

## IAAF Challenge Series Continues With Two Events

Following the season opening event in Mexico in March and leading up to the World Cup in May, April saw IAAF Racewalking Challenge events in Rio Maior, Portugal and Beijing, China. The Chinese event previewed the course for the Olympics in August. The Rio Maior event highlighted a double victory for Norway's brother-sister act.

Rio Maior, Portugal, April 7—In the 17th edition of Rio Maior's racewalking meeting, Erik Tysse and his sister Kjersti Tysse-Platzer scored victories in the two 20 Km races. With clockings of 1:19:51 and 1:29:29. Both were strong efforts, although not approaching the meet records of 1:19:02 and 1:27:19, both set in 2005 by Spain's Francisco Fernandez and Belarus' Rta Turava.

For the 35-year-old Platzer, it was the second Challenge win of the year, following her victory in Mexico last month and a step up from her runner-up finish in this race last year. But it wasn't easy. The home favorite and Portuguese record holder, Susan Feitor, fought her to the finish and trailed by just 2 seconds as Platzer crossed the line. Not far back was another Portuguese walker, Ana Cabecinha, a medalist in the 2003 European Junior Championships, who broke 1:30 for the first time with a 1:29:56.

Feitor had the early lead, but Platzer took over before they reached 5 Km, although Feitor moved to the front at 10 km in 44:59 as they accelerated from an opening 5 in 22:43. Platzer then picked up the pace even more and led by two seconds at 15 in 1:07:12. Cabecinha stayed with them through 15 Km but had to yield in the final stages as the other two continued to push. Coming on strong at the finish was 2004 Olympic gold medalist Athanasia Tsoumelaka who nearly got up for the bronze medal, finishing in 1:30:00. It was by far her best effort since 2004. Still only 26 years old, she indicated she will be one to be reckoned with again as the World Cup and Olympics approach.

With a magnificent smile, Feitor congratulated the winner and said, "Kjersti is a great lady and a strong athlete. I tried to win in my country's town. I did all the things I could in the competition, but I knew she is very strong. She was the best and we must congratulate her effort."

The men's race saw four men together through 15 km, where Germany's Andre Hohne led in 60:04. On his heels were Tysse, Jaun Manuel Molina of Spain, and the Ecuador's Jefferson Perez. Not far back was Perez's teammate, Roland Saquipay. But only Tysse was able to accelerate over the final 5 Molina held pace for the silver medal, Hohne slowed, but easily claimed the bronze, while the two Ecuadorians faded badly. However, one can expect that come Olympic time, Jefferson Perez is not likely to fade although he did in 2004). Tysse and Molina switched positions from the Mexican race, where Molina was second and Tysse third behind Mexico's Eder Sanchez. They now share the points lead in the Challenge

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#### Results:

**Women's 20 Km:** 1. Kjersti Platzer, Norway 1:29:29 (22:43, 45:00, 1:07:12) 2. Susana Feitor, Portugal 1:29:31 (22:44, 44:59, 1:07:14) 3. Ana Cabecinha, Portugal 1:29:56 (22:44, 45:01, 1:07:14) 4. Athanasia Tsoumeleka, Greece 1:30:00 (22:46, 45:14, 1:07:38) 5. Sabine Zimmer, Germany 1:30:41 (22:43, 45:00, 1:07:35) 6. Olive Loughnane, Ireland 1:30:51 (22:49, 45:26, 1:08:10) 7. Vera Santos, Portugal 1:30:52 (22:44, 45:16, 1:08:03) 8. Sonata Milusauskayte, Lithuania 1:31:39 (22:50, 45:25, 1:08:13) 9. Ines Henriques, Portugal 1:32:22 (22:45, 45:16, 1:08:22) 10. Kristina Saltanovic, Lithuania 1:32:25 (22:50, 45:34, 1:08:49) 11. Jane Saville, Australia 1:32:50 12. Claudia Stef, Romania 1:33:10 13. Sandra Zapata, Columbia 1:33:35 14. Maribel Goncalves, Portugal 1:34:06 15. Tania Regina Spindler, Brazil 1:36:06 16. Cisiane Lopes, Brazil 1:37:47 17. Julia Takacs, Hungary 1:39:12 18. Johanna Jackson, Great Britain 1:41:06 19. Sona Avoila, Portugal 1:43:25 20. Rhama Mahmoudi, Tunisia 1:42:31 21. Olafa Lafi, Tunisia 1:49:14 22. Sandra Silva, Portugal 1:50:11  
DQ-Chaima Trabelsi, Tunisia DNF-Elisa Rigaud, Italy; Rocío Florido, Spain; Alassadnra Picagevicz, Brazil; Fatima Rodrigues, Portugal; and Marisa Soares,  
**Men's 20 Km:** 1. Erik Tysse, Norway 1:19:51 (20:08, 40:04, 60:05) 2. Juan Manuel Molina, Spain 1:20:06 (20:08, 40:05, 60:06) 3. Andre Hohne, Germany 1:20:19 (20:07, 40:02, 60:04) 4. Rolando Saquipay, Ecuador 1:20:52 (20:18, 40:16, 60:14) 5. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador 1:21:21 (20:16, 40:16, 60:05) 6. Luis Fernando Lopez, Columbia 1:22:35 (20:23, 41:04, 61:47) 7. Jose Alessandro Bagio, Brazil 1:22:56 (20:57, 41:53, 62:48) 8. James Rendon, Columbia 1:23:49 9. Sergio Vieira, Portugal 1:24:10 10. Rafael Duarte, Brazil 1:24:13 11. Mikel Odirozola, Spain 1:24:17 12. Antonio Pereira, Portugal 1:29:49 14. Pedro Isidro, Portugal 1:29:59 15. Dionisio Ventura, Portugal 1:30:15 16. Jorge Costa, Portugal 1:30:59 17. Luis Gil, Portugal 1:34:07 DQ-Ilya Markov, Russia; Giampiro, Italy; Francisco Pinardo, Spain; and Mario Contreras, Portugal DNF-Alessandro Gandellini, Italy; Benjamin Kucinski, Poland; Alex Schwarzer, Germany, and five others.

Beijing, China April 18-19-As in the past, the Chinese leg of the Challenge was largely a domestic affair with only the men's 20 Km race drawing a significant number of athletes from outside of China. The women's 20 drew only six outsiders and the 50 only two.

The men's 20 was a highly competitive race for the first 10 Km. Australia's Jared Tallent, Mexico's Eder Sanchez and four Chinese walkers were tightly packed at 40:10. That group didn't break up until after 15 Km, and at 16 Tallent and Hao Wang were still together at 64:18 with Sanchez 7 seconds back, just ahead of Yafei Chu and Jamin Dong, with Yucheng Han another 8 seconds back. Tunisia's Hatem Ghoulia was seventh at that point, but nearly a minute behind Han and in a tight battle with Yang Wei.

Over the next 2 Km, Tallent managed to open a 2 second gap on Wang as the rest of the field started to spread out. Tallent proved too strong over the final 2 Km lap. After walking just over 8 minutes per lap through 14 Km, he did his final three laps in 7:59, 7:56, and 7:57. He finished in 1:20:11, 14 seconds of Wang, whose final lap was his slowest. Sanchez held off Chu for third in 1:20:57. Dong and Han were next, but struggled on the final lap. Ghoulia finished strongly, gaining 40 seconds on Han over the final two laps, but still

came up 10 seconds short of sixth. His final lap of 8:10 was bettered only by Tallent.

After the race, Tallent told the media that he felt great. "It looks very hazy, but the pollution is no problem at all," he said. "The main factor in August is going to be the heat and humidity, so got to get ready for that." In fact, the race condition that troubled competitors the most was not the pollution, but the hardness of the course, which was reportedly made of concrete instead of asphalt. (More on this later in this issue.) Australia's Luke Adams felt the impact aggravated injuries, and dropped out of the race as a precaution around the 4 Km mark, while with the lead group.

