

Feitor, Fernandez First In IAAF Challenge Final

Murcia, Spain, Sept. 21 (Written with assistance from an IAAF release by Paul Warburton)—The 2008 IAAF Racewalking Challenge Series concluded with 20 Km races for men and women in this Spanish city today. The Challenge Final, the seventh Challenge Event of the year, saw decisive wins by Spain's Francisco Fernandez and Portugal's Susana Feitor. But Australia's Jared Tallent, second in the men's race, and Norway's Kjersti Platzer, third in the women's race, did well enough to top the Challenge Standings for the year. Platzer simply retained the lead she already had. Both Tallent and Ecuador's Jefferson Perez, third today, moved ahead of Mexico's Eder Sanchez, the points leader going in, who dropped out at 15 Km.

Despite all of this and the fact that Spain's own Francisco Fernandez was first, Perez, who announced his retirement at a pre-race press conference a day earlier (or actually re-announced it), seemed to be the hero of the day with his gutsy third-place finish. Perez has been the man to beat since his 1996 Olympic gold medal and beating him has been a difficult task as he has added three World Championship and three World Cup golds, plus an Olympic silver, to that original triumph.

In the women's race, Feitor defied the mid-80s temperature to finish in 1:30:17, a full minute ahead of Greece's Athanasia Tsoumeleka, with Platzer third. Only eight of the sixteen starters were able to finish the race in the steamy conditions.

In the early going, Feitor was content in a group of four walkers that covered the first 3 Km in 13:24 about 50 meters ahead of a group of five, including Tsoumeleka and Platzer. By 5 Km in 22:16, Feitor was on her own with Sabine Zimmer gasping for air about 20 meters back and early challengers Ines Herriques and Olive Loughnane dropping quickly away. Loughnane was shown the red card at 8 Km. When Feitor hit 10 Km in 44:29, the race was effectively over, but Tsoumeleka, the 2004 Olympic gold medalist had made a strong move into second, ahead of a tiring Platzer. Feitor, although slowing over the final 4 Km, was never challenged.

But Feitor was still coming to terms with her average displah in Beijing. She said: "The Olympics were just frustrating. I was as nervous as a five-year-old on the day, and considering it was my fifth time—I don't know what happened. I'm half-happy, half-sad."

Fernandez had expressed his fear of a race too many in a somewhat checkered season. But in the end, he walked strongly away from the rest of the field, including Perez. By the time this race started, the temperature had risen to 92 F, so it wasn't a day for fast times. The early leader was Japan's Yuki Yamazaki, who led the first 2 Km lap by about 40 meters. By 5 Km (20:33), four others had joined him. Perez led at 10 Km (41:22) with Fernandez, Tallent, and Yamazaki on his heels.

Fernandez took control from there, but even at that had only four seconds on Perez and eight on Tallent at 15 Km. From there, he was able to pull away and finished in 1:23:14. Tallent was able to overhaul Perez to finish second in 1:24:02. Perez had 1:24:35.

The Ohio Racewalker is published monthly in Columbus, Ohio. Subscription rate is \$12.00 per year (\$15.00 outside the U.S.). Editor and Publisher: John E. Jack Mortland. Address all correspondence regarding both editorial and subscription matters to: Ohio Racewalker, 3184 Summit Street, Columbus, OH 43202. E-mail address is: jmortlan@columbus.rr.com. Approximate deadline for submission of material is the 24th of each month.

But even as the first two were celebrating, chaotic scenes surrounded the Olympic silver medalist as he crossed the line in his emotional last race. Having staggered the last 50 meters while vomiting, Perez was surrounded by hundreds of second-generation Ecuadoreans who jumped the barriers to mob their hero. Fernandez was on home soil, but it was clear where the affections lay for large numbers of spectators—many in the yellow Ecuadorean national football shirt. “At the end of the race, I told the people how much I loved them”, said Perez. “I’m thousands of miles from home, but it seems all my countrymen are here.”

As to Fernandez, he said: “Every kilometer after five I felt better and better. I thought I could then win—and, yes, this is a surprise, but I really wanted to be here for Perez.” And Jared Tallent said: “I would have settled for second, and I never thought I was going to be the overall challenge winner (worth \$30,000, incidentally). I have to say it was heartening to see Eder drop out. And I really wanted Jefferson to win his last race—but that wasn’t going to get in the way of what I had to do.”

And the results and final Challenge Standings:

Men: 1. Francisco Fernandez, Spain 1:23:14 2. Jared Tallent, Australia 1:24:02 3. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador 1:24:35 4. Yuki Yamazaki, Japan 1:25:51 5. Robert Heffernan, Ireland 1:26:04 6. Erik Tysse, Norway 1:26:19 7. Luke Adams, Australia 1:26:46 8. Rolando Saquipay, Ecuador 1:27:16 9. Juan Manuel Molina, Spain 1:27:39 10. Horacio Nava, Mexico 1:27:45 11. Ilya Markov, Russia 1:30:56 12. Eiki Unami, Japan 1:33:12 13. Jore Silva, Spain 1:33:31 14. Rafael Ballesteros Garcia, Spain 1:40:46 15. David Redondo, Spain 1:43:25 (10 DNF including Eder Sanchez, Mexico; Hatem Ghoulia, Tunisia, and Joao Vieira, Portugal. 2 DQ)
Women: 1. Susana Feitor, Portugal 1:30:17 2. Athanasia Tsoumeleka, Greece 1:31:17 3. Kjersti Platzer, Norway 1:31:31 4. Ines Henriques, Portugal 1:32:28 5. Sabine Zimmer, Germany 1:35:06 6. Claudia Stef, Romania 1:37:10 7. Elisa Rigauda, Italy 1:37:27 8. Monica Svensson, Sweden 1:38:13 (7 DNF, including Vera Santos, Portugal, 1 DQ—Olive Loughnane, Ireland)

Final IAAF Racewalking Challenge Standings

(Challenge races were held at seven sites during the year, with both a 20 and 50 for men at two of those sites. The World Cup and Olympic races also count in the standings. The standings show the number of points accrued by each athlete in those races, with the number of races participated in shown in parentheses.)

Women

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Kjersti Platzer, Norway | 44 (6) |
| 2. Athanasia Tsoumeleka, Greece | 38 (6) |
| 3. Claudia Stef, Romania | 26 (6) |

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| 4. Sabine Zimmer, Germany | 23 (5) |
| 5. Vera Santos, Portugal | 21 (5) |
| 6. Ines Henriques, Portugal | 19 (5) |
| 7. Olive Loughnane, Ireland | 19 (4) |

Men

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Jared Tallent, Australia | 46 (6) |
| 2. Jefferson Perez, Ecuador | 40 (5) |
| 3. Eder Sanchez, Mexico | 38 (5) |
| 4. Erik Tysse, Norway | 36 (7) |
| 5. Juan Manuel Molina, Spain | 30 (6) |
| 6. Rolando Saquipay, Ecuador | 26 (6) |
| 7. Robert Heffernan, Ireland | 24 (5) |
| 8. Jesus Angel Garcia, Spain | 33 (4) |
| 9. Luke Adams, Australia | 18 (5) |
| 10. Hatem Ghoulia, Tunisia | 13 (5) |
| Joao Vieira, Portugal | 13 (5) |

(Note: If you're wondering about the absence of walkers such as Olga Kaniskina and Valeriy Borchin, athletes who participated in the World Cup and/or Olympics, but no Challenge races were not scored.)

