

Chinese Reemerge In Big Way In Chihuahua

Chihuahua, Mexico, May 15-15 (With help from IAAF correspondent Paul Warburton)—Chinese racewalking has become known for inconsistent performance. Races showing unbelievable depth of performance on home soil, periodic brilliant performances on the international level, and occasional dominating team performances at World Cup, World Championship, and Olympic events, interspersed with surprisingly complete failures at those same events. Not since 2004 have they shone at the World Cup and, at the Beijing Olympics, where they were expected to take full advantage of home soil, they could manage only two fourth place finishes and no medals. But they certainly reemerged in the 2010 World Cup held in Chihuahua, taking team titles in three of the five events along with second and third place finishes in the other two. Russia, who has been completely in recent years, did well with a first, a second, and two thirds in team scoring, but they were overshadowed by the dominating Chinese performance.

World Cup action led off with the men's 50 Km race on Saturday morning. There was news even before the race. On Friday, favorite Alex Schwazer of Italy announced that he was suffering from a gastro-intestinal condition and would not be competing. That was followed by news of a surprise winner, Matej Toth of the Slovak Republic, who turned a steady performance and a blistering finish (no pun intended—it was very hot) into a gold medal—one Mexico had hoped to keep at home.

Toth is the first Slovak medalist in World Cup history and he didn't make it to the lead until the final kilometer. Horacio Nava, a home town hero in Chihuahua, led much of the way, but was caught by pre-race favorite Jared Tallent of Australia at 40 Km. But Nava did not fold as so often happens in these races when one builds a solid lead only to give it away. Nava just reopened the gap and it was Tallent who was left looking spent and pale.

With Tallent fading, it appeared to be Nava's race. Toth, who was 3 1/2 minutes back in fourth place at 40 Km and still two minutes down at 45 uncorked a 21:44 for the final 5, despite the effects of heat and the 5000 foot altitude. He caught Nava at 49 km and went on to beat him by 46 seconds in 3:53:30. Tallent just hung on for third in 3:54:55, some 11 seconds ahead of China's Tianfeng Si. Spain's 40-year-old Jesus Garcia, who won this race in 1997 and was second as far back as 1994, captured fifth just ahead of Japan's Yoki Yamazaki.

Nava took control of the race early and by 30 Km (2:20:25) had a 41 second lead over his teammate Cristian Berdeja and 1:35 over Tallent, who had to pause to toss whatever he had eaten in recent hours. Tallent then threw in a 44:02 for the next 10 to catch Nava, but soon paid the price. But Nava too was slowing, just enough to enable Toth's spurt to overhaul him. Berdeja hung on for seventh and a third Mexican, Omar Zepeda, with the leaders early, was 13th, but that left them a point short of the Chinese for the team title. Lei Li and Faguang

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Xu were eight and ninth for China to go along with Si's fourth. It was the slowest winning time since 1993 when the event was also held in Mexico. For the U.S. team of elderly gentlemen, Jonathan Matthews finished 47th and Ray Sharp 50th with the conditions slowing both considerably from their February times in the Trial. Dav McGovern did not finish.

Toth commented: "If the wind hadn't picked up in the last 10 Km, I don't think I would have won the gold. Horacio and Jared were tired and it played in my favor. My race plan was always to start easy like in training and to give everything in the last 10 km. I did not feel the heat, and when I realized I could be on the podium, euphoria took over"

Nava admitted he might take flak for going to the front in the difficult conditions. "I thought after working so hard for 48 Km I would get a better result. But today was not about time—it was about getting on the podium. It was a big surprise to be passed in the last kilometer. I thought I had gold, but I'm still learning and maybe I'm not ready for first just yet.

Next up was the men's junior 10 Km, where U.S. hopes rode with 17-year-old Trevor Barron, spotting two years to many in the field. This race provided another nation with its first World Cup medal as Colombia's Eider Arevalo, who like, Trevor, is just 17, taking the gold. Arevalo bided his time before launching a devastating attack that was too much for China's Zelin Cai, who was the only one with the Colombian over the last kilometer. Russia has been dominant in this event in the past, but here Valeriy Filipchuk had to settle for a distant third, which at least kept alive the Russian record of a podium appearance in all editions of the junior race first held in 2004.

