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Russians Celebrate Dominance

Cheboksary, Russia, May 10-11—The World Cup of Racewalking came to this city of nearly a half-million people and huge crowds lined the course during the five races. The home team gave them cause to celebrate as Russians won four of the five gold medals, 10 of the 15 individual medals (gold, silver, and bronze), and all five team titles. Their dominant performance was highlighted by Denis Nizhegorodov's stunning world record performance at 50 Km. Only Spain's Francisco Fernandez ruined the party by outracing Valeriy Borchin in the final stages of the race to take the 20 Km gold.

Modesty was not part of the Russian persona after the race. Women's 20 Km winner Olga Kaniskina, less than surprised by her team's performance, stated simply, "Russians are the best athletes in the world and the results here reflect that." Her coach Viktor Chyegin merely shrugged his shoulders at the thought that anyone else could gate crash the red-and-white vested party. He said, "My expectations? We are the best in the world, and it's normal to expect as many victories as this."

The meet drew 450 athletes from 55 nations, with crowds of at least 60,000 spectators each day. Nizhegorodov payed tribute to the fans who helped make the two days such a one-sided affair. He said: "For me it was third time lucky here in Cheboksary. I realized I was going to achieve a World record with 3 Km to go. It is very important for me that this result is ratified and that I have achieved it in Russia. It is a Russian record."

Aleksy Bartsaykin set the tone for the Russians in Saturday's first race, the Junior Men's 10 Km and bettered the World Junior record in the process as he finished in 39:57, Although teammate Edikt Khaybullin had the faster time going in.

The first 5 Km went in 20:21, with the 19-year-old Bartsaykin joined at the front by another teammate Denis Strolkov and Spain's Lluís Torla. Khaybullin was just 1 second back and also close behind was the Chinese pair of Rui Zhang (20:23) and Ding Chen (20:26). The rest of the field was already stringing out well behind the leading six.

Bartsaykin made his move with about 3 Km to go and quickly opened a 15 meter gap on Strelkov and Torla. By the finish, he had a 14 second lead on Chen who pulled away from Strelkov in the final stages. Torla as not far back in fourth, with Khaybullin sidelined by a third red card. It was then nearly a minute back to fifth place finisher Zhang.

Bartsaykin said, "I didn't think about the world record. However, I thought another Russian might win. I didn't know which one, but certainly thought any threat would come from our team. With 200 meters left, I realized there was no one behind me. But it was only 50 meters from the line I realized the World record was on." With first and third place, the Russians were easy winners of the team title (just two scoring in the Junior races, as compared to three in the men's and women's races). China was second and Spain third, as the three nations took the top six spots between them.

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For the U.S. Trevor Barron, still only 15, and perhaps the youngest competitor in the race (one must be 16 by the end of the calendar year to compete) walked the fastest time ever by a US junior athlete in World Cup competition with a 46:18 in 42nd place. Trevor certainly rose to the occasion bettering his personal best by about 2 minutes. And Matthew Forgues, just a month past his sixteenth birthday, came through in 47:46. Both should be qualified for the 2009 World Youth Championships (17 and under), where the qualifying standard in 2007 was 48:40. Their efforts put the U.S. in 16th of the 19 teams. The third U.S. walker, Roberta Vergara finished in 48:29.

The Junior women's 10 Km was the most dominant Russian performance, with the three Russian young ladies burying the rest of the field early to have their own race—and even that didn't turn out to be too competitive. Actually, after just 500 meters Tatyana Kalmykova, Irina Yumanova, and Elmira Alembekova were out on their own and by 2 Km, Alembekova had been dropped by the other two.

Kalmykova and Yumanova went through the first 5 in 21:11, 32 seconds clear of Alembekova. Fourth place Anamaria Greceanu of Romania was another 63 seconds back with Australia's Jess Rothwell just a second behind her. At that point Kalmykova made the race her own, quickly dropping Yumanova as she went on to a 39 second win in 42:22, which would have been good for thirteenth in the Junior Men's race. Alembekova finished in 44:49, well clear of Greceanu who got the better of Rothwell on the final 2 Km lap.

Obviously, the Russians won the team title ahead of Romania. Here, the real surprise was Columbia, who took third well ahead of Belarus with eighth and tenth place finishes. The 18-year-old Kalmykova admitted the pleasure of coming first was compromised by her slightly slower-than-expected time! Looks pretty good to me, so I wonder what she was expecting.

The U.S. girls were out of their element in this field. Miranda Melville walked a strong race in 43rd place, accelerating to a 53:25 after going through the first 5 in 27:01. Catherine Davis had 54:05 and Jenna Monahan 55:43. As a team, they finished 17th, ahead of Egypt and Estonia.

The final Saturday was, the men's 20 Km, was highly competitive, even without Jefferson Perez who opted to watch after competing in Italy 9 days earlier. (He won, as reported later in this issue). Defending champion, Spain's Francisco Fernandez repeated, but not without a struggle.

The initial pace was rather leisurely for the main contenders with Fernandez at the front of 23 walkers bunched between 20:15 and 20:18. Then the race began. Accelerating to 19:37 for the next five, Fernandez went through 10 Km in 39:52, along with Sergey Bakulin, Andrey Krivov, Ilya Markov, Jared Tallent, and Hatem Ghoula. Just a second back were Erik Tysse, Robert Heffernan, Valeriy Borchin, Eder Sanchez, and Ivan Trotski. Roland Saquipay, Juan Manuel Molina, Luke Adams, Luis Lopez were still within five seconds.

Fernandez stepped it up another notch and passed 15 Km in 59:08 (19:15) and broke the field apart. Borchin was right with him and Sanchez just 4 seconds back. Markov had 59:14, Krivov 59:22, Tallent and Heffernan 59:30, with Tysse, Ghoula, and Molina right on

their heels.

As Fernandez found yet another gear, only Borchin could stay with him. And the Russian made a spurt as they neared the final kilometer in a desperate attempt to steal the race. He got a 5 meter lead, but Fernandez quickly made that up and made his own sprint for home. He easily controlled the final few hundred meters and even allowed himself the luxury of strolling across the finish last for the last five steps for a course and World Cup record of 78:15.

For those unfamiliar with the World Cup, here is a brief history. The event was first held in Lugano, Switzerland in 1961, with men's races at 20 and 50 Km. Because of the original location, the event became known as the Lugano Cup. There had been earlier zone competitions in Europe to qualify teams for the final, which was strictly a team affair—no individual entries. A single team winner was declared, combining scores from the 20 and 50 Km races. I won't go into the scoring scheme here, but it has changed a couple of times through the years and is now scored like a cross country meet, with teams allowed to enter five athletes in each event, with three to score.

In that first meet, Great Britain won the team title with individual titles to Ken Matthews, Great Britain in 1:30:55 and Abdon Pamich, Italy, in 4:25:38. There were no teams from outside Europe, although entries would have been accepted if any had been interested. Ron Zinn and I were on the U.S. track team for dual meets with the Soviet Union and other meets that summer and got wind of the event, to be held in the fall, while in London. We did what we could to promote interest in the U.S. sending a team (as the only entrant from the Western Hemisphere, we would not have been subject to a zone competition), but were essentially told it was too late to plan such a venture. In reality, no one wanted to be bothered.

The original plan was to hold the Lugano Cup every two years and that has been followed with two exceptions: First skipping from 1967 to 1970 and then skipping to 1973. Second, skipping from 1999 to 2002, so that the event is now held in even rather than odd numbered years. U.S. participation was again sought by the racewalking committee in 1963 and 1965, but with no success in persuading the AAU (then the governing body of track and field) to send a team. Great Britain repeated as the team winner in 1963 followed by East Germany (GDR) in 1965.

The 1967 event was held in Bad Saarow, East Germany, and finally, the AAU, rather late in the game, consented to enter a team, but provided no funding. One way and another, the six members of that team with manager Bruce MacDonald raised their own funds and became the first U.S. Lugano Cup team, and the first U.S. athletes to compete in what was then the German Democratic Republic. Ron Laird, Tom Dooley, and Jack Mortland at 20 Km and Larry Young, Goetz Klopfer, and Jim Clinton at 50 comprised the team that finished sixth among the eight teams. Laird surprised the racewalking world with a third place finish in 1:29:13, behind Soviet walkers Nikolai Smaga and Vladimir Glubnichiy. The East Germans won their second of four straight team titles. Six Years later, Laird repeated his bronze medal performance, and remains the only U.S. walker to medal at what is now the World Cup of Racewalking.