National 40: It's Sharp and Login

Ocean Township, N.J., Sept. 14 (From Elliott Denman)—Ray Sharp of Atlantic Mines, Michigan and Solomiya Login of Philadelphia battled through steamy, 90-degree, high-humidity conditions to win gold medals in the annual USATF National 40 Km racewalk at Jo Palaia Park today.

The 48-year-old World Cup team member Ray Sharp, supposedly retired, won the title for the third consecutive year, covering the 20 two-kilometer laps in 3:58:52. In the race, that attracted walkers from 12 states and Canada, Login, the Olympic Trials seventh-place finisher, won her first senior national women's crown with a 4:15:52 performance.

Placing 2-3-4 in the men's division were Connecticut's Theron Kissinger, Michigan's Leon Jasiowowski, and Indiana's Max walker. Following Login in the women's race were New York's Jennifer Marlborough, Colorado's Yvonne Alimaras, and Virginia's Rebecca Garson.

Two athletes broke national Master's records despite the tough going—Darlene Backlund of Redmond, Oregon set a women's 60-64 record mark in 5:16:08 and Jack Starr of Newark, Delaware, lowered the men's 80-84 mark to 2:26:47.

Pegasus AC of Michigan walked off with men's team crown with a squad of Jasinowski, Rod Craig, and Marshall Sanders. Only 18 of 35 starters were able to finish the race.

(The win was Ray's 19th National title, the first coming in 1980 at 30 Km. By 1988, he had 14 titles at distances from 2 miles to 40 Km. Then he retired. In 2005, I guess he decided it was time to defend his 1988 5 Km title and he did so. Since, he has added a 15 Km title in 2006 and the 40 Km titles the last three years. And made a Pan-Am Cup and two World Cup teams.)

The results:

- | | | |
|---|---------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ray Sharp (48), Varsano's Chocolates | 3:58:52 | 55:26, 1:51:47, 2:49:13 |
| 2. Theron | | |

Kissinger, Conn. RW 4:03:55 (55:26, 1:51:47, 2:51:41)) 3. Leon Jasionowski (63), Pegasus AC 4:17:30 (61:04, 2:03:59, 3:08:04) 4. Max Walker (61), Indiana RW 4:29:37 (61:04, 2:04:31, 3:14:22) 5. Tom Quattrocchi (57), Shore AC 4:49:06 6. Rod Craig, Pegasus AC (50) 5:05:34 7. Eduardo Sorrenti, Park RW (65) 5:06:38 8. Peter Bayer, Florida AC 5:12:05 9. Bruce Logan, Park RW 5:20:14 10. Marshall Sanders (67), Pegasus AC 5:24:41 11. Don Knight (62), Pegasus 5:24:41 11. Eliot Collins (56) 5:43:21 (9 DNF)

Women: 1. Solomiya Login, SE Pa. AC 4:15:32 (58:16, 1:58:59, 3:02:56) 2. Jennifer Marlborough, un. 4:46:15 3. Yvonne Allmaras (47), World Class RW 4:51:06 4. Rebecca Garson (44), World Class RE 5:00:25 5. Maria Paul, Shore AC (42) 5:11:31 6. Darlene Backlund (62), Racewalkers NW 5:16:08

(To illustrate the downward trend in participation and depth of talent in our U.S. racewalking program, here are the results of the 1978 National 40.):

40 Km, New Jersey, Aug. 6, 1978—1. Dan O'Connor, NYAC 3:31:25 2. Carl Schueler, Potomac Valley Walkers 3:39:56 3. Ron Daniel, NYAC 3:41:17 4. Bob Kitchen, Pot. Valley 3:41:30 5. Jerry Young, Columbia TC 3:43:25 6. Peter Doyle, Island TC 3:48:46 7. Sal Corrallo, Pot. Valley 3:48:52 8. Vince O'Sullivan, Hunter Col. 3:49:52 9. Gerry Bocci, Motor City Striders 3:51:10 10. Brian Savilonis, un. 3:52:14 11. Chris Knotts, Ohio TC 3:54:18 12. Jack Blackburn, Ohio TC 3:56:56 13. Ron Kulik, NYAC 3:57:42 14. Alan Price, Pot. Valley 3:58:11 15. Cliff Mimm, Shore AC 3:59:32 16. Gary Westerfield, Island TC 4:00:59 17. Howie Jacobsen, Eastside TC 4:01:27 18. Steve Vaitones, North Medford Club 4:01:43 19. Dan Dudek, Green & Gold AC 4:03:05 20. Jerry Katz, Island TC 4:07:30 21. Sam DeLosSantos, Shore AC 4:08:23 22. Tom Knatt, NMC 4:08:33 23. Bob Falciola, Shore AC 4:13:33 24. Jim Breitenbucher, Columbia TC 4:21:32 25. Ed Sandifer, Sugarloaf TC 4:23:10 26. Pete Timmons, NYAC 4:25:05 27. Rich Myers, Ohio TC 4:34:43 30. Andrew Briggs, Pot. Valley 4:38:18 29. Jack Boitano, un. 4:38:03 30. Andrew Briggs, Pot. Valley 4:38:18 31. Tony Medeiros, NMC 4:39:11 32. Wes Mathews, Pot. Valley 4:45:04 33. George Graf, Island TC 4:48:28 34. Ben Ottmer, Shore AC 4:49:52 35. Marcus Boatwright, Newark Int. TC 5:10:41 36. John Walker, un. 37. Alberto Alvarez, Shore AC

(I chose 1978 simply because it is 30 years ago and round numbers always seem to make more sense. The following year, 20 walkers broke 4 hours and in neither year did the field come close to fully representing U.S. talent, which saw 32 athletes under 5 hours for 50 Km in 1979. I realize that most of our national team did not participate in this year's race, or in any recent 40 Km, but even if most had participated, we would still be sadly behind the level of 30 years ago.)

But, more positively, here is some of Ray Sharp's up-beat report on the race:

First things first: Everyone at the race greeted me with "But, you said you retired, Brett." I did, this was just for fun, although toeing the line on a couple weeks' training base when it's already 75 degrees at 8 am with air as thick as steaming porridge—and calling it fun—calls into question either your veracity or sanity. I guess I consider myself retired because I'm no longer operating under the delusion that I will walk an Olympic A standard, and so if I decide to try to win just one more race, it's purely in pursuit of enjoyment, not the chasing of impossible dreams.