The women's 20 went to Hong Liu after a race long tussle with three of her countrywomen. The four were right together through 18 Km and only 9 seconds apart at the finish, which saw Hong winning in 1:29:33, the same time given to Yawei Yang in second. Yang Shi was another six seconds back and Mangvie just three seconds behind her. The first finisher from outside of China was Japan's Masumi Fuchise in sixth with 1:31:11.

In the 50, held on the second day of competition, only 14 of 53 starters finished, with 11 DQ's along with the many drop outs. The winner, Tianfeng Si, started to pull away from a six-man lead pack (all Chinese) after 25 Km (1:54:32). By 30 km, he was 17 seconds ahead. By 35 Km, fourth place Chaohong Yu was still within 18 seconds, but he dropped well back from there. Chengliang Zhao and Jainbo Li stayed within striking distance (33 seconds) through 40, but Li then lost two minutes on the next 5 Km. Zhao closed to within 17 seconds by 45 km, but then he too hit the wall and eventually finished two minutes back, well clear of the rest. Si's winning time was 4:45:13, as he covered the second half in 1:50:41. The only two walkers from outside of China were New Zealand's Tony Sargisson and Mexico's Cristian Berdeja, who finished 12th and 13th, well off their best performances.

On his dominant finish, Si said simply, "I wasn't really thinking anything in the final 5 Km, just that if I could stick to what I did in training, I'd be fine. Of course, I was very tired, but just wanted to persevere. Our sport requires endurance, and the final 5 Km are definitely crucial, so I'm pretty satisfied with my performance today."

#### The results:

**Women's 20 Km:** 1. Hong Liu, China 1:29:33 2. Yawei Yang, China 1:29:33 3. Yang Shi, China 1:29:39 4. Mingzia Yang, China 1:29:42 5. Na Shi, China 1:30:48 6. Masumi Fuchise, Japan 1:31:11 7. Quiyen Jiang, China 1:31:22 8. Mayumi Kawasaki, Japan 1:32:47 9. Jing Jiang, China 1:32:53 10. Kang Zhou, China 1:34:17 11. Dan He, China 1:34:44 12. Jingjing Nie, China 1:35:29 13. Qing Xu, China 1:36:27 14. Li Li, China 1:36:49 15. Xue Chai, China 1:38:33 16. Miao Yu, China 1:38:41 17. Lihua Sun, China 1:39:15 18. Xin Zhang, China 1:39:20 19. Megan Peters, Australia 1:39:33 20. Jing Hjiang, China, China 1:40:13 21. Yang Yan, China 1:40:40 22. Shanshan Wang, China 1:41:40 23. Yanmin Bo, China 1:42:44 24. Ingling Pang, China 1:44:08 (34 finishers, 6 DNF, 3 DQ)

**Men's 20 Km:** 1. Jared Tallent, Australia 1:20:11 2. Hao Wang, China 1:20:25 3. Eder Sanchez, Mexico 1:20:57 4. Yafei Chu, China 1:21:04 5. Jamin Dong, China 1:21:17 6. Yucheng Han, China 1:21:46 7. Hatem Ghoulia, Tunisia 1:21:58 8. Yang Wei, China 1:22:20 9. Zhide Cui, China 1:23:05 10. Hyunsub Kim, Korea 1:23:06 11. Chris Erickson, Australia 1:23:29 12. Ronglong Zhang, China 1:24:26 13. Koichiro Morioka, Japan 1:24:39 14. Xialhong Wang, China 1:25:24 15. David Mejia, Mexico 1:25:29 16. Xingde Xu, China 1:25:49 17. Yuri Yamazaki, Japan 1:26:22 18. Chihung Park, Korea 1:26:23 19. Ronghua Lu, China 1:26:36 20. Xavier Moreno, Ecuador 1:27:11 21. Xuejin Bai, China 1:27:18 22. Guosong Wu, China 1:27:53 24. Walter Sandoval, El Salvador 1:29:05 25. Tao Yang, China 1:29:22 26. Jincai Zhou, China 1:29:25 27. Victor Mendoza, El Salvador 1:30:28 28. Guangfei Wang, China 1:30:48 29. Hongwei Wang, China 1:31:12 30. Rui Li, China 1:31:25 (36 finishers, 8 DNF including Luke Adams and Adam Rutter, Australia, 4 DQ)



**Men's 50 Km:** 1. Tianfeng Si, China 3:45:13 (46:26, 1:32:34, 2:16:20, 3:00:05) 2. Chengliang Zhao, China 3:47:14 (46:33, 1:32:36, 2:16:37, 3:00:38) 3. Jainbo Li, China 3:52:12 (46:32, 1:32:35, 2:16:37, 3:00:39) 4. Chaohong Yu, China 3:52:18 (46:32, 1:32:35, 2:16:37, 3:02:08) 5. Faguang Xu, China 3:54:25 (46:34, 1:33:01, 2:16:44, 3:03:16) 6. Jianguo Zhao, China 4:00:31 7. Yang Hou, China 4:04:28 8. Duo Kang, China 4:06:03 9. Gadasu Alatan, China 4:11:12 10. Jiawel Zhang, China 4:11:12 11. Lianzuo Gao, China 4:12:03 12. Tony Sargisson, New Zealand 4:15:10 13. Cristian Berdeja, Mexico 4:15:15 14. Dexing Xu, Chibna 4:39:03 (8 DNF, 11 DQ all Chinese)

Racewalking Challenge Points Standings after three races:

Men: 1. Eder Sanchez, Mexico, Erik Tysse, Norway, and Juan Molina, Spain 18 4. Rolando Saquipay, Ecuador 14 5. Jared Tallent, Australia and Jefferson Perez, Ecuador 127. Jesus Sanchez, Mexico and Tainfeng Si, China 10

Women: 1. Kjersti Plaatzer, Norway 2. Hong Liu, China 10 3. Susana Feitor, Portugal and Yewei Yang, China 9 5. Ana Cabacinha, Portugal and Yong Shi, China 8

## Other Results

**U.S. Junior World Cup Trials, Huappauge, N.Y., April 6: Women**—1. Catherine Davis (16), Peekskill, N.Y. 53:34 2. Miranda Melville (19), UW Parkside 53:41 3. Jenna Monahan, Mansfield, St. Joseph's College 53:50 4. Chelsea Conway (18) Mansfield U. 54:08 5. Allison Chin (16), Miami Valley TC 56:06 6. Leah Buletti (16), Walk USA 56:33 7. Christie Bernier (15), Maine RW 57:42 8. Michelle Clarke (18), Mansfield U. 58:06 9. Dan Ping He (16), New York City 59:56 10. Yangchen Dolma (16), NYC 60:01 11. Samantha Goldwaithe (18), Mansfield U. 61:23 12. Connie Cheng, (16), NYC 64:17 13. Lena Chen (17) Brooklyn 68:50 **Men**—1. Trevor Barron (15), South Park TC 48:05 2. Roberto Vergara (17), S. Texas WC 48:11 3. Matthew Forgues (15), Maine RW 48:43 4. John Randall (15), Miami Valley TC 54:40 5. Ricky Sosulski (16), Walk USA 2:42 6. Patrick Schaffer (18), Un., Ohio 66:18 (Ricardo Vergara did not compete due to a virus that caused his doctor to order him from all exercise for at least 3 to 6 weeks. He had a high fever and a swollen spleen and other organs. He had been having breathing problems even when competing in the the National H.S. Miles last month. Roberto was not top notch either, experiencing severe joint pains at the time of those miles and on medication for those at the time of these trials.) **Open 10 Km, same place: Women**—1. Rachel Lavalee, Canada 48:34 2. Maria Michta, Walk USA 51:09 3. Solomiya Login 52:52 4. Anine Stanley, Mansfield U. 54:02 5. Sarah Groat, Mansfield 58:56 6. Molly Joseph (14), Walk USA 60:58 7. Nicole Wessels, Walk USA 65:14 **Men**—1. Tyler Sorenson (14), Calif. 49:22 2. John Soucheck (42), Shore AC 51:50 3. Bill Vayo (43), Walk USA 60:46 **20 Km, same place**—1. Lisa Marie Vellucci, Eastside RW 1:52:47 **5 Km, Dambrid,ge, Mass., April 13**—1. Steve Vaitones 30:17 2. Larry Epstein 31:04 3. Justin Kuo 33:07 4. Paul Schell 33:18 5. Pat Godfrey 35:09 6. Beth Ketcher 35:35 7. Sarah Gibson 35:36 (10 finishers) **CTC Indoor 1 Mile Championship, New Haven, Conn., Feb. 9**—1. Jenna Monahan, St. Joseph's 7:43.46 2. Michelle Clarke, Mansfield (Pa.) U. 7:44.45 3. Anine Stanley, Mansfield 7:53.49 4. Chelsea Conway, Mansfield 7:56 5. Sarah Groat, Mansfield 8:33 6. Katie Williams, St. Joseph's 8:40 7. Samantha Mansfield 8:59 **10 Km, New York City, April 13**—1. Tori Cooper 56:16 2. Dan Ping He (16) 59:29 3. Alexic Davidson (52) 59:37 4. Jennifer Marlborough 60:06 5. Bruce Logan (43) 60:40 6. Robert Mullen (61) 61:37 7. Connie Cheng (16) 62:46 8. Erin Taylor 62:58 9. David Lee (53) 63:56 10. Frank Stonitsch (63) 63:58 (26 finishers) **Metropolitan 15 Km, New York City, April 27**—1. Lisa Marie Vellucci 1:23:15 (Continued to complete 20 Km in 1:52:37) 2. David Wolf (48) 1:28:57 3. Alexis Davidson (52) 1:30:59 4. Bruce Lagan (43) 1:32:08 5. Erin Tahylor