Women were first included in 1979, with a 10 Km event, which was called the Eschborn Cup because that year's event was held in Eschborn, East Germany. That event was changed to 20 Km in 1999 and in 2004, Junior races at 10 Km were added. Also, in beginning 1999, team Championships are awarded both at 20 and 50 Km as opposed to the combined men's championships of earlier years. The highest U.S. finish has been fifth of nine countries in 1970. Other good years were seventh of 15 countries in 1981, ninth of 35 countries in 1987, eleventh of 30 countries in 1993, and ninth of 20 countries at 20 Km in 2004.

Fernandez's final 5 km of 19:08 left Borchin 6 seconds back at the finish. Sanchez, walking the race of his career finished in a personal best 1:18:34, well clear of Borchin, who

held off teammate Krivov in another strong Russian team performance. A step further back was Erik Tysse, who held off Luke Adams for sixth. Adams came from eleventh place on the final 5 Km.

The Russians were again easy winners of the team title with their 2-4-5 finish. Fernandez led the Spanish to second place bolstered by Molina's eighth place and Benjamin Sanchez in thirteenth. Australia, who won silver two years ago, got the bronze this time.

After the race, Fernandez said, "The last lap was extremely difficult and I did not look at Borchin's face, but I'm happy for myself and the team. The only problem with the race was the first lap when the Russians went too fast." An interesting comment. The Russians would probably say that Fernandez went too fast on the last three laps. Borchin did comment: "It was a difficult race because I was up against a true champion. The plan was to be in the first five or six and not with the leader so early. At the end all I was thinking about was getting to the line."

The best U.S. performance was from Mike Tarantino, who continues to improve and got a personal best of 1:32:04, just one place and 17 seconds behind John Nunn, who has gone much faster. Tim Seaman and Chris Tegtmeier were both well off their Trials performances, and Patrick Stroupe, who won the Trials in just over 1:30, was never close to that pace on this day. So we finished all five walkers, but were last among the teams with three finishers.

The 50 Km was the race of the meet with Nizhegorodov blasting the world record, but having to overcome a gutsy effort by teammate Vladimir Kanaykin to win the race. Here is how Paul Warburton reported the race in an IAAF release.

The new world record holder didn't look as if had worked that hard to not only retain the World Racewalking Cup 50 Km title, but rewrite the record books. Maybe, it never looks that way when you're in the shape Denis Nizhegorodov is clearly in. His superhuman effort still allowed him to smile and pose for the cameras seconds after he crossed the finish line and chat effortlessly to waiting reporters as if he was awaiting a train.

The Russian express already had the unofficial best time for the distance when he walked the same Cheboksary course in 2004. This time the 27-year-old made sure there would be no doubt who the best in the world was with a devastating turn of pace to nullify the late threat of Vladimir Kanaykin and the existing world record of Nathan Deakes of Australia (3:35:57).

It takes a mental steel, reinforced with iron thread, to see your long-held lead wiped out in the space of a lap, and then regroup to not only hang on, but storm away and regain the lead. But that's exactly what happened between 42 and 44 Km.

Kanaykin closed the 100-meter gap separating himself from Nizhegorodov, and for half-a-lap, the younger Russian was a few meters clear. There was even a moment when Nizhegorodov's head dropped and there were some around the picturesque waterside 2 Km loop predicting the race was over then and there.

But the Olympic silver medalist from Athens four years ago dug into his reserves and latched on to Kanaykin's back. And less than a lap later stormed past to record the fastest circuit of the race—an incredible 8:19 after 46 Km of walking! There was no way back for Kanaykin and he knew silver and personal best would have to be for the day.

And here, from your editor, is how the race reached that point.

The early pace gave no promise of the performance to come. At 10 Km, Nizhegorodov and Kanaykin were at the front, but from their standpoint were essentially strolling—44:47. Still, they were leaving most of the field behind. Sergey Kiryapkin, Alex Schwaxer and Igor Yerokhin were just a second back, with the fifth Russian Andrey Ruzavin another second back. Spain's Mikel Odriozola was at 44:53 and Norway's Trond Nymark at 45:10. Everyone else was at 46:10 or slower.

Nizhegorodov began to apply the pressure, accelerating to 42:53 for the next 10 Km to pass 20 in 1:27:40 with Kiryapkin and Schwazer four and five seconds behind. Yerokhin and Kanaykin were at 1:28:10, Ruzavin at 1:28:40, Nymark 1:29:26, and Odriozola 1:29:28. Ninth place, Mexico's Mario Flores was way back in 1:31:12.

With a 42:13 for the next 10, Nizhegorodov eliminated all the pretenders, hitting 30 Km in 2:09:53. Kanaykin had taken over second place, but was 59 seconds behind. Yerokhin had 2:11:07, Schwazer 2:11:14 and Kiryapkin 2:11:38.

At this point, it seemed obvious the Russians had another team title sewed up and Nizhegorodov was on his way to the individual title. However, when both Yerokhin and Ruzavin dropped out before 40 Km, there was some doubt of the team title. A DQ of any of the remaining three or another DNF would negate the team effort.

Nizhegorodov continued his assault on the record, picking the pace up another notch with a 42:06 to reach 40 Km in 2:51:59. But Kanaykin was going even faster 41:06! And had closed the gap to 9 seconds. Schwazer was now leading Kiryapkin for third by 13 seconds in 2:54:37. Nymark was another 4 minutes back, more than 2 minutes ahead of Odriozola.

And although Kanaykin did catch Nizhegorodov as reported, Nizhegorodov's response was simply to keep on doing what he was doing—he covered the final 10 in 42:15. Kanaykin simply had made a bold move which was drained his last reserves and he slowed way down to finish 2:41 behind and just 9 seconds ahead of a hard-charging Schwazer, who covered his final 5 Km in 21:04, 8 seconds quicker than Nizhegorodov.

Everyone else was experiencing various degrees of hitting the wall. Nymark was fourth, but nearly 8 minutes behind Schwazer. Odriozola was another 2:31 back so it was another walk-away team win for the Russians with Italy a distant second, just a point ahead of Mexico, who lost the silver when Mario Flores dropped from seventh to twelfth and Jesus Sanchez from eleventh to fourteenth on the final 10 Km, just as Horacio Nava was moving from tenth to sixth.

For the U.S., Philip Dunn walked a beautifully paced race to make the Olympic "B" standard (4:06) finishing 40th in 3:15:40? His 10 Km splits were 49:31, 49:01, 48:22, 48:06, and 49:30. Having won the Olympic Trial, all he needed was the qualifying time to make his third Olympic team. Matt Boyles in just his third 50 Km, made a bold effort at the 4 hour mark with splits of 48:13, 1:35:46, and 2:23:50. But he slowed to 51 minutes on the fourth 10 and had to call it a day before he reached 45. Benjamin Shorey and Steve Quirke both went well under their personal bests with 4:18:46 and 4:22:16. Ancient Ray Sharp surprised even himself in his fourth World Cup appearance (his first was in 1981) as he walked a 4:41:00 off very little racewalking specific training since the Trials. This was the best team performance for the U.S. as they finished eleventh.

The final race was the women's 20 Km, again dominated by the Russians, who finished 1-2-4. But, as in the 50, they walked a tightrope to the team title with two walkers out before 15 Km—one with a DQ and one dropping out.

Olga Kaniskina, Anisya Kiryapkina, and Tatyana Sibileva took control immediately and when they hit 5 Km in a swift 21:04, they had more than a minute lead on the rest of the field, which had a group of six together at 22:21. The three Russians were still together at 10, although the pace had slowed slightly as they went through in 42:24. Following them were Portugal's Vera Santos, Spain's Mario Vasco, Australia's Jane Saville, and Belarus' Elena Ginko. Kiryapkina was soon disqualified and it was down to a two woman race. At 15 Km, Kaniskina was a second ahead in 63:52. Santos was a distant third in 66:15, just ahead of the third Russian. Lyudmila Arkhipova. Vasco had 66:23 and Saville 66:40.