Did I mention it was hot? With John Soucheck injured, I was anticipating an easy stroll to victory when who should arrive at around 7:30 but National Team member and—gasp!—under 40 Theron Kissinger. My heart momentarily sank to about mid-abdomen, but I decide nothing ventured, nothing gained, and walked down the path into the woods for a few minutes alone to relieve myself and also to wrap my head around the concept of a mano-a-mano fight of nearly 25 miles in sauna-like conditions. Patience, Grasshopper, start slow and you'll find you courage when you need it most.

The race marked Elliott Denman's 43rd year as race director. When you race the 40, you are in the presence of some of the true gods of American racewalking, not to mention demi-gods and angels like Ron and Maryanne Daniel. It is a good thing to know something of the history of our event, and to celebrate and revere its champions, as it makes you mindful of your small place in the big scheme of things and reminds you that you are not the axis around which the world spins, two kilometers per lap. . . . (Ed. That means I am leaving some things out, primarily Ray's description of the race itself>)

I have managed to finish ahead of Theron a few times in the last four years, usually one place ahead and never by very far. He is a tough competitor, ever-gracious, and has made me push beyond my perceived limits more than once.

The times were slow but the performances were inspiring. Leon Jasionowski and Max Walker are a couple of tough 60-year olds! Rod Craig, who looks more like a first baseman/cleanup hitter on the Bad Axe softball team than a long-distance racewalker, somehow managed to outwalk the buzzards and paramedics with an amazing show of determination. Solomiya Login had the performance of the day, winning the women's division and placing third overall. It looks like she is recovering well from a serious injury, torn anterior tibial tendon, and well on her way to joining Maria Michta and Sam Cohen in the top echelon of American racewalkers, under-40 division.

Of course, it must be noted that Theron, Solomiya, and Jennifer Marlborough were the only competitors under age 40. On the women's side, only the 20 is contested internationally, so this is understandable. As far as American men go, the prospects at 50 Km are not encouraging. Maybe Philip Dunn, Matt Boyles, Ben Shorey, and Steve Quirke will stay with it another four years. Maybe they won't. Maybe Pat Stroupe will be the next Curt Clausen. Odds are against it.

With the National 50 Km in February every year, it is time to rethink racing the 40 in September. A 30 in October and a 40 in November or mid-December would be a logical progression. In September, either you have just raced the Olympics-World Championships, or you are ending your active rest and preparing to start your endurance buildup for the following season. If your goal is 4:10 for 50 In February, a 2:30 for 30 in October and a 3:20 for 40 in December makes sense. I'm not saying the race should abandon New Jersey. Why not race in cooler weather? *(Good thought. Unfortunately in the nearly 50 years I have been in touch with the sport, such logic has seldom seemed to be a major consideration in drawing up the national schedule, but certainly that can change.)*

5 Km, Casselbary, Florida, Sept. 13—1. Juan Moscoso 26:37 2. Rob Carver (52) 33:49 3. Ray Jenkins (40) 34:02 (6 finishers) Women—1. Cheryl Lemons 28:49 2. Amanda Prescott (15) 32:50 3. Janine Campbell (53) 34:43 (14 finishers) **New Albany Classic 10 Km, New Albany, Ohio, Sept. 21**—1. Matt Boyles 45:04 2. Nicholas Vernon 54:01 3. Jacob Gunderkline 56:04 4. Grant Bacon 56:04 5. Michael Mannoxazi 57:02 6. Ed Fitch 56:03 7. John Randall 61:02 8. Vince Peters 64:00 9. Mark Rooper 65:05 10. Brian Jones 65:00 (407 finishers) Women—1. Reini Brickson 63:05 2. Donna Graham 64:00 3. Joyce Prohaska 64:03 4. Tena Harper 67:08 5. Debbie Spears 67:03 6. Karen Edwards 67:05 7. Sarah Balser 68:00 (1580 finishers) **5 Km, Chicago, Sept. 20**—1. Tori Cooper 27:11 2. Mercedes (18) 29:48 3. Lynn Tracy (56) 33:00 4. Doris McGuire (59) 33:09 (9 finishers, 1 DQ)) Men—1. Klaus Thiedmann (54) 26:05 2. Damon Clements (51) 26:41 3. Mark Sekelsky (51) 28:32 4. Richard McGuire (60) 29:23 5. Jose Andoblo (41) 29:54 6. Larry O'Brien (53) 30:48 7. Pablo Gomez (37) 30:47 8. Andrew Whitehair (27) 31:34 9. William Hosken (71) 32:21 10. Ron Winkler (58) 32:45 (13 finishers, 1 DQ) **Wisconsin Senior Olympics 1500 meters, Sept.**

13–1. Layn Tracy (56) 8:02 2. Donna Janusheski (56) 10:56 3. Katherine Mars (80) 11:55 (7 finishers) Men–1. Ron Winkler (58) and Bill Hosken (71) 9:01 3. Al Dubois (76) 9:06 4. Harley Grant (60) 10:04 (9 finishers) **5 Km, Denver, Aug. 9–1.** Dan Pierce (52) 29:03 2. Victoria Herazo (49) 29:14 3. Barbara Amador (59) 31:10 4. Sherrie Gossert (56) 31:18 5. Marty Clark (63) 32:33 **Rocky Mountain Masters 3 Km, Ft. Collins, Col., Aug. 9–1.** Francisco Pantoja (31) 14:44.6 2. Jose Vargas (23) 15:29.0 3. Mike Blanchard (47) 16:04.5 4. Luz Marrientos (25) 16:25.7 5. Darla Graff (40) 17:16.3 6. Marianne Martino (58) 17:27.3 7. Barbara Amador (59) 18:04.5 8. Sherrie Gossert (56) 18:19.5 (a4 finishers) **5 Km, Denver, Aug. 24–1.** Mike Blanchard 28:06 2. Daryl Meyers (6) 34:21 **Pacific Assn 3 Km, Reno, Nevada, Aug. 16–1.** Abderr Gharfara 14:35.0 2. Jaydeep Bhatia (17) 16:11.4 3. Kelly Wong 16:15.7 4. Alex Price 16:46.9 5. Joe Berendt (53) 16:50.8 6. Ted Moore (69) 17:23.9 7. Shoja Torabian (59) 17:32.0 8. James Beckett (69) 17:37.4 9. Jack Bray (75) 17:40.6 10. Karen Stoyanowski (53) 17:58.6 11. Susan Mears (53) 18:05.5 12. Nicole Goldman (49) 18:13.3 13. Louise Walters (68) 18:32.5 (17 finishers) **20 Km, Oakland, Cal., Sept. 7–1.** Joe Berendt (53) 2:06:23 2. John Magnussen (55) 2:15:46 Women–1. Kelly Wong 2:01:56 2. Louise Walters (68) 2:15:27 3. MJ Baglin (61) 2:21:30 **10 Km, same place–1.** Tyler Sorenson (14) 48:41 Women–1. Nicolette Sorenson (12) 58:49 **5 Km, same place–1.** Joe Anderson (69) 34:38 2. Steve Popell (69) 35:18 Women–1. Doris Cassells (69) 34:39 2. Shirley Dockstader (75) 34:52