1:32:34 6. Jenifer Marlborough 1:35:36 7. David Lee (53) 1:37:16 8. Frank Stonitsch (63) 1:37:34 (15 finishers) **10 Km same place**—1. Connie Cheng (16) 63:27 (only competitor) **5 Km same place**—1. Ellen O'Shaughnessy (47) 32:25 2. Kathy Giovanni (60) 35:34 \*5 fubusgers( **3 Km, Stockton College, N.J., April 4**—1. Rich Luetschau 12:52.97 2. Pamela Alva 16:55 3. Panse Geer 17:26 4. Jim Karwacki 17:34 **Ron Zinn Memorial 10 Km, Wall Twp., N.J., April 20**—1. John Soucheck (42) 49:59 2. Dave Talcott (48) 51:48 3. John Fredericks (60) 59:34 4. Panse Geer (61) 61:26 5. Tom Quattrocchi (56) 61:54 6. Marcus Krantz (61) 65:39 7. Maria Paul (43) 67:37 8. Ray Robertson (64) 68:00 9. Ben Ottmer (74) 68:32 (13 finishers, 1 DNF) **Penn Relays, Philadelphia, April 26: Men's 10 Km**—1. Richard Luettchau 46:33.02 2. Theron Kissinger 48:06.08 3. Michael Bartholomew 54:23 **Masters**—1. Dave Talcott 52:12.06 2. Doug Johnson 54:03.65 **Junior**—1. Tyler Sorenson 50:45.68 2. Evan Crowds 54:11.25 3. Dan Andreasen 54:14 4. John Randall 56:25 **Women's 5 Km**—1. Maria Michta 25:00.89 2. Lauren Forgues 24:17.82 3. Solomiya Logan 24:48.54 4. Susan Randall 25:38.16 5. Laura Feller 25:59.95 6. Anine Stanley 26:09.88 7. Amanda Johnson 17:03 8. Sarah Groat 28:18 5. Erin Taylor 28:27 **Masters**—Maryanne Daniel 27:18.39 2. Panseluta Geer 29:53 3. Sheri Stager 31:37 **Junior**—1. Catherine Davis 26:16.61 2. Jenna Monahan 26:37.11 3. Allison Chin 26:45.11 4. Olivia Lapham 26:58.41 5. Chelsea Conway 27:10 6. Molly Hosesphs 27:22 7. Nicolette Sorensen 27:26 8. Chirsite Bernier 27:30 9. Nina Yang 28:28 10. Amy Dheung 28:32 11. Yangchen Dolma 28:47 12. Dan Ping He 28:56 13. Arame Mdoj 29:38 14. Nina Pasquarelli 30:53 (1 DNF) **5 Km Cedarville, Ohio, March 29**—1. Doug Johnson 24:55.7 2. Seth Campbell 25:00 3. Grant Bacon 25:05.7 4. Josh Wiseman 25:06.2 (Campbell, Bacon, and Wiseman are all students at Cedarville U., training under Vince Peters. Campbell is a junior, the otehr two freshmen) 5. Michael Mannozi 30:44.1 **Women**—1. Amanda Johnson 15:40.4 2. Megan Furnish 19:53.6 (Both students at Lindsey Wilson U. In Kentucky) **Gril's 3 Km, same place**—1. Allison Chin 16:19 2. Allie Berry 16:56 (H.S. sophomore and freshman, respectively) **Boy's 3Km, same place**—1. Jake Gunderkline 15:06.50 2. John Randall 15:07.0 (H.S. junior and sophomore) **Women's 3 Km, Canton, Ohio, April 5**—1. Rachel Rhodes, Houghton Col., N.H. 16:07.12 2. Maria Mudd, Walsh U. 17:47.4 3. Joyce Prohaska 18:03.1 4. Donna Graham 18:20 **Men's 5 Km, same place**—1. Brad Sinick, Malone Col. 23:38.35 2. Zach Adams, Houghton Col. 24:45 3. Joe Carmany 26:57 4. Mike Mannmozzi 28:35 **Women's 3 Km, Goshen, Indiaa, March 29**—1. Melissa Moeller 16:30.0 2. Katie Malinowski, Cornerstone U. 16:36 3. Janelle Brown, Cornerstone 17:16. **10 Km, Kenosha, Wis., April 6** (35 F, 20 to 30 mph winds)—1. Le'ein Voss (20) 53:36 2. Ali Bahr 55:18 3. Lynn Tracy (55) 57:41 **5 Km, same place**—1. Wil Preischel (47) 28:28 **Missouri Valley Women's 3000 meters, Fayette, Mo.**—1. Emily Hansen, Concordia 16:44.69 2. Renata Moleta, Lindenwood 19:27.12 (5 finishers) **Men's 5 Km, same place**—1. Chris Tegtmeier, Concordia 21:18.22 2. Thiago Ferreira, Missouri Valley 23:52.46 3. Tom Stolee, Concordia 24:45.08 4. Chris Dehning, Concordia 25:30 5. Peter Muldoon, Central Methodist 25:52 6. Nathan Dreher, Concordia 26:10 7. Geoff Karhoff, Cent. Meth. 27:02 (9 finishers, 1 DNF) **5 Km, Kentfield, Cal., March 8**—1. Rezak Gharfara 24:54 (14:52 at 3 Km) **3 Km, same place**—1. Jack Bray 17:48 2. Shirley Dockstader 20:24 3. Doris Cassels 20:42 4. Ann Lee 20:48 (9 finishers) **5 Km, Kentfield, April 6**—1. Rezak Gharfara 24:21 2. Jack Bray 29:53 3. Joseph Anderson 33:55 4. Ed Lane 34:08 (9 finishers) **Frank Quilantang Memorial 5 Km, Fair Oaks, Cal., April 13**—1. Karen Stoyanowski 30:05 2. Nicolle Goldman 32:03 3. Shirley Dockstader 34:45 4. Doris Cassels 35:18 (7 finishers) **Men**—Rezak Gharfara 24:48 2. Joe Berendt 28:54 3. Jack Bray 29:33 4. Jim Beckett 29:35 5. Mark Quilantang 33:40 (11 finishers) **2.8 Miles, Seattle, March 8**—1. Bob Novak (58) 25:42 2. Stan Chraminski (60) 26:04 3. Anne Tuberg (48) 27:06 4. Richard Zerbe (69) 28:04 5. Gordon Hartwig (64) 29:48 6. Joslyn Slaughter (49) 30:18 7. Dora Choi (42) 31:34