Although her pace continued to slow, Kaniskina proved much too strong for Sibileva over the final 5 and she came home in 1:25:42, missing the world record by just a second. It is also true that Sibileva had to be cautious having received a second red card at about 12 Km. When her two teammates went out, she had to be sure to finish to secure the team title. She was 47 seconds behind at the finish, with Santos third in 1:28:17, having put 12 seconds herself and Arkhipova in the closing stages. Ireland's Olive Loughnane overhauled Saville to take sixth place. Again, the Russians were easy winners of the team title, ahead of Portugal and Spain. Lithuania was a surprising fourth. The U.S. finished sixteenth of 18 teams with Susan Arments the first finisher in 1:40:24

Kaniskina noted: "The wind was disturbing but it is not because of the weather that I missed the World record. The most important thing for me is to have qualified for the Olympics." Sibileva said: "The supporters were great, but we were disappointed with the judges. I slowed down because my told me it was important not to be disqualified. The top finishers in the senior races split \$367,000 in prize money, with each winner earning \$30,000, descending to \$3000 for sixth place. Winning teams got \$15,000. Nizhegorodov took home another \$50,000 for his world record.

Men's 20 Km: 1. Francisco Fernandez, Spain 1:18:15 (20:15, 39:52, 59:07) 2. Valeriy Borchin, Russia 1:18:21 (20:15, 39:53, 59:07) 3. Eder Sanchez, Mexico 1:18:34 (20:16, 39:53, 59:11) 4. Ilya Markov, Russia 1:19:04 (20:16, 39:53, 59:14) 5. Andrey Krivov, Russia 1:19:10 (20:17, 39:52, 59:22) 6. Erik Tysse, Norway 1:19:11 (20:15, 39:53, 59:31) 7. Luke Adams, Australia 1:19:15 (20:16, 39:57, 59:42) 8. Juan Manuel Molina, Spain 1:19:19 (20:16, 39:56, 59:32) 9. Robert Heffernan, Ireland 1:19:22 (20:16, 39:56, 59:32) 10. Jared Tallent, Australia 1:19:48 (20:16, 39:53, 59:30) 11. Hatem Ghoula, Tunisia 1:19:54 (20:15, 39:52, 59:30) 12. Rolando Saquipay, Ecuador 1:20:40 (20:16, 39:54, 49:47) 123. Benjamin Sanchez, Spain 1:20:48 (20:27, 40:36) 14. Ivan rotski, Belarus 1:20:56 (20:16, 39:53, 60:14) 15. Joao Vieira, Portugal 1:21:13 (20:17, 40:01, 60:15) 16. Ivano Brugnetti, Italy 1:21:19 (20:16, 40:03, 60:39) 17. Matej Toth, Slovakia 1:21:24 18. Sergio Vieira, Portugal 1:21:25 19. Jean-Jaques Nkouloukidi, Italy 1:21:45 20. Hyunsub Kim, Korea 1:22:01 21. Chil-sung Park, Korea 1:22:02 22. Yucheng Han, China 1:22:24 23. Luis Lopez, Columbia 1:22:25 24. Viktor Burayev, Russia 1:22:29 24. James Rendon, Columbia 1:22:34 26. Siarhei Charnou, Belarus 1:22:39 27. Ronghua Lu, China 1:22:41 28. David Mejia, Mexico 1:22:47 29. Andriy Kovenko, Ukraine 1:22:48 30. Fortunato D'Onofrio, Italy 1:22:55 31. Chris Erickson, Australia 1:22:55 32. Alvaro Garcia, Mexico 1:23:07 34. Dzianis Simanovich, Belarus 1:23:31 35. Andrei Talashka, Belarus 1:23:44 36. Miguel Angel Lopez, Spain 1:23:44 37. Yang Wei, China 1:23:47 38. Recep Celik, Turkey 1:24:01 39. Predrag Filipovic, Serbia 1:24:07 40. Andres Chocho, Ecuador 1:24:08 41. Jakub Jelonek, Poland 1:24:25 42. John Garcia, Columbia 1:24:26 44. Adam Rutter, Australia 1:24:57 45. Pedro Daniel Gomez, Mexico 1:24:36 46. Donatas Skarnulis, Lithuania 1:25:08 47. Rafal Fedacznski, Poland 1:25:13 48. Mauricio Arteaga, Ecuador 1:25:13 49. Diego Martins, Portugal 1:25:18 50. Emmanuel Boulay, France 1:25:21 51. Pedro Isidro, Portugal 1:25:22 52. Vilius Mikelionis, Lithuania 1:25:24 53. Ruslan Dmytrenko, Ukraine 1:25:26 54. Eddy Riva, France 1:25:34 55. Andreas Erm, Germany 1:25:39 56. Rafal Augustyn, Poland 1:25:45 57. Nenad Filipovic, Serbia 1:25:54 58. Vladimir Savanovic, Serbia 1:25:54 59. Jamie Costin, Ireland 1:25:59 60. Nazar Kovalenko, Ukraine 1:26:04. . 78. John Nunn, USA 1:31:47 (22:27, 45:00, 68:21) 79. Mike Tarantino, USA 1:32:04 (22:21, 44:50, 67:38). . 92. Tim Seaman, USA 1:38:11 (22:51, 46:32, 72:57). . 94. Chris Tegtmeyer, USA 1:39:23 (23:02, 47:31, 71:49). . 98. Patrick Stroupe, USA 1:46:34 (24:47, 51:41, 79:13) (3 DQ, including Sergey Bakulin, Russia-20:15, 39:52; 8 DNF

Team Scores: 1. Russia 11 2. Spain 22 3. Australia 48 4. Mexico 48 5. Italy 65 6. Belarus 74 7. Portugal 82 8. China 86 9. Columbia 90 10. Ecuador 106 11. Ukraine 142 12. Poland 144 13. Serbia 154 14. Lithuania 159 15. France 182 16. Germany 190 17. Turkey 235 18. Kazakhstan 245 19. USA 255

Women's 20 Km: 1. Olga Kaniskina, Russia 1:25:42 (21:04, 42:24, 63:52) 2. Tatyana Sibileva, Russia 1:26:29 (21:04, 42:24, 63:53) 3. Vwera Santos, Portugal 1:28:17 (22:27, 44:21, 66:15) 4. Lyudmila Arkhipova, Russia 1:28:29 (22:22, 44:21, 66:19) 5. Maria Vasco, Spain 1:28:39 (22:21, 44:22, 66:23) 6. Olive Loughnane, Ireland 1:29:17 (22:21, 44:38, 64:56) 7. Jane Saville, Australia 1:29:27 (22:22, 44:22, 66:40) 8. Maria Jose Poves, Spain 1:29:31 (22:37, 44:46, 67:02) 9. Elena Ginko, Belarus 1:29:35 (22:22, 44:22, 66:52) 10. Susana Feitor, Portugal 1:29:38 (22:26, 44:45, 67:02) 11. Ana Cabecinha, Portugal 1:29:39 (22:26, 44:44, 67:06) 12. Sonata Milusauskaite, Lithuania 1:30:35 (22:27, 44:44, 67:07) 13. Sabine Zimmer, Germany 1:30:39 14. Athanasia Tsoumeleka, Greece 1:30:40 15. Melanie Seeger, Germany 1:31:09 16. Vira Zozulya, Ukraine 1:31:12 17. Kristina Saltanovic, Lithuania 1:31:21 18. Ana Maria Groza, Romania 1:31:37 19. Ines Henriques, Portugal 1:32:35 20. Elisa Rigau, Italy 1:32:38 21. Claudia Stef, Romania 1:33:19 22. Sandra Zapata, Columbia 1:33:22 23. Tania Spindler, Brazil 1:33:23 24. Cislane Lopes, Brazil 1:33:44 25. Beatriz Pascual, Spain 1:33:55 26. Maribel Goncalves, Portugal 1:33:56 27. Valentina Trapletti, Italy 1:34:10 28. Rocio Florido, Spain 1:34:26 29. Agnieszka Dygacz, Poland 1:34:27 30. Zhanna Golovnya, Belarus 1:34:56 41. Claire Woods, Australia 1:35:01 32. Neringa Aidietyte, Lithuania 1:35:10 33. Monica Svensson, Sweden 1:35:18 34. Maria Gargallo, Spain 1:35:37 35. Zuzana Schindlerova, Czech Rep. 1:36:10 36. Dan He, China 1:36:18 37. Natalie Saville, Australia 1:36:32 38. Maria Mendoza, Mexico 1:36:40 39. Brigita Virbalyte, Lithuania 1:36:52 40. Veronica Budilean, Romania 1:36:57 41. Olena Miroshnychenko, Ukraine 1:37:01 42. Xiaoling Song, China 1:37:14 43. Jolanta Dukure, Latvia 1:37:39 44. Johanna Ordenez, Ecuador 45. Johanna Jackson, Great Britain 1:37:56 46. Federica Ferraro, Italy 1:38:00 47. Edina Fusti, Hungary 1:38:28 48. Maria Sanchez, Mexico 1:38:55 49. Paulina Buziak, Poland 1:39:01 50. Shanshan Wang, China 1:39:11 51. Marie Polli, Switzerland 1:39:25 52. Claudia Ortega, Mexico 1:39:38 53. Evelyn Nunez, Guatemala 1:39:56 54. Laura Polli, Switzerland 1:40:16 55. Svetlana Tolstaya, Kazakhstan 1:40:22 56. Susan Armenta, USA 1:40:24 (23:57, 48:33, 1:13:48). . 66. Maria Michta, USA 1:45:02 (24:44, 50:15, 1:17:48). . 63. Jolene Moore, USA 1:45:32 (24:42, 50:15, 1:17:48). . 75. Astephanie Casey, USA 1:49:42 (24:55, 51:24, 1:18:51). . DQ-Samantha Cohen, USA (24:43, 50:16) (78 finishers, 7 DQ, 11 DNF)