The Russians were looking for more and all three of their walkers were together in the lead after 2 Km in 8:33. At 5 Km, Filipchuk led in 21:06 with his teammate Konstantin Kulagov at 21:07, Cai and Arevalo at 21:08, and China's Fudong Cong at 21:11. Trevor Barron was in tenth at 21:55. By 4 Km it was a race between Arevalo, Cai, and Brazil's Caio Bonfim, who had joined the fray. When Bonfim was DQ'd it became a two-man race and Arevalo proved the best. In the team battle, Russia and China both finished with 7 points (cross-country scoring based on the first two finishers for the team.) Russia got the gold based on the best finish for the number two men on each team.

Trevor Barron was able to move up one spot to finish ninth in 45:17, well off his best, but that was not to be expected in these conditions. Tyler Sorenson walked well to finish 18th in 47:54 and Alejandro Chavez suffered through a 52:41. All three will still be in the junior ranks for the next World Cup in 2012.

The first day of competition ended with the women's 20 Km race. It was a breakthrough race for 34-year-old Maria Vasco of Spain who had bronze medals at the Olympics, the World Championships, and the World Cup to show for years near the top—but never before a gold.

In the torrid conditions, the early pace was conservative, but Vasco was able to accelerate and walk the second half of the race much faster than the first. Having predicted a winning time of 1:30 to 1:32 considering the conditions, she came home in 1:31:55. The first 10 Km had taken 46:35 in what was a five-women race at that point.

Even at that, Vasco had to come back from a final 2 Km sprint that had everyone around the course predicting a jump from third in 2008 to first for Vera Santos. The Portuguese veteran led from the start and gave it everything, only to run out of gas over the last 500 metres when Vasco used all her experience to hang on to her lead. Santos finished second

in 1:32:06, well ahead of her teammate Ines Henriques, who had 1:33:28 for the bronze. Russian favorite Vera Sakolova struggled home in fourth in 1:33:54.

The race started at a near crawl with a group of 25 together in 9:36 for the first 2 Km lap. When the pace accelerated somewhat, most of those pretenders disappeared and 5 Km was reached in 23:29, with nine women still in contention. At 10 Km, there were only Vasco, Santos, Sokolova, Henriques, and Russia's Anisya Kirdyapkina. Over the next 5 Km, Santos and Vasco made it a two-woman race, hitting 15 km in 1:09:22, 32 seconds ahead of Sokolova, who had another 4 seconds on Henriques. From there, it was a question of who would be strongest at the finish and that proved to be Vasco.

After the race, Vasco said: "My father died four years ago, and my goal was to make sure my mother who is sick doesn't want for anything (the winner's prize was \$30,000). It was very emotional. I thought Vera would be favorite today but I was watching things closely and although I was vomiting a little at one point, in the end I was stronger than her. This win was the best race ever for me, even though I have other important medals."

Santos meanwhile also thought she had a gold in the bag, but agreed the better walker won on the day. "I was not able to push hard enough against such a talented and experienced walker like Maria. I came here with great confidence, but had to make do with second." A consolation for Santos was the team gold she shared with Henriques and Ana Cabecinha, who was eighth. Maria Poves and Beatriz Pascual, 10th and 11th, joined with Vasco for the team silver ahead of China. For the U.S., Solomiya Login finished 47th in 1:47:43, but Miranda Melville and Stephani Casey did not finish.

The Junior Women's 10 Km kicked off the second day's events. In that race, and 18-year-old Italian girl, Antonella Palmisano broke a six-year Russian stronghold on the title. The graphics student gambled on the third of five laps in the heat, and when no one could close the tiny gap she forged, she had just enough to make her country's weekend turn from disappointment to joy in just under 48 minutes.

As in other races, the weather and altitude led to a very conservative start with Mexico's Sandra Nevarez in front of a pack that included most of those who started, but in a time of just 10:04. And even though the pace did not quicken on the next 2 Km lap, the lead group was down to just 11. By 5 Km, Palmisano had taken the lead but the pace was still dawdling at 25:12, with ten others within 5 seconds.

At that point, Palmisano stepped out to reach 6 Km in 29:53, with only the three Russians and two Chinese girls still challenging.

At the bell for the final lap, Palmisano had pulled out by 7 seconds, with China's Ain He and Russia's Anna Lukyanova close. That lead proved just enough, and Palmisano came home in 47:52, 5 seconds ahead of He and still 7 ahead of Lukyanova. China's Zhao Jing was just another 3 seconds back, sewing up the team title for her country, with Russia a close second and Italy third.

