masters women at 35. The theory was that many of the spouses were a few years younger than the men who were competing as Masters and by lowering the age for women, it would encourage more participation. There were proposals throughout the years to raise the minimum age for women to 40. All of these proposals were defeated. When the proposal was made to lower the men's age to 35, it passed without much difficulty. In the US, aside from a very few outstanding individuals, there was no place for the 30-39 year old to go. The US then approved an official sub-masters division to fit this need.

LOOKING BACK

35 Years Ago (From the August 1969 ORW)--Jack Blackburn won the annual Worthington, Ohio Labor Day Handicap 6 mile 536 yard affair in 50:25 with Paul Reback edging Jack Mortland for second. In Europe, Ron Laird won a 10 Km against the West Germans in 44:07.4 with Tom Dooley coming third in 44:55. Laird also won a 20 Km against the British in 1:30:26, with Goetz Klopfer third in 1:33:16 and Tom Dooley sixth in 1:34:41. . . Shaul Ladany won both the 10 Km (48:59 and 3 Km (13:35) in the Maccabiah Games.

30 Years Ago (From the August 1974 ORW)--Sue Brodock scored a win for the U.S. in the Women's International 5 Km with a then world's best of 24:16.2. Margareta Simu, Sweden, and Marian Fawkes, Great Britain, were well back in second and third. . . Comebacking Larry Young captured the National 50 Km in 4:25:41 over John Knifton's 4:30:51. Augie Hirt had 4:42:01, Ron Kulik 4:48:16, Tom Knatt 4:50:21, and Bob Bowman 4:54:20. . . Jim Murchie won the National Junior 1 Hour with 7 miles 41 yards and Bob Falcioni the National ?b? race with 7 mi 365. . . The Junior 20 Km went to Dennis Slattery in 1:49:56. . . Every-young Vladimir Golubnichiy, the 1960 and 1968 Olympic gold medalist, took the Soviet 20 Km title in 1:28:21 over Yevgeniy Ivchenko.

25 Years Ago (From the August 1979 ORW)--Neal Pyke scored an impressive win in the National 20 Km with a 1:27:57.4 clocking, 43 seconds ahead of Canada's Marcel Jobin. Chris Hansen was close to Jobin in 1:29:07, followed by Jim Heiring in 1:30:46, Dan O'Connor in 1:31:37, and Marco Evoniuk in 1:33:07. Four more were under 1:35 and another seven under 1:40. . . Great Britain's Carol Tyson walked a world best 5 km of 23:11.2 beating Marian Fawkes (23:19.2) and former record holder, Norway's Thorild Gylder (23:33). . . Later, Fawkes cracked the world record at 10 Km with 48:11 on the track. . . In the Soviet Spartakiad, Nikolai Vinnitschenko

won the 20 in 1:22:29 and Viktor Dobrovski the 50 in 3:46:25. Neal Pyke finished 13th in the 20 with a 1:26:34.

20 Years Ago (From the August 1984 ORW)—In the Los Angeles Olympics, Mexico captured both gold medals in the persons of Ernesto Canto and Raul Gonzales. In the 20, Defending titlist Maurisio Damilano, Italy, led Canto by 8 seconds after 8 Km, but was no match for the Mexican over the final 5. Canto won in 1:23:13 with Gonzales also catching the Italian to take the silver in 1:23:20. Damilano was another 6 seconds back and Canada's Guillaume Leblanc, only a second back of Canto starting the final 5 Km, finished a brilliant fourth in 1:24:29. For the U.S. Marco Evoniuk stayed close to the leaders through 10 Km and then hung well for seventh place in 1:25:42. Jim Heiring finished 23rd in 1:30:20 and Dan O'Connor 33rd in 1:35:12. . In the 50 eight days later, Damilano hung with Gonzales through 35 Km, but when the Mexican accelerated at that point, Maurizio had no answer and dropped out at 40. Gonzales won easily in 4:47:26 with Sweden's Bo Gustafsson second in 3:53:19 and Italy's Sandro Bellucci third in 3:53:45. Carl Schueler captured sixth for the U.S. in 3:59:46. Vincent O'Sullivan was 14th in 4:22:51 and Marco Evoniuk dropped out after 25 Km, which he reached in 1:55:21, 2 minutes back of the leaders. The fields were weakened by the absence of most Eastern European walkers due to the Soviet boycott of the Games.