Ontario Championships, Welland, September 14: Men's 20 Km–1. Jocelyn Ruest 1:42:04 2. Tim Seaman, USA 1:53:58 Women's 20 Km–1. Megan Huzzey 1:48:47 2. Rachel Lavallee 1:53:58 Men's 10 Km–1. Alexandre Gagne 49:03 Women's 10 Km–1. Marina Crivello 54:42 Women's 5 Km–1. Nanci Sweazey (53) 30:46 2. Sharon Lee (52) 31:29 3. Sarah Raetson 31:35 4. Sandy Archibald (49) 31:44 (14 finishers) Men's 5 Km 1. Ken Atkins (52) 33:00 2. Stuart Summerhayes (74) 33:37

Finland-Sweden Dual Meet, Helsinki, Aug. 29: Men's 10 Km–1. Anatole Ibanez, Sweden 42:22 2. Anttio Kempas, Finland 42:51.5 3. Aku Partanen (16) . Finland 43:57.1 4. Fredrik Svensson, Sweden 44:24.1 5. Heikki Kukkonen, Fin. 44:37.6 6. Perseus Ibanez, Sweden 45:42.9 Finalnd 11 Sweden 11 Women's 5 Km–1. Marja Penttinen, Finland 22:32.5 2. Monica Svensson, Sweden 22:43.2 3. Karoliina Kaasalainen, Finland 23:50.4 4. Mari Olsson, Sweden 24:05.4 Finland 13 Sweden 9 **Nordic and Baltic Countries Championships, Eskilstuna, Sweden, Sept. 13:** Men's 20 Km–1. Tadas Sskevicius, Lithuania 1:23:29 2. Marias Zivkas, Lith. 1:24:14 3. Vilius Mikellionis, Lith. 1:25:44 4. Arnis Rumbenieks, Latvia 1:25:50 5. Igor Kasakevitch, Lat. 1:27:54 6. Fredrik Svensson, Swed. 1:29:58 Men's 19 and under 10 Km–1. Akyu Partanen, Finland 41:52 (National 17 and 19 record) 2. Perseus Kallstrom, Swwed. 44:25 3. Gennadi Kozloski, Lith. 44:29 4. Janis Stravtin, Lat. 45:10 5. Matias Korpela, Fin. 45:12 6. Havard Haukenes, Norway 45:14 Men's 17 and under 5 Km–1. Eemeli Kiiski, Finland 23:41.10 Women's 10 Km–1. Brigita Virbalyte, Lith. 45:33 2. Jolanta Dukors, Lat. 45:54 3. Marja Penttinen, Fin. 46:10 4. Neringa Aidieyte, Lith. 46:33 **Finnish Road Walk Championships, Leppavirta, Sept. 20:** Men's 50 Km–1. Timo Viljanen 4:33:54 Men's 22 20 Km–1. Heikki Kukkonen 1:34:10 Men's 19 20 Km–1. Matias Korpela 1:34:45 Men's 17 10 Km–1. Aku Partanaen 42:07 Womens's 20 Km–1. Marja Penttinen 1:33:24 **National 20 Km, Kochi, India, Sept. 8–1.** Harwinder Singh 1:35:22 2. Ashok Kumar Patel 1:35:32 3. P.S. Jalan 1:36:12 Women–1. V.S. Sandhya 1:51:38 2. Supriya Adak 1:52:12 **Lithuanian 10 Km, Sruskininka, Sept. 6–1.** Dzianis Simanovich, Belarus 40:55 2. Marius Siukas 41:14 3. Tadas Suskevicius 41:29 4. Donatas Skarnulis 41:32 5. Vilius Makelionis 43:07 6. Ricardas Rekst 44:02 Women–1. Sonata Milusauskaite 45:32 2. Brigita Virbalyte

47:19 3. Neringa Aidieyte 47:58 **20 Km, Gdansk, Poland, Aug. 30–1.** Richard Rekst 1:27:48 2. Lukasz Nowak 1:27:59 3. Michal Stasiewicz 1:28:41 4. Maciej Rosiewicz 1:29:26 **Jr. 20 Km, same place–1.** Dawid Wolski 1:30:29 2. Damian Blocki 1:31:11 3. Adrian Blocki 1:31:36 **German 50 Km, Gleina, Sept. 8–1.** Christopher Linke 4:03:59 2. Michael Schneider 4:36:57 **Estonian Women's 20 Km, Paralepas, Sept. 20–1.** Agnese Pastare 1:37:27 **Estonian 50 Km, same place–1.** Margus Luik 4:25:24 **20 Km, Rome, Sept. 21–1.** Jean Jaques Nkouloukidi 1:27:09 2. Ivan Brugnetti 1:27:09 3. Federico Tontodonati 1:27:55 4. Andrea Adragna 1:29:16 5. Vito Di Bari 1:29:59 6. Alessandro Garozzo 1:31:20 7. Carlo De Casa 1:32:31 8. Daniele Masciadri 1:33:02 9. Arber Prifti 1:33:16 **Women's 10 Km, Rome, Sept. 21–1.** Valentina Trapletti 46:45 2. Sibilla Di Vincenzo 47:11 3. Lidia Mongelli 47:16 4. Federica Ferraro 48:24 5. Serena Pruner 48:43 6. Tatyana Gabellone 49:27

Choose A Race, a Place, and A Pace

Sat. Sept. 13	1 Hour, Albuquerque, N.M. (T) 1 Hour, Minneapolis (V)
Sun. Sept. 14	USATF National 40 Km, Ocean Township, N.J. (A) 5 Km, Denver (H)
Sat. Sept. 20	5 Km, Denver (H)
Sun. Sept. 21	Metropolitan 25 Km, New York City, 8 am ((G)
Sun. Sept. 28	5 Km, Kentfield, Cal., 8 am (P) Doc Tripp 5 and 10 Km, Broomfield, Col., 8 am (H)
Sat. Oct. 4	National USATF 5 Km, Kingsport, Tenn. (D or K) 3000 meters, Santa Barbara, Cal., 9 am (E)
Sat. Oct. 11	2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
Sun. Oct. 12	National USATF 1 Hour, Waltham, Mass. (D or V) 5,10,30,40, 50 Km, Minneapolis (V)
Sat. Oct. 25	1 Mile, Kentfield, Cal. (P) National USATF 30 Km and Jr. 20 Km, Hauppauge, N.Y. (D or U) 5 Km, Denver, 9:30 am (H)
Sat. Nov. 1	New Mexico 5 and 10 Km Championship, Albuquerque (T)
Sat. Nov. 1 or 8	2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am (C)
Sun. Nov. 9	RRCA National and Florida State 20 Km, Coconut Creek, Fla. (B)
Sun. Nov. 2	1 Hour, Kentfield, Cal., 9 am (P) 5 Km, Littleton, Col., 8 am (H) Conn. 10 Km, Clinton, CT, 10:30 am ((Q)
Sat. Nov. 8	5 Km, Minneapolis (V)
Sun. Nov. 16	10 Mile Handicap, Coney Island, Brooklyn, N.Y., 9 am (F)
Sun. Nov. 23	5 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)
Sat. Nov. 22	5 Km, Brighton, Col., 8:30 am (H)
Sun. Dec. 7	5 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)
Sat. Dec. 13	2.8 Miles, Seattle, 9 am ©)
Sun. Dec. 14	5 Km, New York City, 8:30 am (G)