**10 Km, Madrid, Spain, April 27**—1. Francisco Fernandez 38:28 2. Ilya markov, Russia 39:57 3. Juan Manuel Molina 40:08 Women—1. Kjersti Platzer, Norway 22:02 2. Sonata Milusauskaite, Lithuania 22:36 3. Jane Saville 23:04 4. Rocio Florido, Spain 23:19

**20 Km, Dudince, Slovakia, March 29**—1. Matej Toth, 1:22:14 2. Rafal Augustyn, Poland 1:22:44 3. Marius Ziukas, Lithuania 1:23:55 4. Hannen Tonat, Germany 1:24:31 5. Jaub Jelonek, Poland 1:24:53 6. Carsten Schmidt, Germany 1:25:11 7. Anton Kucmin 1:25:45 8. Sandor Rac, Hungary 1:26:25 9. Vilium Mikelionis, Lith. 1:27:41 10. Rafel Kikora, Pol. 1:28:06 (14 finishers, 5 DNF, 1 DQ) Women: 1. Zuzana Malikova 1:35:29 2. Lucia Pelantova, Czech. Rep. 1:35:42 3. Paulina Buziak, Poland 1:36:44 4. Edina Fusti, Hungary 1:36:59 5. Viktoria Madarasz, Hung. 1:39:36 6. Andrea Kovacz, Hung. 1:40:46 (21 finishers, 8 DNF, 1 DQ) **50 Km, same place**—1. Grzegorz Sudol, Poland 3:45:47 (45:35, 1:30:53, 2:16:02, 3:00:44, Berger Maik, Germany was with him through 20 Km, but was disqualified before 25)) 2. Peter Korcok 3:48:17 (46:40, 1:32:52, 2:19:06, 3:00:44) 3. Donatas Skarnulia, Lithuania 3:49:30 (46:50, 1:33:02, 2:18:56, 3:03:58) 4. Tadas Suskevicius, Lith. 3:54:37 5. Darius Skarnulis, Lith. 3:56:58 6. Kazimir Verkin 3:57:17 7. Roman Bilek, Czech Rep. 3:58:42 8. Artur Brzozowski, Pol. 3:59:43 9. Maciej Rosiewicz, Pol. 4:00:53 10. Dusan Jajdan 4:03:07 11. Dan King, Great Britain 4:04:49 12. Nenad Filipovic, Serbia 4:05:50 13. Zoltan Czukor, Hung. 4:06:12 14. Valerijus Grinko, Lith. 4:05:56 (27 finishers, 18 DNF, 4 DQ) **Jr. 10 Km, same place**—1. Mate Hellenbrandt, Hungary 43:01 2. Kamil Piorek, Poland 44:12 3. Hagen Pohle (17), Germany 44:57 **Youth 10 Km, same place**—1. Mieczyslaw Romanowski, Poland (16) 46:13 (9:32 for first 2 Km, 9:10 pace the rest of the way) **20 Km, Podebrady, Czech Rep., April 12**—1. Matej Toth, Slovakia 1:22:35 2. Francisco Arcilla, Spain 1:23:06 3. Marco De Luca, Italy 1:23:16 4. Aliaksandr Kuzmin, Belarus 1:24:22 5. Jose David Dominquez, Spain 1:24:25 6. Maik Berger, Germany 1:24:29 7. Luis Manuel Corchete, Spain 1:24:44 8. Christopher Linke, Germany 1:25:25 9. Jose Ignacio Diaz, Spain 1:26:27 10. Colin Griffin, Ireland 1:26:31 11. Jan Albrecht, Germany 1:27:17 12. Andreas Gustafsson, Sweden 1:27:30 13. Ato Ibanez, Sweden 1:28:07 14. Dusan Majdan, Slovakia 1:28:33 15. Martin Skarba, Slovakia 1:28:38 16. Mikalai Seradovich, Belarus 1:29:25 17. Milos Holusa, Czech 1:29:47 18. Roberto Defendenti, Italy 1:30:26 19. Gyula Dudas, Hungary 1:30:30 20. Laszlo Hovak, Hung. 1:30:52 21. David Kidd, Ireland 1:30:55 22. John Egan, Ireland 1:30:55 (59 finishers, 10 DNF, 2 DQ) Women—1. Slwia Korzeniowska, Poland 1:31:15 2. Zuzana Schindierova, Czech 1:33:58 3. Annieszka Dygacz, Pol. 1:34:17 4. Valentina Trapietti, Italy 1:34:25 5. Brigita Virbalyte, Lithuania 1:34:36 6. Neringa Aidietyte, Lith. 1:34:54 7. Rossella Giordano, Italy 1:34:57 8. Marie Polli, Switzerland 1:36:58 9. Jurgita Meskauskiene, Lith. 1:37:46 10. Edina Fusti, Hung. 1:38:22 11. Viktoria Madarasz, Hung. 1:38:54 12. Aihnoa Pinedo, Spain 1:40:41 (26 finishers, 2 DNF, 4 DQ) **Men Under 20 10 Km, same place**—1. Liuis Toria, Spain 40:45 2. Federico Tontodonati, Italy 42:12 3. Vito Di Bari, Italy 42:38 4. Christoph Roschinsky, Germany 42:54 (28 finishers, 3 DQ) **Women Under 20 10 Km, same place**—1. Lorena Castrillo, Spain 48:32 2. Christin Elb, Germany 48:47 3. Mara Misuraca, Italy 48:47 4. Sandra Krause, Germany 48:55 (20 finishers, 1 DNF, 2 DQ) **Belarus Championships, Nesvizh, April 5: Men's 20 Km**—1. Ivan Trotskiy 1:20:42 2. Andrei Talashka 1:21:15 3. Aliaksandr Kuzmin 1:21:35 **Women's 20 Km**—1. Sniazhana Yurchanka 1:33:52 2. Zhanna Halaunia 1:34:51 3. Anna Drabenya 1:37:59 **Men's 35 Km**—1. Andrei Stepanchuk 2:37:14 2. Vitaliy Talankou 2:39:41 3. Aliaksandr Kazakou 2:41:02 **Men's Jr. 10 Km**—1. Dzmitry Dziubin 42:37 2. Alexander Lyakhovich 42:47 3. Vitaliy Shevchyuk 43:03 **Women's Jr. 10 Km**—1. Nadzeya Darazhuk 48:45 2. Tatyana Stefamenko 49:49 3. Elena Verbilo 49:48 **30 Km Taabori, Finland, April 19**—1. Jarkko Kinnunen 2:17:44 2. Jani Lehtonen 2:25:40

## The Joy of Competition, The Joy of Spring Available Here

Sun. May 3 Henry Laskau 5 Km, Coconut Creek, Florida (N)  
5 Km, Denver, 8 am (H)  
3000 meters and 1 Mile, Queens, New York, 9 am (G)

Sun. May 4 Mortland Walks (5, 10, and 20 Km), Dayton, Ohio (M)  
1 Hour, Kentfield, Cal. (P)

Fri. May 9 Last Chance Walks, Cedarville, Ohio (M)

Sat. May 10 Colorado Masters 5 Km, Denver (H)  
5 Km, Denver (H)  
1 Mile, Pharr, Texas (O)  
5 and 10 Km Coconut Creek, Fla. (Q)

Sun. May 11 5 Km, Houston (L)  
20 Km, Banks, Oregon (F)

Sat. May 17 5 Km, Denver 8:15 am (H)  
1 Mile, Pharr, Texas (O)

Sun. May 18 National Masters and West Region 15 Km; 5 and 20 Km, Riverside, Cal. (Y)  
Al Saner Walks, 5, 10, 20 Km, and 1 Hour Point Pleasant, N.J., 9 am (A)  
5 Km, Littleton, Col., 7 am (H)  
20 Km, Kenosha, Wis. (I)  
1 Hour, Pharr, Texas (O)