15 Years Ago (From the August 1989 ORW)—At the US Olympic Festival in Norman, Oklahoma, Mark Fenton won at 35 Km in 3:03:50, Richard Quinn at 20 in 1:32:23, and Debbi Lawrence in the women's 10 with a 49:21.8. Carl Schueler (1:33:00) and Curt Clausen (1:34:00) followed Quinn. Lawrence was unchallenged in the very hot conditions, with Wendy Sharp second in 51:41 and Victoria Herazo third in 51:54. . In a seven-nation match, Italy's Maurizio Damilano won the 35 Km in 2:31:52, guest Kerry Saxby from Australia the women's 10 in 43:13, France's Thierry Tournant the 20 in 1:23:42, Spain's Valentin Massana the junior 10 in 41:32, and Kathrin Born of the GDR the junior women's 5 in 22:07. . The Paris-to-Colmar 521 Km race went to Roger Quemener in 64:35, 26 minutes ahead of Pheulpin.

10 Years Ago (From the August 1994 ORW)—In the European Championships in Helsinki, Finland's Sari Essayah, the defending world champion, won the women's 10 Km in 42:37. Essayah led all the way, but had only six seconds on Italy's Annarita Sidoti and Russia's Yelena Nikolayeva, who were given the same time in their near photo finish for the silver. The 20 was a walk-away victory for Russia's Mikhail Schennikov in 1:18:45. Yevgeniy Misyulya, Belarus, was second in 1:19:22, with Valentin Massana (1:20:30) trailing far behind in third. . In a US-Canada Junior match, Anya-Marie Ruoss won the women's 3 Km in 24:53.71 and Justin Marrujo the men's 5 in 22:12.25. Deborah Iden (14:28.59) and William Van Axen (22:15.81) completed one-two sweeps for the U.S.

5 Years Ago (From the August 1999 ORW)—The World Championships were conducted in steamy conditions in Seville, Spain. In the 50, Russia's German Skurygin pulled away from the field early and went on to a nearly 4-minute win in 3:44:23. Ivano Burgnetti, Italy, and Nikolay Matyukhin, Russia followed. For the U.S., Curt Clausen walked a magnificent race, staying with Matyukhin through 38 Km before a thigh cramp forced to back off a bit. Still, he withstood a challenge by Spain's Valentin Massana to take fourth in 3:50:55. Two years later, Skurygin was finally disqualified on a doping charge and Curt belatedly got the bronze medal, the first medal for the U.S. in a World Championship, Olympic, or World Cup event since Larry Young's bronze at the 1972 Olympics. The 20 Km went to Russia's Ilya Markov, who led Ecuador's Jefferson Perez by 45 seconds with his 1:23:34. Alessandro Gandellini of Italy was third. Tim Seaman had 1:35:58 for 24th place. The Chinese women took one-two at 20 Km with Hongyu Liu beating

Yan Wang by 2 seconds in 1:30:50. Kerry Saxby-Junna, Australia, was third in 1:31:18. Susan Armenta led the U.S. with 1:40:20 in 31st as Joanne Dow was DQ'd early in the race. . Mexico's Joel Sanchez won the 50 Km race at the Pan American Games in 4:06:31. Philip Dunn (4:13:45) was third and Gary Morgan (4:40:29) fourth for the U.S. . Clausen also won the U.S. National 10 Km, about three weeks before the World 50, in 43:08.2. Tim Seaman was second in 44:54

Nothing to do with racewalking, but here are "Some Interesting Facts" from Bob Carlson's Front Range Walkers News.

- A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
- A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
- All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
- Almonds are a member of the peach family.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.
- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
- If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at red lights.
- It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.
- Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- "Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right.
- There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.