Team Scores: 1. Russia 7 2. Portugal 24 3. Spain 38 4. Lithuania 61 6. Australia 75 7. Romania 79 8. Italy 93 9. Belarus 97 10. Ukraine 124 11. China 128 12. Mexico 138 13. Poland 154 14. Latvia 177 15. Ecuador 186 16. USA 190 17. France 198 18. Kazakhstan 204

Men's 50 Km: 1. Denis Nizhegorodov, Russia 3:34:14 (44:47, 1:27:40, 2:09:53, 2:51:59). 2. Vladimir Kanaykin, Russia 3:36:55 (44:47, 1:28:30, 2:10:32, 3:52:08) 3. Alex Schwazer, Italy 3:37:04 (44:48, 1:27:45, 2:41:14, 2:54:24) 4. Trond Nymark, Norway 3:44:59 (45:10, 1:29:36, 2:13:31, 2:58:27) 5. Mikel Odriozola, Spain 3:47:30 (44:53, 1:29:28, 2:14:58, 3:00:38) 6. Horacio Nava, Mexico 3:47:55 (46:11, 1:31:45, 2:17:17, 3:02:35) 7. Sergey Kiryapkin, Russia 3:48:29 (44:48, 1:27:44, 2:11:38, 2:56:37) 8. Andre Hohne, Germany 3:49:03 (46:10, 1:31:47, 2:17:27, 3:02:31) 9. Marco DeLuca, Italy 3:49:21 (46:31, 1:32:05, 2:17:25, 3:02:31) 10. Ingus Janevics, Latvia 3:49:50 (47:00, 1:32:39, 2:16:32, 3:01:22) 11. Oleksy Kazanin, Ukraine 3:50:30 (47:03, 1:33:31, 2:19:25, 3:04:11) 12. Mario Flores, Mexico 3:51:16 (46:21, 1:31:52, 2:15:35, 3:01:25) 13. Jose Cambil, Spain 3:51:20 (46:56, 1:33:29, 2:19:28, 3:04:58) 14. Jesus Sanchez, Mexico 3:51:29 (46:10, 1:13:44, 2:57:17, 3:02:40) 15. Jesus Garcia, Spain 3:52:31 (46:21, 3:36:15, 2:16:39, 3:03:11) 126. Igors Kazakevics, Latvia 3:52:45 17. Antronio Pereira, Portugal 3:53:11 18. Daniel Garcia, Mexico 3:53:42 19. Diego Cafagna, Italy 3:53:46

20. Jianguo Zhao, China 3:54:18 21. Chao Sun, China 3:54:52 22. Andrie Stepanchuk, Belarus 3:55:09 23. Oleksiy Shelest, Ukraine 3:55:16 24. Omar Zepeda, Mexico 3:56:52 25. Colin Griffin, Ireland 3:58:26 26. Mario Dos Santos, Brazil 3:58:30 27. Luis Garcia Guatamala 3:58:33 28. Rafal Sikora, Poland 3:59:25 29. Sergiy Budza, Ukraine 3:59:32 30. Fausto Quinde, Ecuador 3:59:33 31. Claudio Dos Santos, Brazil 4:00:24 32. Augusto Cardoso, Portugal 4:00:52 33. Jorge Costa, Portugal 4:01:05 34. Santiago Perez, Spain 4:02:09 35. Dario Privitera, Italy 4:02:32 36. Fredrik Svensson, Sweden 4:02:45 37. Sebastien Biche, France 4:04:08 38. Francisco Pinardo, Spain 4:04:43 39. Eddy Roze, France 4:05:03 40. Philip Dunn, USA 4:05:10 (49:31, 1:38:32, 2:26:54, 3:15:40) 41. Pedro Martins, Portugal 4:05:17 42. Lianzuo Gao, China 4:05:19 43. Konstadinos Stefanopoulos, Greece 4:05:24 44. Dusan Majdan, Slovakia 4:08:56 45. Johan Augeron, France 4:10:05 46. Zoltan Czukur, Hungary 4:10:43 47. Milos Holusa, Czech Rep. 4:10:55 48. Arnis Rumbeniaks, Latvia 4:12:13 49. Maik Berger, Germany 4:12:15 50. Jani Lehtinen, Finland 4:12:55 . . . 56. Ben Shores, USA 4:18:46 (49:54, 1:37:30, 2:29:43, 3:23:19). . . 58. Stephen Quirke, USA 4:22:16 (49:54, 1:39:30, 3:29:42, 3:22:20). . . 66. Ray Sharp, USA 4:42:00 (51:09, 1:41:22, 2:37:27, 3:37:05) DNF—Matt Boyles, USA 48:15, 1:35:46, 2:23:50, 3:14:49 (69 finishers, 9 DQ, 21 DNF including Andrey Ruzavin (44:49, 1:28:40, 2:14:28) and Igor Yerokhin ((44:48, 1:28:10, 2:11:07) both Russia
Team Scores: 1. Russia 10 2. Italy 31 3. Mexico 32 4. Spain 33 5. Ukraine 63 6. Latvia 74 7. Portugal 82 8. China 83 9. France 121 10. Ecuador 133 11. USA 154 12. India 203

Junior Women's 10 Km: 1. Tatyana Kalmykova, Russia 42:44 2. Irina Yumanova, Russia 43:23 3. Elmira Alembekova, Russia 44:39 4. Annamaria Greceanu, Romania 46:05 5. Jess Rothwell, Australia 46:44 6. Kang Zhou, China 47:10 7. Adriana Turnea, Romania 47:21 8. Maria del Pilar Rayo Columbia 47:25 9. Nadzeya Darazhuk, Belarus 47:38 10. Anlly Pineda, Columbia 47:44 11. Erandi Uribe, Mexico 47:49 12. Panayiota Tsinopoulou, Greece 47:49 13. Alexandra Gradinariu, Romania 47:51 14. Anna Chernenko, Ukraine 47:56 15. Ana Claudia Conceicao, Portugal 48:11 16. Gabriela Cornejo, Ecuador 48:43 17. Catarina Godinho, Portugal 48:49 18. Raquel Gonzalez, Spain 49:03 19. Berta Krivan, Hungary 49:09 20. Tatsiana Stsefanenka, Belarus 49:14 21. Adriana Ochoa, Mexico 49:18 22. Antonella Palmisano, Italy 49:24 23. Anita Kazemaka, Latvia 49:29 24. Yuliya Davydenko, Ukraine 49:36 25. Nicole Fagan, Australia 49:37 27. Eleonora Giorgi, Italy 49:44 28. Dulce Arrieta, Mexico 49:48 19. Anna Mielcarek, Poland 50:15 30. Eleftheria Zapadioti, Greece 50:24 31. Galyna Yakovchuk, Ukraine 50:45 32. Mara Misuraca, Italy 50:54. . . 43. Miranda Melville, USA 53:25. . . 47. Catherine Davis, USA 54:27. . . 49. Jenna Monahan, USA 55:43 (53 finishers, 3 DQ)