Sat. May 24 Sanford Kalb 9 Mile, Lakewood, N.J., 9 am (A)

Sun. May 25 20 Km, St. Louis (K)  
1 Mile, Houston (L)

Fri. May 30 **USATF Jr. And Sr. 10 Km and Open 20 Km, Albany, N.Y. (D or U)\***

Sat. May 31 5 Km, Los Angeles (Y)

Sat. June 7 20 Km (track), Kenosha, Wis. (I)  
1 Mile, Holmdel, N.J. (A)  
1500 and 3000 meters, Seattle (C)  
5 Km, Albuquerque, N.M. (T)  
5 Km, Los Angeles (Y)  
20 Km, Long Beach, Cal. (R)  
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)

Fri. June 19 5 Km, Seattle (C)

Sat., June 21 10 Km, Pasadena, Cal. (R)  
USATF Junior 10 Km, Columbus, Ohio (D)  
5 Km, Randall's Island, New York (G)

Sun. June 22 Alongi in Marin 5 Km, Kentfield, Cal. (P)

Sun. June 29 5 and 10 Km, Pasadena, Cal. (R)  
Metropolitan 20 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)  
U.S. Olympic Trials, 20 Km, Men and Women, Eugene, Oregon

July 5-6 1 Mile, Stockton, Cal. (J)

Sat. July 12 Metropolitan 5 Km, New York City, 9 am (G)

Sun. July 13 5 Km, Kentfield, Cal. (P)

Sun. July 20

\* Or Sun. June 1. I have seen both dates.

Contacts:

A--Elliott Denman, 28 N. Locust, West Long Branch, NJ 07764



B--Indiana RW Club, P.O. Box 1302, Indianapolis, IN 46206  
 C--Bev McCall, 511 Lost River Road, Mazama, WA 98833  
 D--www.USATF.org  
 E--Don DeNoon, 1507 Sundown Lane, Clermont, Florida 34711, 352-217-3966  
 F--Jim Bean, BeanJbean@aol.com  
 G--Stella Cashman, 320 East 83rd St., New York, NY 10028  
 H--Bob Carlson, 2261 Glencoe St., Denver CO 80207  
 I--Mike DeWitt, uwpcoach@yahoo.com  
 J--Art Klein, 324 Alta Vista, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
 K--Ginger Mulanax, gmulanax@sbcglobal.net  
 L--Dave Gwyn, 6502 Briar Bayou, Houston, TX 77072  
 M--Vince Peters, 607 Omar Circle, Yellow Springs, OH 45387, 937-767-7424  
 N--Florida Athletic Club, 3250 Lakeview Blvd., Delray Beach, FL 33445  
 O--A.C. Jaime, acjaime@sbcglobal.net  
 P--Jack Bray, Marin Racewalkers, P.O. Box 21, Kentfield, CA 94914  
 Q--South Florida Walkers 3331 NW 22nd Street, Coconut Creek, FL 33066  
 R--Southern Cal. Walkers Club, 358 W. California Blvd. #110, Pasadena, CA 91105  
 S--Potomac Valley TC, 3140-D West Springs Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043  
 T--New Mexico Racewalkers, P.O. Box 16102, Albuquerque, NM 87191  
 U--Dave Lawrence, 94 Harding Ave., Kenmore, N.Y. 14217  
 V--Bruce Leasure, info@twincitiesracewalkers.org  
 W--Maryanne Daniel, ctracewalk@sbcglobal.net  
 X--Steve Vaitones, P.O. Box 1905, Brookline, MA 02446 (617-566-7600)  
 Y--Walkers Club of Los Angeles, 233 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201

## From Heel To Toe

**About us.** As you may have noticed last month, with that issue, the Ohio Racewalker launched its 44th year of publication. In March 1965, at the suggestion of Jack Blackburn, he and I, with the help of the ditto machine (younger readers probably don't even know what that is) he had access to through the Columbus Recreation Department, reproduced Vol. 1 NO. 1 of the Ohio Racewalker. There were five pages. We mailed it to perhaps 20 to 30 racewalkers around the country whose addresses we happened to have. They told others, and in time, we had a subscription list of close to 100, which was about the printing capacity of a ditto master. The last issue reproduced by the ditto process was September 1968. Two reasons that we started to use mimeograph (some of you might not even know what that is) at that time: The fact that we were pushing the limitations of ditto and, more immediate, with Jack moving to far off Van Wert, Ohio, the ditto machine was gone, as was my partner in publication. Thus, this Jack had to scramble as he started on a solo effort, never realizing he would still be at it nearly 40 years later. Fortunately, I knew a couple at church who ran a secretarial service out of their home. Their equipment included a mimeograph machine, so I was back in business. They also had an addressograph machine (don't ask), so I could cut stencils for labels and no longer had to hand address the copies for mailing (a job Jack and wife Mary Jo had done up until that time). When my friends closed their business, the ORW became a printed publication--that was with the December 1971 issue. I bought the addressograph machine, but after several years, deserted it for computer printed labels. And at some point, I deserted to old typewriter for the computer keyboard. As all of this was going on, interest and participation in racewalking at the elite level, and along with it, circulation continued to climb. By October 1987, I mailed 581 copies, a figure that continued to rise; 628 by Oct. 1988, 639 by Oct. 1989, 682 by Oct. 1990. At that point, circulation leveled off, gliding

up or down a little each month, reaching a peak of 688 in May 1971. From that time, pretty much mirroring the decline in participation at elite levels of the sport, we have seen a steady decline. By May of 1993, circulation was down to 609. Three years later it was 524. Another three years and we were at 414. May of 2003--326. And so on, until last month, when we mailed 254 copies. The Ohio Racewalker was always intended to be a break even proposition--the subscription rate has always been set only to meet expenses (which don't include the editor's time or mileage to and from the printer and the post office). I keep a ledger--certainly not to CPA standards--that keep me abreast of income and expenses. In November of last year, the books showed a deficit for the first time in the 40 years I have been totally in charge--\$111,773.00 income and \$111,860.14 in expenses--that's over the 40 years. As of today, the deficit is at about \$200. No, I'm not about to close up shop--although at age 73 that possibility is always hanging out there, and I don't mind subsidizing to some extent this service to an interested, if dwindling, public. But, you might tell your friends about the availability of this publication and help me boost the circulation a bit. (Why not offer ORW subscriptions as prizes at races?) In the meantime, you might see an increase in the subscription rate, what with the cost of stamps going up again in a few days. Our last increase in the subscription rate was in March 2000, from \$10 to \$12. (Our initial subscription rate 44 years ago was \$1.00 per year. I guess a stamp cost six or seven cents at that time.) As for now, let's get on with news of our sport. . . **U.S. World Cup Roster.** As a result of the Trial races over the last two months, here is the U.S. Roster for the World Cup in Cheboksary, Russia, May 10-11: Men's 20 Km--Patrick Stroupe, Amrstrong, Missouri; John Nunn, San Diego, Cal.; Tim Seaman, Imperial Beach, Cal.; Michael Tarantino, San Diego, Cal., and Chris Tegtmeyer, Jansen, Nebraska. Women's 20 Km--Susan Armenta, San Jose, Cal.; Samantha Cohen, Racine, Wis.; Stephanie Casey, Salem, Oregon; Jolene Moore, Northbrook, Ill.; and Maria Michta, Nesconset, N.Y. (I'm not sure at this time why Teresa Vaill and Joanne Dow, who were one-two in the Trial, are not going) Men's 50 Km--Philip Dunn, San Diego, Cal.; Matt Boyles, Cedarville, Ohio; Ben Shorey, Zion, Ill.; Steve Quirke, Kenosha, Wis.; and Ray Sharp, Atlantic Mine, Mich. Junior Men's 10 Km--Trevor Barron, Bethel Park, Pa.; Roberto Vergara, Edinburg, Tex.; and Matthew Forgues, Boothbay, Maine. Junior Women's 10 Km--Catherine Davis, Peekskill, N.Y.; Miranda Melville, Rush, N.Y.; and Jenna Monahan, Holbrook, N.Y. Staff--Steve Vaitones, Waltham, Mass, Manager/Team Leader; Maryanne Daniel, Clinton, Conn., Head Coach; Dave McGovern, Locust Valley, N.Y., Assistant Coach; and Phillip Varidman, Lawrence, Kan., Trainer. Readers might recall that Ray Sharp announced his retirement following the 50 Km Trial. He explains his short retirement (actually his second retirement, his first lasting for 13 or 14 years) as follows: "It appears they would not have sent a full team without me. They were looking for sub-4:35 at the trials, and I was fifth in 4:49, but they took me based on my string of sub-4:35s in recent years and the fact that I've been our second finisher behind Philip at the last three team events--two Pan Ams and a World Cup. . . knowing how the 50 Km goes, there's a chance I'll be needed as a third finisher. The IAAF reports there may be a lot of spectators. . . exciting, I love the big races. . . My next race after the World Cup--the FANS 24-hour in Minneapolis June 7. I'm going to walk it and try for a 100 mile time. No training--just wing it. . . I think there's a world masters coming to Sacramento in 2010. I'll be 50. I think I could win something. I've always been better at 5/10/20 Km. I only did the 50 the last few years because my kids had spring the week of the team trials at 20 and I couldn't make the races" because we had plans. . . **Update on old stuff.** Ron Daniel wrote: "Your 40 year 'look back' caught my eye with the 50 Km track races. My memory recalls that the Klopfer record came from late '67. In April or May of '68, at our Met AAU Championship, we had three men under 4:30 on the CW Post track. While I led for most the race, Bob Kitchen came from