Shortly after the race Palmisano said: "I've already made the first call back home to my coach, and the second will be to my parents to thank them for all the support they give me. I wasn't sure when I pushed hard it was the right thing to do, but it was good enough for me. I did not expect this because I had no real knowledge of my competitors. This is only the starting point of my career. I'm grateful for the amazing support I got around the course from the people of Chihuahua."

He, though happy with a silver medal, said: "I thought I could have won, but I kept thinking that if it wasn't this time, it would be next time if I keep training hard." Less pleased, Lukyanova stated, "I had no idea it would be this hot, and felt the Russian team would have done better in different conditions."

Wrapping up the 2010 Cup program was the men's 20 Km. In a race that saw nine walkers within 11 seconds of one another at 15 Km, the Chinese duo of Hao Wang and Yafei Zhu were able to pull away in the final stages for a one-two finish and a very decisive team

victory with the support of Ding Chen in sixth. Wang was able to break away from Zhu over the final kilometer to take the gold in 1:22:35 with Zhu 11 seconds back. Russia's Andrey Krivov was outsprinted Norway's Erik Tysse in the final 200 meters to take the bronze in 1:22:54. Colombia's Luis Lopez, who was locked with them in a three-man battle for the bronze, withered away as they sprinted and had to settle for fifth in 1:23:11. Mexico's great hope for a gold, Eder Sanchez, on the lead at 10 Km was left well back when the real racing began and finished a distance seventh. A small consolation for the Mexicans was a team bronze behind China and Russia. Even further back was another favorite, Italy's 2004 Olympic champion Ivano Brugnetti, who lead at 10 Km. He struggled home in 12th place.

It was the first men's gold for China since 1995 when they were home in Beijing. Following his comfortable win, Wang said: "Since 1995, we've been working hard and developing, but you also need some luck and that's why our results have going up and down. However, we have great youngsters coming through. This result will promote the sport even more back home. 2012 is very much our goal. It will be difficult to maintain our form, but we'll work to get a medal there as well."

Krivov noted: "This was the most complicated journey for the Russian team to get to a World Cup. There was along flight, and we were not at home and the weather was difficult to bear. But our coaches prepared us well for the race anyway, and at one point I thought I could win. Tysse was a help because he put pressure on me at the end and that helped me get bronze. I'm sure this will be a stimulus for better results."

For the U.S., Patrick Stroupe struggled in the heat and after passing 10 Km in 46:16 went nearly 5 minutes slower the second half to finish 61st in 1:37:24. Dan Serianni dropped out after passing 15 Km in 1:17:31.

The results:

Men's 20 Km: 1. Hao Wang, China 1:22:35 2. Yafei Zhu, China 1:22:46 3. Andrey Krivov, Russia 1:22:54 4. Erik Tysse, Norway 1:22:55 5. Luis Lopez, Colombia 1:23:11 6. Ding Chen, China 1:23:49 7. Eder Sanchez, Mexico 1:23:56 8. Sergey Bakulin, Russia 1:24:05 9. Gustavo Restrepo, Colombia 1:24:08 10. Yerko Araya, Chile 1:24:23 11. Hassanine Sebei, Tunisia 1:24:27 12. Ivano Brugnetti, Italy 1:24:29 13. Miguel Lopez, Spain 1:24:31 14. Petr Tofimov, Russia 1:25:03 15. Pedro Daniel Gomez, Mexico 1:25:09 16. Rafal Augustyn, Poland 1:25:28 17. Denis Strelkov, Russia 1:25:30 18. Jose Ignacio Diaz, Spain 1:25:55 19. Claudio Erasmus Vargas, Mexico 1:26:19 20. Koichiro Morioka, Japan 1:26:36 21. Shen Wang, China 1:26:49 22. Benjamin Sanchez, Spain 1:26:55 23. Rafal Fedaczynski, Poland 1:26:58 24. Isamu Fujiwa, Japan 1:27:19 25. Jean-Jacques Nkouloukidi, Italy 1:27:24 26. Serkio Vieira, Portugal 1:27:26 27. Jakub Jelonek, Poland 1:27:25 28. Augusto Cardoso, Portugal 1:27:40 29. Kevin Campion, France 1:27:45 30. Pedro Isidro, Portugal 1:27:55 31. Jianbo Li, China 1:28:06 32. Andres Chocho, Ecuador 1:28:19 33. John Edison Garcia, Colombia 1:28:20 34. Jose David Dominguez, Spain 1:28:21 35. Allen Segura, Costa Rica 1:28:25 36. Anton Kucmin, Slovak Rep. 1:28:28 37. Dawid Tomala, Poland 1:29:21 39. Matteo Giupponi, Italy 1:29:39 40. Daniele Paris, Italy 1:29:56 41. Yusuke Suzui, Japan 1:30:08 42. Mauricio Arteaga, Ecuador 1:30:11 43. Antonin Boyez, France 1:30:39 44. Perseus Karlstrom, Sweden 1:30:49 45. Victor Mendoza, El Salvador 1:30:57 46. Inaki Gomez, Canada 1:31:14 47. Ian Rayson, Australia 1:31:21 48. Mate Helebrandt, Hungary 1:31:42 49. Noel Santini, Puerto Rico 50. Francisco Arcilla, Spain 1:32:31 61. Patrick Stroupe, USA 1:37:24 66. Creighton Connolly, Canada 1:45:31 (66 finishers, 2 DQ—Luis Gomez, Guatemala and Bernardo Segura, Mexico, 7 DNF including Yohan Diniz, France and Dan Serianni, USA)