Team Scores: 1. Russia 3 2. Romania 11 3. Columbia 18 4. Belarus 29 5. Australia 30 6. Portugal 32 7. Mexico 32 8. Ukraine 38 9. Greece 42 10. Italy 49 11. Latvia 57 12. Poland 62 13. Spain 53 14. Hungary 67 15. France 80 16. Ireland 81 17. USA 90 18. Egypt 94 19. Estonia 104

Junior Men's 10 Km: 1. Aleksey Batrsaykin, Russia 39:57 2. Ding Chen, China 40:12 3. Denis Strelkov, Russia 40:17 4. Lluís Torla, Spain 40:21 5. Rui Zhang, China 41:08 6. Manel Spain 42:12 7. Adrian Ochoa, Mexico 42:28 8. Ricardo Lojan, Ecuador 42:37 10. Jose Montana, Columbia 42:37 11. Mate Helebrand, Hungary 42:39 12. Riccardo Macchia, Italy 42:41 13. Dejaime De Oliveira, Brazil 42:51 14. Vito DiBari, Italy 42:54 15. Clemente Garcia, Mexico 43:07 16. Aliaksandr Liakhovich, Belarus 43:10 17. Julian Rendon, Columbia 43:17 18. Emerson Hernandez, El Salvador 43:18 19. Mehdi Boufraine, France 43:24 20. Viktor Holbnychyy, Ukraine 43:27 21. Veli-Matti Partanen, Finland 43:28 22. Luis Lopes, Portugal 43:28 23. Wojciech Halman, Poland 43:32 24. Patryk Rogowski, Poland 43:42 25. Siarhei Shauchuk, Belarus 43:55 26. Daniel Coleman, Australia 43:57 27. Luis Guillaume Blanc, France 43:58 28. Christoph Roschinsky, Germany 44:07 29. Genadj Kozlovskij, Lithuania 44:07 30. Tomasz Wiater, Poland 44:10 31. Luis Amezcua, Spain 44:30 32. Georgiy

Sheiko, Kazakhstan 44:30 33. Perseus Ibanez, Sweden 44:39 34. Hagen Pohle, Germany 44:43 35. Szymon Szustkowski, Belarus 44:47. . . 42. Trevor Barron, USA 46:18, . . . 51. Matthew Forgues, USA 47:46. . . 54. Roberto Vergara, USA 48:29 (59 finishers, 4 DQ)
Team Scores: 1. Russia 4 2. China 7 3. Spain 10 4. Italy 19 5. Mexico 23 6. Columbia 27 7. Belarus 41 8. France 46 9. Poland 47 10. Ukraine 56 11. Finland 61 12. Germany 62 13. Hungary 63 14. Russia 65 15. Czech Republic 90 16. USA 93 17. Turkey 100 18. Estonia 109 19. Egypt 114

Platzer, Perez Impressive In Italian Challenge Race

Sesto San Giovanni, Italy, May 1—Nine days before the World Cup races, Norway's Kjersti Platzer and Ecuador's Jefferson Perez scored solid wins in IAAF Challenge 20 Km races on a very warm day in this Italian city. The 36-year-old Platzer scored her third Challenge win of the year—she won earlier in Chihuahua and Rio Maior—over the 2004 Olympic Champion, Athanasia Tsoumeleka of Greece. Perez, an Olympic gold medalist and three-time World Champion, who has been easing into competition in earlier races this year, opened up to score an impressive win over another Olympic gold medalist, Ivano Brugnetti and Norway's Erik Tysse, the 2008 Challenge points leader.

In the women's race, Platzer and Tsoumeleka were in control of the race by 5 Km, which they passed in 23:17, with Romania's Claudiu Stef starting to lose ground to them. Platzer opened a slight gap after 10 Km, reached in 45:40 and then continued to edge away from her Greek adversary. Stepping up the pace, she reached 15 km in 67:47, but Tsoumeleka was still just 10 seconds back. Platzer continued to apply the pressure, but Tsoumeleka gave ground very grudgingly and crossed the finish line just 14 seconds behind Platzer's 1:30:07. Stef was a distant third, just ahead of another Greek lady, Evangelia Xynou.

"It's a special to win in Sesto," said Platzer. "It was my eighth race here (and her second win. Local people supported me along the course, shouting my name loudly. I realized I could win only when I was inside the stadium." Tsoumeleka, who is coming back after maternity leave was delighted with second place.

Perez led the men's race from the start, opening a 10 second gap over Brugnetti and Tysse with a 20:29 first 5. That pair rallied and caught Perez by 9 Km and Brugnetti took the lead briefly as they neared 10 Km. When Perez pushed through a third 5 Km in 19:45 to reach 15 in 60:30, he was able to drop the Italian, who himself was pulling away from Tysse. At 15, Perez had a 15 second lead, which he stretched to 20 seconds by the finish, which he reached in 1:20:31

Perez received a boost from a large group of fans from the Ecuadorean community living in Italy. "It's a big surprise to find so many compatriots. I felt at home. It's the first time I won in Sesto San Giovanni. I am happy with my final time because it was too warm." Back in eighth place was Italy's Alex Schwazer in just 1:26:07. Apparently he was just rehearsing his 50 Km pace, because 10 days later he finished the World Cup 50 in third place, after a final 20 Km in 1:25:50.

For, Perez, however, the World Cup race did not fit in his Olympic preparation plans and he was only a spectator in Cheboksary. Platzer, likewise, incurred a slight injury in this race and chose not to compete at the World Cup. The results:

Women—1. Kjersti Platzer, Norway 1:30:07 2. Athanasia Tsoumeleka, Greece 1:30:21 3. Claudiu Stef, Romania 1:32:52 4. Evangelia Xynou, Greece 1:33:03 5. Tatyana Korotkova, Russia 1:34:26 6. Tania Splinder, Brazil 1:34:39 7. Alessandra Picagevicz, Brazil 1:35:48 8. Laura Polli, Switzerland 1:37:33 9. Patrizia Bassetto, Italy 1:43:20 10. Marta Moientale, Italy

2:05:33

Men—1. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador 1:20:31 2. Ivano Brugnetti, Italy 1:20:51 3. Eric Tysse, Norway 1:21:40 4. Rolando Saquipay, Ecuador 1:24:21 5. Jose Bagio, Brazil 1:25:19 6. Jesus Garcia 1:25:19 7. Mario Flores, Mexico 1:25:46 8. Alex Schwarzer, Italy 1:26:07 9. Benjamin Kudinskiy, Poland 1:26:33 10. David Dominguez, Spain 1:27:05

Turava Back In Action; Sanchez Trumps Fernandez At Krakow

Krakow, Poland, May 24—Last year, Belarus' Ryta Turava, the worlds No. 1 20 Km walker in 2006, won the European Championships and four IAAF Challenge races leading up to the World Championships. Then she didn't show up at the World Championships, for reasons that were never publically announced. Still, she earned a World No. 2 ranking. She was expected to compete in a challenge race early this year, but come race time, there was no Turava. She did appear for the World Cup, but dropped out after going through 5 Km in 22:16 in fifth place. Today, she reappeared in good form and crushed a field that included World Cup bronze medalist Vera Santos. Turava's 1:28:33 left Portugal's Susana Feitor more than 2 minutes back in second.