Contacts:

A–Elliott Denman, 28 N. Locust, West Long Branch, NJ 07764
B–Daniel Koch, South Florida Racewalkers, 954-970-9634, racewalker@bellsouth.net
C–Bev McCall, 511 Lost River Road, Mazama, WA 98833
D–www.USATF.org

E-Jim Hanley, 805-496-1829
 F-Lon Wilson, 718-588-0441
 G-Stella Cashman, 320 East 83rd St., New York, NY 10028
 H-Bob Carlson, 2261 Glencoe St., Denver CO 80207
 I-Mike DeWitt, uwpccoach@yahoo.com
 J-Art Klein, 324 Alta Vista, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 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-Connecticut Racewalkers, 47 Broad Street, Guilford, CT 06437
 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-Gary Westerfield, garyw@optonline.net
 V-Bruce Leasure, info@twincitiesracewalkers.org
 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
 *Note: Jack Bray has moved to Wisconsin and I'm not sure if this address will still reach the Marin Racewalkers

Perez Retirement

In our report on the IAAF Challenge Final, we noted that Jefferson Perez had announced his retirement the day before the race. Actually, it was reported from Beijing following his silver medal performance (see August ORW) that he was retiring from international competition to undertake a master's degree.

In a press conference the day before the Challenge Final, Perez, with tears in his eyes, announced this would be his final race. "My heart wants to go on, but my body can't take another four years of work", he said. "But we have an expression in my country. 'If you're famous, you can go to bed'. I'm not like that. This is the start of my sports work with kids and other important projects."

Regarding the next day's race, Perez, although he had a good chance to move up in the Challenge standings (which he did), said he was there principally to do justice to the integrity of the Challenge. "If you've had a tough Olympics, there's no way you can turn it around in four weeks. But it's important to be present—the Challenge deserves it", he said.

Kjersti Platzer might also be ready to call it a day, but the 36-year-old Norwegian, twice an Olympic silver medalist, will delay a definitive decision for the next month. "I need to go on vacation first. But anyone who knows me, also knows I always give everything in competition—and it's nice to be at the top of the list", she said.

A report on Perez's website helps explain his decision. According to his physician, he may undergo another operation for a herniated disk and might have to use a wheelchair. In each competition in the past two decades, he was prepared to give his all. For that reason, at the end of each 20 Km race, he reached the finish line in a state of total exhaustion.

According to his physician, Marco Chango, Perez will pay dearly for that sacrifice. He may suffer osteoarthritis of the knee or degeneration of the knee joint. The possibility exists of more hernias appearing in the spine. The physician explained that before the Athens Olympics, he performed a series of routine medical and X-ray examinations. After reviewing the first X-rays of the back, "I told him he should retire, but he wanted a rematch." In spite of

the pain he felt these last years, Perez continued to train and compete.

The consequences, however, could appear over the short or long run. "He will have to use a wheelchair or undergo another operation for a herniated disk", according to Chango. The former was in 1999 in the U.S.. There the physicians performed a procedure to contain the hernia.

Perez suffers from compression of the vertebrae, which produces pain, lumbago, and lumbarsciatalgia. Due to those conditions, the sciatic nerve would become inflamed and at times produced a partial paralysis of the leg. According to Chango, "There were times when he competed like that."

Due to the high mileage covered, about 100 miles a week, he will have constant discomfort in the future. That pathology will continue to develop, affecting Perez. Perez says that during his career, he represented the millions of workers, children, youths, and old folk. . . who build an Ecuador that is more just and more important. "It was for them that I knocked myself out day after day on the roads and on the track."

From Heel To Toe

Junior camp. A USATF Junior Elite Racewalk Camp is scheduled for Pharr, Texas from Dec. 27, 2008 to January 3, 2009. For further information contact the South Texas Walking Club, 621 N. 10th Street, McAllen, TX 78501, Phone 956-686-2337, e-mail acjaime@sbcglobal.net. . . **McGovern clinics.** Some 2009 dates for Dave McGovern's World Class racewalking clinics are: Mesa Arizona, Jan. 31-Feb. 1; Santa Cruz, Aruba, Feb. 21-22; and Williamsburg, Virginia March 6-8, 2009..For more information visit Dave's website at members.aol.com/rayzwocker/worldclass/clinics.htm. . . **Morgan.** Gary Morgan, a member of the 1988 U.S. Olympic team at 20 Km and a 17-time National Champion at various distances, is a candidate for Vice President in the U.S. Olympians. . . **Russian walkers banned.** Doping has struck at the racewalking world. Following is a release from Reuters dated September 23 and datelined Moscow: Five leading Russian racewalkers, including a world record holder, have been banned for doping, the Russian athletics federation said on Tuesday. Sergei Morozov, who holds the world record in the 20 Km, Vladimir Kanaykin, Viktor Burayev, Alexei Voyevodin, and Igor Yerokhin were banned for two years each after testing positive for EPO. "They all had failed a test for EPO and after a hearing by our federation's anti-doping board on September 9 each of the five athletes was banned for two years", RAK secretary general Vladimir Usachyov was quoted as saying. "Both samples A and B for all five athletes came out positive and we had no other choice but to ban them." All five were forced to miss last month's Olympics because of the ongoing investigation. Kanaykin shaved five seconds off the 20 Km record at last year's Grand Prix final in his home town of Saransk before Morozov shattered it by more than 30 seconds at the Russian national championships in Saransk earlier this year. Yerokhin, 23, and Burayev, 25), have also achieved good results either in World or European championships in recent years, while Voyevodin, 27, won the 50 Km bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics and silver at the 2005 World Championships. All five live in Saransk and were trained by Viktor Chegin, who also serves as Russia's chief racewalking coach. It remains to be seen how the IAAF will react in regard to the records set by Morozov and Kanaykin. . . **Pan-Am Cup Team Selection Races 2009.** The 2009 Pan American Racewalk Cup races will be held in San Salvador, El Salvador on April 25 and 26. The U.S. 50 Km team will be selected at the National 50 in Chula Vista, Cal., with a tentative race date of Feb. 15. Trials for the men's and women's 20 Km and the men's and womens's Junior 10 Km races will be held in Pharr, Texas on March