a half lap back to lap me. I barely held off Shaul Ladany for second. Not too far back in fourth was Ron Kulik just over 4:30. If you can find those race reports, perhaps you can pull them together in one report. I think these were the break through US 50 Km performances and all on the track." Ron added. "Another 'look back' that I'm curious about came in the spring of '72. Two of my best 20 Km performances came when I finished second to Larry Young in the AAU 20 Km Championship also on CW Post Campus and then a couple of weeks later, I finished second again to Larry at the Western Hemisphere Championships (maybe predecessor to Pan Am Cup). Can you check on the name of the Mexican walker in fourth? And then check to see if that same Mexican finished in front of Larry in Munich." And here, for the historical record, is my reply to Ron: "Regarding '72, the Mexican walker was Jose Oliveros. He actually finished fifth in that race—the Western Hemisphere 20 Km in Sharon, Pa. Actually, I was the U.S. team manager for that meet, which didn't entail much managing as everyone just showed up for the race. The result was: 1. Larry Young 1:31:59 2. Ron Daniel 1:37:18 3. Floyd Godwin 1:37:28 4. John Knifton 1:39:25 5. Jose Oliveros, Mexico 1:39:38 6. Neville Conway, Canada 1:39:39 7. Marcel Jobin, Canada 1:40:46 (He certainly got better.) 8. Patrick Farrelly, Canada 1:43:45. In a separate 20, billed as the All-American 20, Steve Hayden won in 1:41:2, ahead of Karl Merschenz, Can. (1:42:44), Jack Mortland (1:43:54), Alex Oakley, Can. 1:46:21, Jerry Bocci (1:46:29), Leon Jasionowski (1:50:05)—walking nearly as fast these days 40 years later—and 20 or 25 others. And, yes, Oliveros did finish ahead of Larry in Munich by 13 seconds for ninth place—1:32:40.6 to 1:32:53.4. Regarding the 50s, I found some interesting things. Larry did his 4:25:40 on March 17, 1968 at the Mt. SAC track with Ron Larid second in 4:29:29. Bob Bowman had 4:41:08, John Kelly 4:44:47, and Jim Hanley 4:59:48. Then I found on the same date, one Ron Daniel set a U.S. record for 35 Km at C.W. Post with 3:05:42.8 ahead of Knifton (3:07:45) and Shaul Ladany (3:14:57). A week later, at Kings Point, Dave Romansky took the measure of that same Ron Daniel over 50 Km, 4:45:56 to 4:48:54 with John Markon third in 5:01. Then on April 14, in Columbia, Mo., Young broke his own record with a 4:21:01.8, winning the Missouri Valley 1 Hour title on the way and breaking records at 35, 40, 45 Km, and 30 miles. Finally, the other race you referred to was on June 2 at C.W. Post: 1. Bob Kitchen 4:26:56 2. Ron Daniel 4:29:04 3. Shaul Ladany 4:29:09 4. Paul Schell 4:59 5. Howie Jacobson 4:00:30—Kulik, Bruce MacDonald, and Steve Hayden did not finish. You had Kulik in fourth. But the report I published on the race (which came from none other than Ron Daniel) notes that Kulik dropped out and left shortly after you lapped him for the second time at around 30 Km. Well, our memories sometimes deceive us. I often find that my vivid memories don't quite gibe with the way I recorded events many years earlier." . . . **Junior Camp.** The 2008 USATF Junior Elite Racewalk Camp will be Monday June 23 through Friday, June 27 in Chicago. The camp will begin the day after the USATF Junior Nationals scheduled for Jesse Owens Stadium at The Ohio State University in Columbus. All qualifiers for Junior Nationals as well as the top 12 finishers at the High School Indoor 1 Mile Championships are eligible. 2007 USATF Junior Olympics top six finishers are also encouraged to apply to the camp. Applications for the camp can be obtained by e-mailing camp coordinator Diane Graham-Henry at [ARCASWIS@aol.com](mailto:ARCASWIS@aol.com). . . **Talent ID camp.** Also scheduled for Chicago from June 23 through June 25 is the 2008 USATF Talent ID Camp. The camp is for those individuals between the ages of 16 and 26 who have not race walked before, or, who are in their first year of racewalking. Chris Tegmeier was one of the collegiate athletes who took advantage of this opportunity last year as a Freshman. Following the camp, he competed in the NACAC RW Cup on the USA squad, qualified for the Olympic Trials, qualified for the USA Men's Team going to the IAAF World Cup and won the NAIA Nationals. Athletes must apply on-line before June 1 to be eligible. Contact [www.usatf.org/groups/RaceWalking/TalentIDProgram](http://www.usatf.org/groups/RaceWalking/TalentIDProgram).

**Rulebook differences.** Jim Hanley asks—Do you work track meets at different levels and sometimes wonder if a certain rule is a high school, NCAA or USATF rule? Do you sometimes need to look up a rule quickly? If you answer yes, Jim has edited a book that will help. *Track and Field Rule Book Differences* is a lightweight, paperback book that can easily be carried with you at track meets. In an easy-to-read chart format, it shows high school, college, open, and international rule differences. Rules are organized by category (general rules, combined events, running events, relays, general field events, horizontal jumps, vertical jumps, throwing events, racewalks, and record requirements. A particular rule is found almost instantly by scanning the appropriate category. The actual rule number is cited next to each rule so the book can be used as an index for all four rule books. The 2008 edition is now available, containing nearly 100 changes from the 2007 edition. Order from Track & Field Rule Book Differences, Jim Hanley, editor, P.O. Box 6744, Thousand Oaks, CA 91259-6744.

## A sea of spectators await race walkers in Cheboksary

by Paul Warburton for the IAAF

If ever people-power played a part in getting an IAAF World Athletics Series event to its city, it has to be the folk of Cheboksary, Russia, who will enjoy the 23rd IAAF World Race Walking Cup, 10 - 11 May 2008. Race Walking and Athletics fans in general can be forgiven for being unaware of the capital city of Chuvashia, 600km east of Moscow, before it was awarded the European Cup of Race Walking in 2003.

Even officials making the trip had to spin the globe before putting their fingers on the spot. But the people in the city on the banks of the River Volga made sure they would never be forgotten afterwards.