In the men's race, Mexico's Eder Sanchez outdueled World Cup winner Francisco Fernandez and took over the top spot in the Challenge standings. Sanchez, who took the bronze medal a week ago at the World Cup, some 15 seconds behind Fernandez, was 14 seconds ahead today, finishing in 1:19:34. Juan-Manuel Molina finished third. The results: Women: 1. Ryta Turava, Belarus 1:28:33 2. Susana Feitor, Portugal 1:30:36 3. Claudia Stef, Romania 1:30:55 4. Athanasia Tsoumeleka, Greece 1:31:04 5. Vera Santos, Portugal 1:32:53 6. Jane Saville, Australia 1:32:59 7. Johana Ordonezz, Ecuador 1:34:30 8. Marla Gaikova, Slovakia 1:37:01 9. Miriam Ramon, Ecuador 1:38:16 10. Monica Sbensson, Sweden 1:38:19 11. Zuzana Schindlerova, Czech Republic 1:38:55 12. Agnieszka Szarnog, Poland 1:43:22 (15 finishers, 1 DQ—Elena Ginko, Belarus)

Men: 1. Eder Sanchez, Mexico 1:19:34 2. Francisco Fernandez, Spain 1:19:45 3. Juan-Manuel Molina, Spain 1:20:18 4. Ilya Markov, Russia 1:20:31 5. Robert Heffernan, Ireland 1:20:34 6. Joao Vieira, Portugal 1:21:25 7. Siarhei Charnou, Belarus 1:21:43 8. Matej Toth, Slovakia 1:21:49 9. Andre Chocho, Ecuador 1:22:05 10. Rafal Augustyn, Poland 1:23:04 11. Grzegorz Sudol, Poland 1:23:17 12. Artur Brzozowski, Poland 1:25:23 13. Peter Korcok, Slovakia 1:25:27 14. Jamie Costin, Ireland 1:25:42 15. Milos Batovsky, Slovakia 1:26:00 (18 finishers, 5 DNF—including Ivano Brugnetti, Italy, 1 DQ—Ivan Trotski, Belarus)

Other Results

1 Mile, Queens, N.Y., May 3—1. Sherry Watts (55), Canada 8:56.8 2. Lauren Aviles (9) 11:24.6 **3 Km, same place**—1. Erin Taylor 16:12.3 2. Nina Yang (18) 17:20.8 **20 Km, (track), Pt. Pleasant, N.J., May 18**—1. Rich Luettchau 1:41:46 2. John Soucheck 1:46:30 3. Ron Salvio 2:17:07 4. Ben Ottmer 2:35:00 5. Bob Mimm *83) 2:49:51 Women—1. Lisa-Marie Vellucci 1:51:07 **15 Km, same place**—1. Erin Taylor 1:26:43 **10 Km, same place**—1. Yangchen Dolma 62:24 2. Panse Geer 65:22 3. Connie Cheng 66:19 4. Dan Ping 67:21 **5 Km, same place**—1. Nina Yang 30:47 **Sandy Kalb 14 Km, Lakewood, N.J. (Handicap, actual times shown)**—1. Doris Cruz 1:51:06 2. Sue Middaugh 1:48:10 3. Ben Ottmer 1:47:18 4. Fran Emanuel 1:47:21 5. Ron Salvio 1:30:22 6. Maria Paul 1:32:25 7. Curt Clausen 1:23:33 8. Elliott Denman 2:04:28 **National Masters 20 Km, U. Of Central Florida, April 27**: Women—1. Loretta Schuellein (29) 1:45:20 2. Carolyn Kealty (45) 1:51:00 3. Cheryl Lemons (42) 1:59:60 (Note: The times listed in these results are confusing (Here, it shows 1:59.60, not 1:56.60, as I have shown, which would be 2:00:00. So if they really wanted a decimal point

rather than a colon, that would be six-tenths of a minute or 36 seconds. So, I am going to continue with the results as presented, but put a colon where it would normally be, even though 1:59:60 doesn't make sense, but neither does 1:59.60. You figure it out.) 4. Jeannie Harms (29), Canada 2:02:09 5. Rebecca Garson (43) 2:04:10 6. Darla Yoerg (40) 2:09:21 7. Marianne Martino (57) 2:09:40 8. Cathy Marfield (56) 2:10:60 9. Yvonne Allmaras (46) 2:11:40 10. Kathleen Balser (65) 2:12:30 11. Jolene Steigerwalt (64) 2:17:10 12. Heather Mitchell (63) 2:23:10 13. Dora Choi (42) 2:25:00 14. Darlene Backlund (62) 2:25:10 15. Sandy Hults (66) 2:33:00 16. Nancy Linky (61) 2:37:30 17. Paula Graham (45) 3:00:00 **Men**—1. Leon Jasionowski (63) 1:55:20 2. Michael Blanchard (46) 1:56:30 3. Max Walker (61) 1:57:30 4. Norm Frable (62) 1:58:10 5. Don Lawrence (48) 2:08:20 6. Juan Moscoso (35) 2:09:10 7. John Fredericks (60) 2:10:40 8. John Backlund (68) 2:17:30 9. Paul Johnson (70) 2:17:50 10. Williams Hasken (70) 2:20:20 11. Ron Salvio (59) 2:20:40 12. Ray Jenkins (40) 2:23:60 13. Peter Bayer (69) 2:27:20 14. Andrew Smith (58) 2:29:20 15. Gordy Hawkins (59) 2:39:10 16. Bernie Finch (68) 2:53:10 **Women's 10 Km, same place**—1. K.R.D. Dilrukshi 62:23 **Men's 10 Km, same place**—1. Ray Jenkins 67:60 2. Peter Bayer 72:45 3. Bob Fine a:15.690 **Women's 5 Km, same place**—1. Maite Moscoso (13) 30:40 **10 Km, Coconut Creek, Fla., May 10**—1. Cheryl Lemons 58:00 2. Ann Harsh (57) 67:37 Men—1. Juan Yanes (58) 58:57 **5 Km, same place**—1. Juan Yanes 28:38 2. Gary Null (62) 32:00 **Jack Mortland Walks, Dayton, Ohio, May 4**: **20 Km**—1. Kristen Furseth-Mullaney, Pegasus 1:51:51 2. Susan Randall, Miami Valley TC 1:52:49 3. Max Walker, Indiana Walkers 1:56:21 4. Chris Knotts, Miami Valley 1:58:13 5. Rod Craig, Pegasus 2:08:06 6. Jack Blackburn, Miami Valley 2:48:50 (2 DQ, 1 DNF) **10 Km**—1. Grant Bacon, Cedarville U. 55:02 2. Jake Gunderkline, Miami Valley 55:02 3. Ed Fitch, Miami Valley 58:41 4. Debbie Topham, Pegasus 60:42 5. Allie Berry, Miami Valley 62:23 6. Don Knight, Pegasus 65:38 **5 Km**—1. Matt Boyles, Miami Valley 23:20 (A little stroll in the park before departing for Cheboksary two days later) 2. Leon Jasionowski, Pegasus 26:45 3. Allison Chin, Pegasus 29:07 4. Laura Stoez, Goshen College 34:34 (8 finishers) (Miami Valley took the team title from Pegasus 3:11:11 to 3:18:08, the combined times of each club's fastest walker in each of the three events.) **NAIA Women's 3 Km, Edwardsville, Illinois, May 23**—1. Megan Huzzey, British Columbia U. 14:12.13 2. Nicola Evangelista, British Columbia 14:52.54 3. Tina Peters, Goshen 15:20.51 4. Rachel Rhodes, Houghton 15:37.32 5. Janelle Brown, Cornerstone 15:45.83 6. Megan Wong, Westmont (15:50.13 7. Emily Hansen, Concordia (nebraska) 16:04.3 8. Amanda Johnson, Lindsey Wilson 16:19.7 9. Katie Malinowski, Cornerstone 16:47.9 10. Bev Larssen, British Columbia 17:08.8 11. Jennifer Olynyk, British Columbia 17:22.1 12. Maria Mudd, Walsh 17:25.4 13. Amanda Davis, Concordia (Oregon) 17:47.7 14. Kortney Sekulich, Malone 17:49.4 15. Laura Stoesz, Goshen 18:21.0 **Men's 5 Km, same place**—1. Inaki Gomez, British Columbia 21:06.17 2. Thiago Ferreira, Missouri Valley 21:56.74 3. Seth Campbell, Cedarville 23:46.42 4. Creighton Connolly, British Columbia 23:52.79 5. Josh Wiseman, Cedarville 24:24.2 6. Tom Stolee, Concordia (Neb.) 24:35.58 7. Ptere Muldoon, Central Methodist 24:00.0 8. Grant Bacon, Cedarville 25:18.8 9. Jeremy Worley, Concordia (Ore) 25:26.6 10. Brad Sinich, Malone 25:00.4 11. Nathan Dreher, Concordia (Neb.) 26:11.2 13. Shawn Magee, Concordia (Ore) 26:56.1 14. Chris Dehning, Concordia (Neb.) 27:48.8 15. George Karhoff, Central Methodist 28:26.0 16. Randy Fox, Oregon Tech 29:21.6 (3 DQ including Chris Tegtmeier, Concordia (Neb.); not a happy return to domestic racing following his international debut.) **Heart of Aleroca Cpmferemce Championships, Fayette, Mo., April 26**: **Women's 3000**—1. Renate Moleta, Lindenwood 19:39.75 2. Verenna Huerta, Lindenwood 19:47.74 3. Ariel Penner, Baker U. 19:48.94 4. Lani Hefel, Graceland 19:49.51 (7 finishers, 1 DQ; not fast, but sure competitive.) **Men's 5 Km**—1. Thiago Ferreira, Missouri Valley 22:24.65 2. Peter Muldoon, Central Methodist