29. There are no qualifyint times for the trials, but minimal time standards have been set to be on the team, which is tentatively set to include 5 members each in the senior races, (50 Km and men's and women's 20 Km, and three each in the two junior races. These standards are: Men's 50-4:45:00, Men's 20-1:36:00, Women's 20-1:48:00, Junior Men's 10-51:00, and Junior Women's 10-55:00. **Shaul's book.** We noted two months ago that the autobiographical book that the great long-distance walker Shaul Ladany first published in 1997 in Hebrew was coming out in an English translation. The book, *King of the Road-From Bergen-Belsen to the Olympic Games* is available from www.israelbooks.com and from Amazon. Its ISBN Number is 978- 965-229-421-0. I was fortunate enough to receive a review copy from the publisher a few days ago—at Shaul's recommendation, I am sure. Since I still have nearly 100 pages to read, I will reserve my review until next month. But, I will tell you that Shaul has an amazing and fascinating story to tell. In the meantime, following are excerpts form Neil Amdur's review in the *New York Times*., published in July. (I will say that I have found both my publication and my name mentioned, so it must be a good book.)

Ladany, an Ultimate Survivor, Recalls Painful Memories

Even as the Beijing Olympics beckon next month, with an exotic host city and the promise of peerless performance, the specter of Munich never quite fades.

The renewed threat of terrorism, first exposed in the 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli Olympians, now hovers in new forms unspoken through intense security preparations. The death last month of the sportscaster Jim McKay, who served as the American voice and conscience of the Munich tragedy, has added another layer of sadness. The August publication of the English translation of *King of the Road*, the autobiography of the Israeli racewalker Shaul Ladany, is certain to connect the dots between past and present.

Ladany, 72, is the ultimate survivor. Not just of Munich, where he managed to escape the wrath of terrorists during the attack in the Olympic village. Ladany also spent months in a Nazi concentration camp, had recurring bouts with skin cancer any lymphoma, and endured enough legal and administrative skirmishes to tear down most mortals.

But then, Ladany has always been beyond us. He speaks nine languages and is a professor of industrial engineering with eight patents, 110 scientific papers, 13 books, and "more up my sleeve".

How many athletes, to spare themselves from training under a searing desert sun, would lay out a course in their house, roll up rugs and walk laps, changing directions every 15 minutes for hours at a time—with a wife, a daughter, and two dogs under the same roof?

Ladany says he has slowed since accomplishing long-distance world records and a 100-Km world championship. But he was sturdy enough to finish the four-day, 300-Km Paris-to-Brussels walk in May, participated in the recent seven-day, 300-Km walk from Schleswig, Germany to Viborg, Denmark; and will swim 3.5 Km across the Sea of Galilee for the 48th time this fall as part of Israel's largest amateur sports event.

Ladany, who also competed in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, has always been at odds with some published accounts of the Munich tragedy. He devotes 21 pages of his book to the attack, starting with being awakened "from a deep sound sleep" in the Olympic village and culminating in a lawsuit against the author and publisher of *The Blood of Israel* for being portrayed as "running away by jumping like a goat" in an attempt to escape.

In reality, Ladany wrote, he and two other Israeli Olympians "went out to the terrace, and with straight backs and confident steps we crossed the lawn and left the building behind." Citing dozens of errors in the *The Blood of Israel*, Ladany said, "I believe it hurt my character." Ladany was equally critical of German security and botched attempts to save the

Israeli hostages an at isolated airfield. "The operation was carried out in a shabby and amateurish," he wrote, listing miscommunication to snipers and a reluctance of some German commandos placed inside the empty plane to engage the terrorists.

Since turning 50, Ladany has marked birthdays by walking a kilometer for each year of his life. Last year, at 71, on a five-Km loop, Ladany could not contain himself. "I failed to complete the event as initially planned," he wrote in the postscript to his book. "The brakes in my legs failed to function properly, and I managed to stop only after 75 kilometers. How long will I be able to keep up the tradition? I can't say. I don't have a crystal ball."

And here is a fine tirbute to one of Canada's finest walkers and a positive article on our sport.

Walking Man

A few strides With An Unsung Hero of Canadian Sport

by Scott Russell, *CBC Sports Weekend*, April 14, 2008

I first met Guillaume LeBlanc when I was the late night sportcaaster at CBMT in Montreal. He finished fourth in the 1984 Olympics in an obscure event known as the 20-Km racewalk. All that I knew about the racewalk was that it seems something akin to the migratory march of penguins. It is, on the surface, a weird, torture test of a waddle, which sways through the streets of any given Olympic city and finishes at the main stadium with much less fanfare than the more glamorous marathon.

Still it holds a certain strange fascination and Guillaume was—in his day—one of the best on the face of the earth.

Upon hearing that I would host the Olympic Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Calgary, I found that Guillaume was the only summer athlete to be honored this year. I figured his entrance might go almost unnoticed. I was wrong.

By way of background, it should be noted that Canada's most accomplished walking man has delivered a fair amount of glory over the course of his career. Born in Sept.-Iles, Quebec in 1962, LeBlanc won championships at the Commonwealth Games, the Jeux de la Francophonie, and once held the world record at the 30-Km distance. Most importantly, he captured the silver medal in the 20-Km event at the 1992 Olympics, finishing just behind Daniel Plaza of Spain.

But still, when compared to the others on this year's Hall of Fame roster, Guillaume, like his sport, seemed to be a conversation piece rather than the guest of honor.

A couple of days before the ceremony, I called Guillaume at his home in Laval, where he works for Bell Canada and coaches kids in soccer and football, to get a sense of what this meant to him. In halting, but emotional, English, the walking man got his message across loud and clear.

"I feel that I am an Olympian and this is very important to me," LeBlanc said. "I live the Olympic values and keep them always in my heart and in my mind. It a great honor to be understood and recognized for something that I did at the Olympics."

It was very moving to speak with LeBlanc that day and as I listened, I recalled the way he competed. He gritted his teeth and moved his arms furiously while his legs took on the characteristics of eggbeaters. The rules require that a racewalker must have one foot in contact with the ground at all times, thus causing the exaggerated sway of the hips. On the race course there are countless judges at regular intervals to ensure that each contestant plays fair and LeBlanc had been disqualified on occasion, as was the case in the longer 50-Km race at Barcelona. Still, he learned more than proper technique from all the distance he covered over the years.

"Sport makes you discover many things and one of those things is how to judge yourself," LeBlanc figured. "Racewalking is a sport where you are often alone and beyond the eyes of the judges. I learned to judge myself and be comfortable with what I did in my own heart."