Racewalkers have long gotten used to the idea of thin crowds. Actually, crowds has not always been the right word when think of echoing Olympic or World Championship stadiums as a spartan handful cheer 50k race walkers out, and sadly, sometimes back in to the arena.

But in 2003, anywhere between 50,000 and 75,000 spectators, depending on whose reports you read, lined the course in Cheboksary sometimes four deep to cheer on competitors. A changing mindset changed the way of thinking on hosting big sporting events in Russia – much to the delight of Vyacheslav Krasnov.

The then Chuvashia Minister for Sport, who among his many titles is also an IAAF Race Walking Committee Member, proved a point that May Day. Namely, you don't need Moscow to guarantee big crowds and top sporting organisation in the name of Mother Russia. The event was praised by the head of European Athletics and other foreign visitors, and made sure the capitals sporting chiefs took note.

Krasnov persuaded Moscow's top sporting brass to push on for the World Cup, and it was no surprise when Cheboksary got the nod for the big one in walking the following November. Was it easy?

The 56-year-old raises his eyes to heaven when the question is translated to him, which answers it in anybody's language. But Krasnov enlarges on the task of shredding miles of red tape to provide what in essence is an Olympics dress rehearsal with a Russian flavour. "Nothing is easy, when you are trying to change a mindset that often has Moscow seeing itself as the center of things and the provinces are way out there, he said.

"But the European Cup was a huge success by anybody's standards, especially as there were so many people watching a walking competition. In all the time I've been involved

in the sport I can't remember so many watching the sport without any other athletics events around it."

## Two centers of race walking

However, Cheboksary and its neighbour Saransk to the south did, and still do, have a head start on the rest of Russia. Apart from a few splendid isolations, the two cities have creamed the best of the country's walkers while sustaining a long 'friendly rivalry', as Krasnov puts it, to lay claim as the country's center of walking. Saransk, with coach Victor Chegin's group, hosted the IAAF Race Walking Challenge Final last September.

And Cheboksary has the presence of two of the top female walkers for the last decade. Yelena Nikolayeva and Olimpiada Ivanova have won 14 major medals between them, including Olympic gold, two silvers, three IAAF World Championships and a European Championship – and that's not counting a fistful of team medals.

Imagine as a citizen of Cheboksary you've never had a chance to see your heroines in the flesh racing in top competition. You too, might have strolled out to the European Cup course on the quayside to catch the action.

For the second IAAF World Race Walking Cup in a row, competitors in the five races – two at junior level – will be able to take in a watery view. Two years ago, the Spanish port of La Coruna had a similar quayside setting. But come to think of it, if Cheboksary turns out in force again as is likely, it may be that racers will see nothing of the real water because it will be masked by a sea of spectators cheering them from first to last around the 2km loop.

## About the Olympic Venue

(A report from Beijing following the first day's competition in the Racewalk Challenge event held there.)

Complaints from athletes about a "dangerous" race-walking course overshadowed the long-awaited competition debut Friday of China's eye-catching National Stadium, the main Olympic venue. Better known as the Bird's Nest, the 3.5-billion-yuan (500-million-dollar) arena will be the centrepiece of the Beijing Games, staging the opening and closing ceremonies as well as the athletics events.

But controversy erupted Friday after 50 athletes competed in the first event ever staged there -- a 20 kilometer men's racewalk won by Australian Jared Tallent. The walkers completed three laps of the stadium track before filing out to race nine times around a two-kilometer looped circuit nearby and then returning to the Bird's Nest for the finish. Hatem Ghoulia of Tunisia, a bronze medallist in the world championships last year, said stone slabs on the circuit outside the stadium were too hard.

"I think this course is very hard," said Ghoulia, who finished seventh. "I think for 50km it will be dangerous. "The men's 50km race takes place Saturday as part of a two-day IAAF race-walking challenge that includes a women's 20km race later Friday. All the top finishers complained about the surface, including Tallent, 23, after winning his first ever international race. "It is quite hard on the legs being concrete," he said "It does cause a lot more of an impact, especially for the 50k race. "It is not what we are used to because 90 percent of time we race on asphalt." The 23-year-old Commonwealth Games bronze medallist clocked 1hr 20min to go down in history as the first gold medal winner at the new Olympic stadium.

"Fantastic to win here in the Bird's Nest. It is really good to win the first race in the new Olympic stadium," he said. Next came China's Wang Hao in a time of 1:20:25, with

Mexico's Eder Sanchez, who placed fourth in the world championship last year, third in 1:20:57. The field of more than 50 athletes started the race with three laps of the 91,000-seater stadium in front of a sparse crowd of about 1,000 spectators. By the time they returned to race down the final stretch to the finish line more than an hour later, fans had streamed in and about 3,000 Chinese were waving banners and screaming encouragement.

"Wow, what a thrill to run into the stadium, which is going to host the Olympics in August," said Wang, one of China's elite race walkers, from Inner Mongolia. But he also said the surface was an added obstacle. "We have never raced on such a hard surface," he said "We train and race on roads which is a bit different." Sanchez said the hard ground reduced speed and added wear on bones and joints. "The hard ground has a bigger impact on the athletes' heels and you can feel it in the knees," he said.

Organizers said that the IAAF race-walking challenge is part of dozens of test events designed to highlight problems with the venues before the August 8-24 Games. "We will report all these questions to the competition manager who is in charge of this stadium. That is what a test event is for," said Chen Shuxu, media spokesman for the stadium.

The event took place under hazy skies but Beijing's notorious pollution was not a problem for the Australian winner. "That's a lot of fuss about nothing," said Tallent, referring to bad air quality.

Work still needs to be done inside and around the stadium and it is not scheduled for completion until next month when it hosts a full Olympic dress rehearsal – the China Open athletics competition from May 22 to 25.

And, a reaction to this and other reports questioning the appropriateness of Beijing for the Games from Gary Westerfield:

1. Over 20,000 tickets were sold for seating in the National Sport Stadium to see the first event to be contested there. Many lined the course.
2. The stadium is fantastic
3. There were hundreds of volunteers working the two days of the racewalk "test" events. The Chinese have it together.
4. There is nothing that will be done about the hard surface. It is not concrete, rather a granite esplanade.
5. The sky in Beijing is constantly overcast. There did not seem to be any polluting articles in the air, except for pollen. Who knows what I will be like in August.
6. Automobile traffic will be reduced 50 percent during the Games by mandating an odd-even license plate day system.
7. Construction sites contribute dust. There was a lot near the walk site. There will be none during the Games.
8. Heavy industry in Beijing is being curtailed.

## LOOKING BACK

**45 Years Ago** (From the March 1963 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)—Canada's Alex Oakley won the Pan American Games 20 Km in Sao Paulo, Brazil with a rather pedestrian 1:42:43, thanks largely to temperatures in the 80s and 3000-ft. altitude. Nick Marone completed a Canadian sweep with 1:46:35, as Ron Zinn managed only 1:49:44 and Ron Laird 1:52:13 (after both being in the mid 1:30s a month earlier at the National race.) Mexico was still waiting for Jerzy Hausleber to come and start a program that revolutionized the sport, not only in Mexico, but in the world. . . Tea National 30 Km in Los Angeles went to Mick Brodie in 2:49:34, better than 5 minutes ahead of Ron Daniel, with Bob Bowman



another minute back. . . Just 18 days before his Sao Paulo demise, Zinn had done 12 miles in Philadelphia in 1:32:05 with Akos Szekely a minute back. . . Apparently Chris had a very late April issue, because it carried the results of the National 10 Km held on Chicago's Stagg Field track on May 25. Zinn won in 46:35. Laird edged out the Ohio TC duo of Jacks, Blackburn and Mortland, for second. Those two had 48:00 and 48:07. Laird's finish gave the New York AC the team title over the Ohio TC, as both teams finished with 15 points.