23:58.20 3. Geoff Karhoff, Central Meth. 28:07 4. David Lindemann, Lindenwood, 31:31 (6 finishers, 1 DQ) **10 Km, Walnut, Cal., April 6**—1. Pedro Santoni (50) 55:08 2. John Magnusen (55) 67:32 3. Wayne Wurzbarger (66) 68:38 4. Pat Bivona (67) 69:55 5. Bill Moremen (80) 69:56 Women—1. Janet Robinson (66) 67:50 **5 Km, same place**—1. Daniel Lew 28:02 2. Alex Kazaryan (55) 28:23 3. Ray Billig (51) 31:40 4. Carl Acosta (74) 33:06 (6 finishers) Women—1. Megan Wong (18) 29:43 2. Sylvia Ellis (60) 29:57 3. Yoko Eichel (60) 30:23 4. Carol Bertino (60) 32:02 (13 finishers) **1 Hour, Kentfield, Cal., May 4**—1. Kevin Killingsworth 10,653 meters 2. Joe Berendt 9932 3. Jim Beckett 9912 4. Jack Bray 9853 5. Nicki Goldman 9014 6. Shirley Dockstader 8600 7. Doris Cassels 8575 8. Joseph Anderson 8469 9. Phyllis Abate 7936 810. Sandy Flint 7837 (18 finishers) **Northwest Regional Masters 10 Km, Seattle, April 26**—1. Tommy Aunum (49) 54:21 8 2. Jerry Dragomir (56), Vancouver, Can. 54:42 8 3. Bob Novak (58) 58:40 9 4. Stan Chraminski (60) 54:41 1 5. George Opsahl (66) 60:20 1 6. Kes Shields (54) 71:35 Women—1. Katherine Grimes (44) 59:04 6 2. Carmen Jacinsky (44) 59:26 4 3. Ann Tuberg (48) 61:25 7 4. Donna Lafayette (65) 68:36 5. Karen Karavanic (45) 69:55 6. Judy Heller (62) 70:20 1 7. Bev McCall (72) 70:31 5 8. Natalie Osburn (43) 70:42 9 9. Rebecca Kettwig (37) 71:47 0 **Open 10 Km, same place**—1. Inaki Gomez (20), Vancouver 45:54 8 2. Creighton Connelly (19), Vancouver 49:09 (Megan Hussey DQ) Women—1. Stephanie Casey 51:00 7 2. Heather Warwick (17), Canada 58:54 7 **Open 5 Km, same place**—1. Jeremy Bahr-Worley (19) 26:24 6 2. Shawn Magee 27:06 3 3. Creighton Connelly 27:11 4. Richard Zerbe (69) 35:05 5 **Open 3 Km, same place**—1. Nicola Evangelista (19), U. Of British Columbia 14:48 1 2. Megan Huzzey, UBC 14:49 4 3. Amanda Davis (20) 17:42 **Cascade Conference Championships, Gresham, Oregon, May 8: Men's 5 Km**—1. Jeremy Bahr-Worley, Concordia 25:31 26 2. Shawn Magee, Concordia 27:22 36 Women's 3 Km—1. Amanda Davis, Concordia 17:45 69 2. Jacquelyn Graves, Oregon Tech 18:52 72 **20 Km, Banks, Oregon, May 11**—1. Jafred Swehosky 1:36:27 80 (3 DNF) Women—1. Sara Standley-Gonzalez 1:45:36 75 (3 DNF, 1 DQ)—Both qualify for Olympic Trials; Sara after a rather lengthy from the sport. **2.8 Miles, Seattle, April 12**—1. Bob Novak (58) 25:33 2. Stan Chraminski 25:49 3. Anne Tuberg 26:19 4. Gordon Hartwig (64) 29:20 5. Richard Zerbe 30:24 6. Dora Choi (42) 30:26 **1 Hour, Ottawa, Ontario, April 20**—1. Pierre-Luc Menard 13,026 meters 2. Donald Cogte 11,489 3. Marina Crivello 11,473 4. Andre Marchand 10,569 5. Kitty Cashman (47) 10,214 6. Sayward Spooner 10,306 7. Linda Wilson (52) 9832 8. Laura Houston 9129 (18 finishers) **Bruno Junk Memorial 10 Km, Valga, Estonia, April 26**—1. Ingus Janevics, Latvia 38:56 3 **Women's 5 Km, same place**—1. Agnese Pastare, Latvia 22:06 9 **Jr. Women's 5 Km, same place**—1. Anita Kazemaka, Latvia 23:25 4 **Jr. Men's 10 Km**—1. Risko Nogelainen, Estonia 47:24 6 2. Saulius Valalis, Lithuania 47:40 0 **10 Km, Madrid, Spain, April 26**—1. Francisco Fernandez 38:28 2. Ilya Markov, Russia 39:57 3. Juan Manuel Molina 40:08 **Women's 5 Km, same place**—1. Kjersti Platzer, Norway 22:02 2. Sonata Milusauskaite, Lithuania 22:35 3. Jane Saville, Australia 23:04 4. Rocio Florido 23:19 **10 Km, San Pietra Clarenza, Italy, April 25**—1. Ivano Brugnetti 39:51 2. Marco Giungi 42:45 **Women's 10 Km, same place**—1. Elena Ginko, Belarus 45:33 **10 Km, Rio Maior, Portugal, April 25**—1. Ines Henriques 44:46 34 **20 Km, same place**—1. Pedro Isidro 1:27:28 8 **Men's 10 Km, same place**—1. Rafael Duarte, Brazil 41:43 54 **5 Km, Rzeszow, Poland, April 26**—1. Grzegorz Sudol 19:38 19 **Marathon, Vienna, Austria, April 27**—1. 18. Aigars Fadejevs, Latvia 2:18:19 (former racewalker, silver medalist in 2000 Olympic 50 Km with 3:43:40, fourth in 2001 World Championship 50.)

Find Your Place For A Thrilling Race

Sat. June 7 5 Km, Los Angeles (Y) (Actually, there appear to be three 5 Km races in the LA area. Also contact @))

20 Km (track), Kenosha, Wis. (I)
1 Mile, Holmdel, N.J. (A)
1500 and 3000 meters, Seattle (C)
Sun. June 8 5 Km, Albuquerque, N.M. (T)
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am ©
5, 10, and 20 Km, Hauppauge, N.Y. (U)
Minnesota State 5 Km, Minneapolis ((V)
Sat. June 14 5 Km, Los Angeles (Y)
20 Km, Long Beach, Cal. (R)
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
Colorado Masters 10 Km, Lakewood (H)
Sun. June 15 5 Km, Denver, 8:30 am (H)
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)
Rocky Mountain Senior Games 5 Km, Greeley, Col. (H)
USATF Junior 10 Km, Columbus, Ohio (D)
Master 5 Km, Portland, Oregon (F)
Sun. June 29 5 and 10 Km, Pasadena, Cal. (R)
Metropolitan 20 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)
Fri. July 4 5 Km, Evergreen, Col., 8 am (H)
5 Km, Clermont Village, Cal., 7:30 am (Y)
July 5-6 U.S. Olympic Trials, 20 Km, Men and Women, Eugene, Oregon
Sat. July 12 1 Mile, Stockton, Cal. (J)
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
Sun. July 13 Metropolitan 5 Km, New York City, 9 am (G)
Sat. July 19 5 Km, Seattle, 10:15 am (C)
West Region Masters 5 Km, Los Angeles (Y)
5 and 10 Km, Minneapolis (V)
Sun. July 20 5 Km, Kentfield, Cal. (P)
Sat. Aug. 2 5 Km, Eugene, Oregon (F)
2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
Aug. 7-10 **USATF National Masters Meet, Spokane, Wash. (D)**
Fri. Aug 16 Pacific Assn. 5 Km, Reno, Nev. (J)
Sat. Aug. 17 **USATF National 15 Km, Minneapolis (V)**
Sat. Aug. 24 1 Hour, Kentfield, Cal., 7:30 am (P)
Metropolitan 3 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)
* Or Sun. June 1. I have seen both dates.