Tim Berrett agrees with Guillaume's assessment of the sport. Berrett is a 43-year-old and has recently qualified for the 50-Km race in Beijing. His first Olympic appearance was at Barcelona in 1992 and he was in the field when LeBlanc won that silver medal. China will mark Berrett's fifth trip to the Games as a competitor for Canada.

"It's important for Guillaume to go into the Hall of Fame. It tells me that there is some recognition at the end of it all," Berrett estimates. "He did nearly everything in his career that could've done. Racewalking is a bit misunderstood, it's more than a walk in the park. We're out there twice as long as the marathoners."

Indeed, athletes like Berrett put in upwards of 200 Km a week, or three hours a day, on the road. Then there's the weight training and time in gym beyond that. With very few competitors across the country, racewalking can be a lonely pursuit. "You don't get into it for the fame or the fortune that's for sure," Berrett chuckles. "You are out there for so long on your own that you have to be convinced that it is indeed worthwhile."

Which begs the question, in an unheralded sport, why does a forty something father of two young children keep up the chase? "It's the constant challenge and there's always a perfect race just around the corner," Berrett claims, "And in Beijing a personal best in terms of placing is a possibility given the environmental conditions that we will face. Anything can happen, as it did for Guillaume in Barcelona in 1992."

As he walked to the stage to accept his induction to Canada's Olympic shrine, Guillaume LeBlanc interrupted his stride and paused for a moment. The people in the crowd of 650 were on their feet to applaud this modest and once unfamiliar gentleman. He bowed slightly and wiped out a few tears, as he suddenly understood that he more than belonged on this podium and amongst these people.

"I am so used to being second," LeBlanc had said earlier. "I am the Vice Olympic champion because I finished second in that race. And I am a twin who was the second one to be born. Still, I am so happy to be apart of the Olympic family."

On this night, Guillaume LeBlanc was the first to be honored and reserved a special chapter in our nation's sporting history. He is one of Canada's beloved champions and an unsung hero no more.

Rushing to the airport following the ceremony and bound for the red-eye to Toronto, I happened to look at the Calgary Tower, an icon of the 1988 Olympic city. The flame was alight, just as it had been for the duration of the Games 20 years ago. This is a sight not often seen since the Olympics made their departure from the Stampede City. The tower's torch on this night was meant to celebrate the people who had just entered Canada's Olympic Hall of Fame. I'll not soon forget it.

It struck me that the walking man never let such a flame die. He kept it burning bright and deep within him as he kept one firmly planted on his way to this well deserved and precious moment.

Costas unrepentant

Bob Costas through his years as Olympics TV host has not been a friend of racewalking, as most racewalkers know. And despite many letters from the racewalking community through those years—both educative and indignant—he seems to carry on. The American Airlines magazine *American Way*, carried an interview with Mr. Costas in its Aug.

1, 2008 issue, first brought to my attention by Valerie Silver.

When asked what the quirkiest Olympic Sport is, Bob replied: "Well, curling is kind of an endearing Olympic sport. People think, 'Wait a minute. I can get an Olympic gold medal—the same medal that they gave Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis—for a sport where they use a broom and drink beer while they're doing it?' Not at the Olympics, of course, but, yes, people can drink beer and still excel at curling. That's unbelievable. Why don't they just have Ed Norton and Ralph Kramden show up with their bowling bags and make that an Olympic sport. *(Perhaps someone should tell Bob that lots of Olympic athletes drink beer. And if he just means during competition, there are a lot of weekend softball, basketball, soccer, etc. players, just like weekend curlers, who consume during competition. And if the truth be known, Granny Blackburn once consumed a glass of wine enroute during one of our old New Year's Eve races.)*

Still, on balance, you have to say the weirdest is racewalking. I made a bunch of people mad in 1992 in Barcelona when they showed the racewalking. Look, I know that they are athletes. I know I couldn't do it. I know it takes training and dedication, and I know that there are pockets of the world where racewalkers are big sports celebrities. But it looks so funny. You know what it really looks like? It looks like a person who has to go really bad. 'I gotta go, gotta go, gotta go right now'—except they just don't want to break into a full-scale sprint.

So I say, coming off this racewalking footage in Barcelona, 'You know, having a contest to see who can walk the fastest is kind of like having a contest to see who can whisper the loudest' If you're really in that much of a hurry, run. And if you really want me to hear you, shout."

Valerie responded to Bob, via e-mail, as follows:

"Ten lashes with a wet noodle for a lousy analogy comparing racewalking competition to a contest over 'whispering the loudest'. If you follow your logic, then we also should eliminate every swimming competition except the freestyle. Why move forward in the water with the butterfly swim technique when freestyle is faster? *(Ed. Or even worse the bobbing in the water breaststroke.)* Or, why jump over hurdles when running flat is faster?"

By the way, a very good reason to racewalk instead of run is the lack of pounding on bones and joints!

We're all entitled to our opinion about the value or looks of anything "foreign", but I hardly expect "reducing-the-foreign-to-the-funny" thinking from a prominent broadcaster! How about a discussion of the technique beyond the two basic rules, and the benefits of no pounding? Wish I had a good joke to lighten this up, but, alas, my writers are all on vacation."

LOOKING BACK

40 Years Ago (From the September 1968 ORW)—In the U.S. Olympic Trials in Alamosa, Col., Ron Larid prevailed at 20 Km in 1:37:45, with Rudy Haluza (1:38:14), Larry Young (1:38:40) and Tom Dooley (1:41:03) following. Young was an easy winner at 50 Km three days later in 4:34:10, followed by Goetz Klopfer (4:44:02), Dave Romansky (4:47:23), and Bob Kitchen (4:50:56). The races were at high altitude to simulate conditions in the upcoming Mexico City Olympics, thus the modest times. When Young opted to walk only the 50 in the Games, Dooley won a spot at 20. . . We also reported the birth of Derek Douglas Mortland, an event that occurred early on the day of the 50 Km Trials, September 14. Your editor attended the birth, not the Trials. . . Dooley zipped a quick 5 miles (35:20) in California, leaving Bill Ranney and Klopfer well back. . . A week before the Trials, Young

scored a very easy win in the National 30 Km in Columbia, Missouri in 2:31:20. Jack Blackburn was second, some 24 minutes back, as few people showed up for the race. . . A few days after the Trials, a few of those competitors traveled to Atlantic City for the National 15 Km. Laird won in 1:08:03, with Romansky 29 seconds back. The next four spots went to Ron Kulik, Jack Blackburn, Ron Daniel, and Steve Hayden.