**40 Years Ago** (From the March 1968 ORW)—An unknown shook things up at the National 10 Km in Maryland and the officials botched things up with inability to count laps in the rack race. Ray Somers, walking in his first race (coming off a strong distance-running background), won in 47:59.4, but had to walk an extra lap to satisfy the inept officials, so he was actually close to 46 minutes. Ray moved easily away from Ron Laird over the last 4 miles to win by 40 seconds. The walkers had to straighten out the finish places among themselves, as the officials had many going 2 and 3 extra laps. . . A week later, Somers proved it was no fluke as he reeled off 8 miles 797 yards in the hour. . . In the National 25 Km in Detroit, Don DeNoon had his greatest race ever, whipping Larry Young by nearly 2 minutes in 1:55:13. Ron Laird and Bill Ranney took third fourth, still under 2 hours, and Canada's Karl Merschen just missed the barrier in fifth. . . Jack Blackburn and Jack Mortland waged a classic 10 Km dual on the Upper Arlington, Ohio track, with Blackburn edging away in the second half to win in 48:54 to Mortland's 49:14. . . Larry Young set a U.S. 50 Km record on the track with a 4:21:02. . . Shaul Ladany took his annual 50 Mile walk New Jersey, breaking his own record for the race with 8:05:18.

**35 Years Ago** (From the March 1973 ORW)—Bill Ranney moved away from the Colorado Track Club's Jerry Brown in the final mile to win the National 20 Km in Santa Barbara, Cal. Bill's 1:34:15 left Jerry 20 seconds behind. Bob Kitchen had 1:35:02, with Todd Scully, Ray Somers, and John Knifton following. . . Gerhard Weidner broke the World Record for 50 Km on the track with a 4:00:27 in Hamburg. . . Englishman John Mills beat transplanted Englishman John Knifton to win the National 1 Hour in Lawrenceville, N.J.. Mills covered 8 miles 252 yards. Todd Scully was third.

**30 Years Ago** (From the March 1978 ORW)—Augie Hirt missed Shaul Ladany's meet record by less than a minute in winning the National 75 Km in 7:05:46. Martin Kraft had 7:10:32, with Ladany a distant third on this day. The master's title went to Sal Corrallo in 8:01:52, sixth overall. . . Knifton won the National 35 Km in Des Moines, Iowa with a 3:05:42. . . In Mexico City, Raul Gonzales went nearly 7 minutes under Bernd Kannenberg's world record for 50 Km with a 3:45:52 on the track. . . On the local scene, Chris Knotts showed his potential with a 47:17 for 6 miles. Steve Pecinovsky topped him with a 47:03, but did not satisfy the hard-nosed judge, Dr. John Blackburn. Jack Blackburn (42) won the old man's battle over Mortland (43) in 50:08.

**25 Years Ago** (From the March 1983 ORW)—Jim Hering caught Ray Sharp with just 600 meters to go and then hung on to win the National 25 KM in Washington, D.C.. Heiring's 1:50:38 beat Ray by just 1 second. Dan O'Connor had 1:53:24 and Tim Lewis 1:55:11. Steve Pecinovskhy, Sam Shick, Tom Edwards, and Mike Morris also finished under 2 hours. . . At the same site, Susan Liers-Weesterfield won the Women's National 20 Km in 1:50:28, with Teresa Vaill recording the same time in second. Chris Anderson and Carol Brown were far behind. . . Sharp came back in two weeks to win the National 35 Km in Cleveland in 2:55:00, with Mike Morris 1:40 back. Wayne Glusker had 2:57:38 in third. Jack Blackburn's 3:33:58 won the Master's title when his obliging teammate, Jack Mortland, dropped out shortly after passing 30 Km in under 2:59. . . Dan O'Connor traveled to Tokyo and came second in a 20 Km with a 1:27:37

**20 years ago** (From the April 1988 ORW)—The Olympic 50 Km Trials in Indianapolis saw

Carl Schueler take command from the start and move to an easy win in an impressive 3:57:48. Marco Evoniuk and a surprising Andy Kaestner captured the other two Olympic berths in 4:03:33 and 4:05:07. Jim Heiring, Herm Nelson, Paul Wick, Eugene Kitts, and Mark Fenton followed. Schueler went through 25 Km in 1:56:53, but without competition couldn't maintain that pace. There were 16 finishers and 2 DQ from 22 starters. . . Gary Morgan was an impressive winner at the Jack Mortland 20 Km in Columbus, covering the distance in 1:27:30. Steve Pecinovsky was second in 1:30:54 and Dave McGovern third in 1:32:15. Of 34 starters 31 finished. The Women's 10 Km went to Maryanne Torrellas in 48:03 with Debby Lawrence 20 seconds back. Canada's Pascale Grand was right on Debby's heels in 48:25. . . In the National Invitational 20 Km in Washington, D.C., Paul Schwartzburg prevailed in 1:26:39. Richard Quinn, Marc Bagan, and Curtis Fisher followed in 1:31:07, 1:31:35, and 1:31:37. The Women's 10 Km went to Teresa Vaill in 47:11, 3 minutes ahead of Mary Howell.

**15 Years Ago** (From the March 1993 ORW)—The World Cup was held in Monterey, Mexico, and the home team ignored stifling heat that brought many elite walkers to their knees to romp home in the men's competition. The Italian women had a strong team effort to win that competitions. Ileana Salvador led the Italians, although finishing sixth. But with Annarita Sidoti in seventh and Elisabetta Perone in tenth, the Italians finished three points clear of China and Russia, who did not pack their teams nearly as well. China's Yan Wang won in 45:10 over Finland's Sari Essayah (45:18) and Russia's Yelena Nikolayeva (45:22). Debby Van Orden led the U.S. contingent with 50:22 in 44th place, two places ahead of Dana Yarbrough. The U.S. team finished 13th. Mexico, with first and third in the 10 and first, third, and fourth in the 50, finished 149 points ahead of second place Spain with Italy third in the men's competition. Daniel Garcia won the 20 in 1:24:25, 6 seconds ahead of Spain's Valentina Massana. Alberto Cruz was third for Mexico in 1:24:37, with Poland's Robert Korzeniowski fourth. Jonathan Matthews was the first U.S. walker in 41st (1:31:28). Carlos Mercenario beat Spain's Jesus Garcia at 50, 3:50:28 to 3:52:44, with German Sanchez (3:54:15) and Miguel Rodriquez (3:54:22) completing the Mexican team effort. Canada's Tim Berrett was a brilliant fifth in 3:55:12. Andrzej Chylinski led the U.S. in 38th (4:17:36). The U.S. team finished 11th. . . Teresa Vaill broke the American 5 Km record as she won the Penn Relays in 21:28:17, nearly 4 seconds ahead of Debby Lawrence's old record. Gretchen Eastler was just 19.4 seconds back. The men's 10 went to Curt Clausen in 43:31.40.

**10 Years Ago** (From the March 1998 ORW)—The Rohls cleaned up at the National Invitational in Manassas, Virginia as Michelle won the womens' 10 Km in 46:55 and Mike captured the men's 20 in 1:37:06. Michelle was 47 seconds ahead of Joanne Dow at the finish, with Tereswa Vaill third in 48:04. Mike had a tougher time, but vanquished 43-year-old Steve Pecinovsky by 23 seconds. . . Down under, Craig Barrett did a 19:54.36 to win the New Zealand 5 Km title, but Nich A'herm and Dion Russell went faster in Melbourne with 19:12.92 and 19:39.62. Barrett also had 1:24:25 for 20.

**5 Years Ago** (From the March 2003 ORW)—Ben Shorey and Jolene Moore won races at the Penn Relays, Shorey going 42:10.97 for 10 Km and Moore 23:44 for 5 Km. Sean Albert trailed Shorey by 19 seconds in the men's race. Anne Favolise was 33 seconds behind Moore. . . Matt Boyles won the Mortland 20 Km in Yellow Springs, Ohio for the second straight year covering the distance in 1:31:33.9. . . In Naumburg, Germany, Melanie Seeger impressed with a 1:29:44 and Andreas Ern went 3:43:53 for 50, 2:10 ahead of Latvia's Aigars Fadejevs. Norway's Trond Nymark was third in 3:46:49