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LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the March 1963 Race Walker published by Chris McCarthy)—Ron Zinn won the National 2 Mile in St. Louis with a 14:03.2 ahead of Akos Szekely and a honeymooning Jack Mortland. (This was a very late May issue since that race took place on June 22, one week after the betrothal of Jack and Marty. Yes, our 45th is on the horizon.) Ron Laird edged Matt Rutyna for fourth. . . The British 50 Km went to Ray Middleton in 4:16:43.

40 Years Ago (From the March 1968 ORW)—Larry Young captured the National 35 Km title in Pittsburgh with a 2:53:15, ahead of Canadian Karl Merschenz and Dave Romansky, who were about 4 minutes back. . . Bob Kitchen turned in a good track 50 Km on Long Island with a 4:25:56, just 2 minutes ahead of Ron Daniel. . . In New York, Romansky recorded a 1:30:04 for 20 Km, just 1:21 ahead of Ray Somers. John Knifton had 1:32:46 and Daniel 1:33:08. . . The Zinn Memorial 10 Km in Chicago went to Gerry Bocci in 48:38. . . Your editor captured the Ohio 20 Km on a track in Ashland in 1:42:00. . . Jack Blackburn was an easy winner in the Ohio 2 Mile in Dayton in 14:59 with Mortland trailing in 15:13.

35 Years Ago (From the March 1973 ORW)—Mr. Consistency we called him. Bill Weigle won the National 50 Km in Des Moines with a 4:22:37. That marked his fourth 50 Km in 11 months with times ranging from 4:20:09 to 4:22:53. John Knifton was second in 4:30:21 and Laird third in 4:37:21. . . England's Roger Mills captured our 1 Hour title, covering 8 miles 252 yards, some 72 yards ahead of John Knifton, a native Brit himself, but by this time an American citizen. Todd Scully and Ron Daniel followed with the first seven bettering 7 1/2 miles.

30 Years Ago (From the March 1978 ORW)—Marcel Jobin, Canada, moved away from Todd Scully in the second half of the race to win the National 15 Km in Nassau, N.Y. in 1:06:49. Scully (1:09:09) finished well ahead of Dave Romansky (1:11:29). . . The NAIA 10 Km (track) went to Parkside's Chris Hansen in 46:20. John VanDenBrandt (Parkside) and Carl Schueler (Frostburg) followed. . . Susan Liers had a world best for 1 Mile with 7:00.6 and 4 days later broke the American record for 5 Km with 23:41.3. . . The Zinn Memorial 10 Km went to Jim Heiring in 46:59, with an 18-year-old newcomer, Ray Sharp, finishing fifth in 51:58. . . In Mexico, Raul Gonzales did 50 Km in 3:45:52, nearly 7 minutes better than the previous best on record. He needed only 1:28:20 for the first 20 Km, and then accelerated over the next 10, before slowing to 1:33:35 over the final 20.

25 Years Ago (From the March 1983 ORW)—Mexico invaded the U.S. and Martin Bermudez led the field home in the National 50 Km in Monterey, Cal. His 3:50:43 was nearly 10 minutes ahead of countryman Felix Gomez. Marco Evoniuk won the U.S. title in 4:01:43, with Him Heiring second in 4:07:28, just behind a third Mexican, Marcelino Colin. Dan O'Connor and Tom Edwards followed, with eight U.S. walkers under 4:30. . . Two weeks earlier, Colin came first in the National 15 Km in Santa Monica, Cal., his 1:02:58 edging Canada's Marcel Jobin (1:03:07) Heiring won the U.S. title in 1:03:26, a minute ahead of Sam Shick. Larry Walker, Peter Timmons, and Dave Cummings followed. . . Also at Santa Monica, Susan Liers-Westerfield won the women's National 15 Km in 1:17:17, 50 seconds ahead of Teresa Vaill. Carol Brown and Vicki Jones were third and fourth.

20 years ago (From the April 1988 ORW)—Defying heavy rains, Teresa Viall blitzed the first mile in 6:50 to take a substantial lead that she continually built on as she won the National 5 Km in Overland Park, Kansas in 22:31.71. Debbi Lawrence was a minute behind in second with Wendy Sharp third in 24:05. . . Mike Stauch shattered his own meet record in winning his third straight NAIA 10 Km title in 41:56.4. His old record was 43:22.2. Dave Cummings just missed the old record with his 43:24.4 in second, 10 seconds ahead of Doug Fournier. . . Ray Sharp did a 42:45 for 10 Km in San Francisco, beating Marco Evoniuk (42:21). Wendy Sharp (Mrs. Ray) was fourth in 49:30, her second race ever.

10 Years Ago From the March 1998 ORW)—Joanne Dow won the National 20 Km in Albany, N.Y. with a record 1:34:46. Teresa Vaill was second in 1:36:26 and Victoria Herazo third in 1:41:16. In the National 30 Km held at the same time, Gary Morgan prevailed in 2:25:37, ahead of Mike Rohl and John Soucheck. Bob Keating won the Masters race in 2:47:57, less than a minute ahead of Jim Carmine. Dave Romansky was another 2 minutes back in third. . . In Elk Grove, Illinois, National 15 Km titles went to Debbi Lawrence (1:13:24) and Tim Seaman (1:40:46). Victoria Herazo was 2 1/2 minutes in back of Lawrence with Cheryl Rellinger third. Curt Clausen was on Seaman's heels for the first 10 Km and finished second, just 9 seconds back with Andrew Hermann third in 1:07:19. . . Jonathan Matthews won the Masters title in 1:07:41. . . A couple of weeks earlier, Matthews won the Mortland 20 Km in Yellow Springs, Ohio with 1:33:23. Jill Zenner won the women's race in 1:43:07.

5 Years Ago (From the March 2003 ORW)—In the European Championships, held in Cheboksary, all three races saw walk-away winners. In the women's 20 Km, Yelena Nikolayeva scorched the first 5 to establish a lead of minute and then increased that lead as the race proceeded. She won in 1:26:22 with Italy's Elisabetta Perrone second in 1:27:58 and Spain's Maria Vasco third in 1:28:10. Francisco Fernandez had a similar race in the men's 20. He dropped all but two of his competitors on a 19:51 opening 5 and then broke away shortly after 10 Km to win in 1:19:48 ahead of Italy's Alessandro Gandellini (1:20:52) and Russia's Vladimir Andreev (1:20:56). Poland's Robert Korzeniowski, even with Fernandez at 10, dropped out after getting a warning. In the 50, Russia's 39-year-old German Skurygin buried teammate Aleksey Voyevodin over the last 5 to win in 3:47:50. Voyevodin finished in 3:48:43, with Semen Lovkin, also of Russia, third in 3:51:36. Junior 10 Km races also went to Russians—Irina Petrova in 46:54 and Andriy Yurin in 41:32. . . On the home front, NAIA races went to British Columbia's Karen Foan (14:29:05 3 Km) and Rio Grande's Matt Boyles in 21:34:53 (5 Km). Boyles teammates from the small Ohio college finished second (Jim Robinson in 22:20:56) and fourth (Tim Sykes 24:36). Boyles also finished sixth in the 10 Km run (31:13) and 12th in the 5 Km run. . . The IAAF Racewalking Challenge races in Sesto San Giovanni, Italy, a couple weeks ahead of the Euro Championships, went to Fernandez in 1:19:25 and Ireland's Gillian O'Sullivan in 1:27:22. Robert Korzeniowski (1:19:48) was second and Ecuador's Jefferson Perez (1:20:47) third in the men's race. Norway's Kjersti Platzer (1:29:56) and Portugal's Susanna Feitor (1:30:17) followed O'Sullivan. . . Curt Clausen won a 50 Km on Long Island in 4:08:36 with Sean Albert second in 4:20:02.