35 Years Ago (From the September 1973 ORW)—The U.S. women took the first four places to win an international dual match with Canada. Ellen Minkow was the winner in 26:32 (5 Km), followed by Esther Marquez, Cindy Arbelhide, and Sue Brodock. . . The National 35 Km went to John Knifton in 3:00:31. Bill Ranney was more than 3 minutes back, with Jim Bean and Bob Bowman next in line. . . Hartwig Gauder won the European Junior 10 Km title in 44:14, the first of many internationals for the East German 50 Km great.

30 Years Ago (From the September 1978 ORW)—In the European Championships, East Germany's Roland Weiser won at 20 Km and Spain's Jorge Llopert at 50. Weiser pulled away from three Soviet competitors on the final 5 Km to win in 1:22:12. He had a 20:30 on that last loop. Pyotr Potschenchuk and Anatoliy Solomin finished in 1:23:43 and 1:24:12. Jose Marin was fifth and Maurizio Damilano sixth. Llopert took command after 30 Km to win in 3:53:50. Next were Soviet Veniamin Soldatenko in 3:55:12 and Pole Jan Ornoch in 3:55:16. Four others broke 4 hours. . . The U.S. 50 Km title race saw Mexican guests Domingo Colin, Pedro Aroche, and Enrique Vera take the first three spots. Colin had 3:55:50. Marco Evoniuk took the U.S. title in 4:24:05 with Augie Hirt and Carl Schueler also under 4:30. . . U.S. Junior titles went to Peter Timmons at 5 Km (25:31) and Mike Morris at 20 (1:47:10). Dave Cummings was second at 5 and Timmons second at 20. . . Sweden won the women's World meet with Britt Marie Carlsson first at 5 Km (23:05) and Elisabeth Olsson first at 10 (49:22). Sue Brodock was the top U.S. finisher in the 5 with 24:41. Lis Dufour was seventh at 10 in 52:39. The U.S. team finished third behind Norway.

25 Years Ago (From the September 1983 ORW)—Alan Price won his fourth U.S. title at 100 miles in Columbia, Missouri, covering the distance in 22:39, well off his best of 18:57:01 in 1978. The only other finisher in extremely hot conditions was Chris Custer in 23:50, her first attempt at the distance. She became the 42nd U.S. centurion and the fourth female. . . Our analysis of the T&F News rankings for the previous years showed the USSR as the leading walking nation during that period, followed closely by East Germany (German Democratic Republic), and Mexico. Everyone else was far back, with the U.S. ninth.

20 years ago (From the September 1988 ORW)—Curt Clausen won the National 40 Km in Union, N.J. in 3:35:51, becoming the youngest (age 20) ever to capture the title. Mark Fenton was second in 3:31:10 and Alan Jacobson third. Gary Null, in sixth place, won the Masters's title in 3:48:08. . . The first woman was Dorit Attias in 4:12:39. . . In the World Junior Games in Sudbury, Ontario, Spanish women Maria Diaz and Olga Sanchez finished one-two in the women's 5 Km, with Diaz clocking 21:51.31. Dierdre Colier was the first U.S. finisher in 12th with 24:40.14. The men's 10 Km went to Cruz of Mexico in 41:16.11, with Spain's Valentin Massana, destined to be the 1993 World Champion at 20 Km in second 17 seconds back. John Marter led the U.S. walkers with a 47:40 in 18th.

15 Years Ago (From the September 1993 ORW)—National 5 Km titles went to Victoria Herazo (22:55) and Andrzej Chylinski (21:06). In the Denver races, Debbie VanOrden (23:15) and Curtis Fisher (21:40) were second. . . The National 40 Km in Fort Monmouth, n.J.

went to Puerto Rico's Jose Ramirez in 3:40:10. Gary Null, second in 3:44:33, won both the National title and the National Master's title. Bob Keating, also in the 45-49 age group, followed him in 3:50:31. As a matter of fact, the first non-master was Herb Zydek in 10th (4:11:55). . . National Junior 3 Km and 5 Km titles went to Debbie Iden in 15:13.88 and Al Heppner in 21:39.38. The races were in Orono, Maine. . . Bernardo Segura, Mexico, won the Alongi 20 Km title in Dearborn, Michigan in 1:21:55 with Gary Morgan the first U.S. walker in sixth (1:29:31). Italy's Annarita Sidoti won the 10 Km title in 46:06, 47 seconds ahead of Debbie Van Orden.

10 Years Ago (From the September 1998 ORW)—In Pan-Am cup trials, Joanne Dow won the women's 20 Km in 1:35:45 and Philip Dunn the men's 30 Km in 2:26:30. Teresa Vaill trailed Dow by 58 seconds and Susan Armenta was nearly 3 minutes further back in the women's race. Theron Kissinger (2:27:13) and Steve Pecinovsky (2:35:36) followed Dunn. . . In National 5 Km races, Curt Clausen and Teresa Vaill prevailed. Clausen (21:04) beat Al Heppner (21:49) and Warrick Yeager (21:54). Debbi Lawrence (23:18) and Lyn Brubaker (23:59) were 2-3 in the women's race. . . The National 40 Km went to Gary Morgan in 3:21:37 with Dunn close behind (3:22:58). John Soucheck was third ahead of Yeager. . . Clausen also had a 20:37 to win an open race at the National Master's 5 Km two weeks later. . . The master's titles went to Victoria Herazo (23:31) and Jonathan Matthews (21:09). Don DeNoon had a 23:32 in winning the 55-59 title. . . European titles were won by Russia's Ilya Markov (1:21:10), Italy's Annarita Sidoti (42:49), and Poland's Robert Korzeniowski (3:43:51). All were competitive races. In the 20, Latvia's Aigars Fedejevs (1:21:25) and Spain's Francisco Fernandez (1:21:39) were second and third. Italy's Erica Alfridi (42:54) and Portugal's Susan Feitor (42:55) followed Sidoti. Finland's Valentin Kononen (3:44:29) was second at 50.

5 Years Ago (From the September 2003 ORW)—Curt Clausen was a walk-away winner of the National 40 Km in Ocean Twp., N.J., finishing more than 25 minutes ahead of John Soucheck in 3:25:58. Nick Bdera set a U.S. 50-54 age group record of 3:51:06 in third and Ed Parrot also finished under 4 hours. Cheryl Rellinger won the women's race in 4:32:50. . . Later, Clausen was a distant second to Tim Seaman in the National 5 Km. Tim's 20:32 left Curt 82 seconds back but well clear of third-lace finisher Dave McGovern (22:20). On the women's side, Bobbi Jo Chapman was an easy winner in 24:28. . . A week earlier, Seaman had gone much faster in Hildeshiem, Germany as he finished third in 19:09, behind Ivan Trotskiy, Belarus and Eric Tysse, Norway. Trotskiy had 18:57 and Tysse 19:01. The next day, Tim was sixth at 10 Km in 39:59. Poland's Robert Korzeniowski won the race in 38:44, 8 seconds ahead of Trotskiy. At the same site, Norway's Kjersti Platzer won a 3 Km in 11:41 and a 5 in 20:08.