Team Scores: 1. China 8 2. Russia 25 3. Mexico 41 4. Colombia 47 5. Spain 53 6. Poland 66 7. Italy 76 8. Portugal 84 9. Japan 85 10. Ecuador 130 11. France 135 12. Sweden 151

Women's 20 Km: 1. Mario Vasco, Spain 1:31:55 2. Vera Santos, Portugal 1:32:06 3. Ines Henriques, Portugal 1:33:28 4. Vera Sokolova, Russia 1:33:54 5. Yanfei Li, China 1:34:18 6.

Anisya Kirdyapkina, Russia 1:34:47 7. Mayumi Kawasaki, Japan 1:34:53 8. Ana Cabecinha, Portugal 1:34:57 9. Jess Rothwell, Australia 1:35:04 10. Maria Jose Poves, Spain 1:35:38 11. Beatriz Pascual, Spain 1:36:08 12. Kristina Saltanovic, Lithuania 1:36:28 13. Hong Liu, China 1:36:34 14. Yang Shi, China 1:37:38 15. Yawei Yang, China 1:37:38 16. Susana Feitor, Portugal 1:37:58 17. Zuzana Schindlerova, Czech Rep. 1:38:06 18. Li Li, China 1:38:59 19. Claire Tallent, 1:39:09 20. Maria Sanchez, Mexico 1:39:16 21. Katarzyna Kwoka, Poland 1:39:28 22. Kumi Otsoshi, Japan 1:39:29 23. Liudmila Arkhipova, Russia 1:39:37 24. Masumi Fuchise, Japan 1:40:04 25. Yadir Guaman, Ecuador 1:40:19 26. Julia Takacs, Spain 1:40:58 27. Sandra Galvis, Colombia 1:41:39 28. Maria Sanchez, Mexico 1:41:52 29. Brigita Virbalyte, Lithuania 1:42:05 30. Lorena Luaces, Spain 1:42:46 31. Anne-Gaelle Retout, France 1:43:03 32. Marie Polli, Switzerland 1:43:10 33. Katalin Varro, Hungary 1:43:13 34. Gtania Regina Spindler, Brazil 1:43:15 35. Claudia Balederrama, Bolivia 1:43:40 36. Hanna Drabenia, Belarus 1:44:16 37. Ingrid Hernandez, Colombia 1:44:38 38. Miriam Ramon, Ecuador 1:44:57 39. Agnieszka Dygacz, Poland 1:45:24 40. Cristina Lopez, Spain 1:45:43 41. Laura Reynolds, Ireland 1:46:10 42. Angelica Hernandez, Mexico 1:46:14 43. Johana Ordenez, Ecuador 1:46:56 44. Tatiana Mineeva, Russia 1:47:05 45. Lucie Pelantova, Czech Rep. 1:47:11 46. Johanna Jackson, GB 1:47:12 47. Solomiya Login, USA 1:47:43 48. Milangela Rosales, Venezuela 1:48:12 49. Monica Equihua, Mexico 1:50:45 50. Agnieszka Szwarz, Poland 1:51:51 (50 finishers, 3 DQ, 11 DNF including Stephanie Casey and Miranda Melville, USA)

Team Scores: 1. Portugal 13 2. Spain 22 3. China 32 4. Russia 33 5. Japan 33 6. Mexico 90 7. Ecuador 106 8. Poland 110

Men's 50 Km—1. Matej Toth, Slovak Rep. 3:53:30 2. Horacio Nava, Mexico 3:54:16 3. Jared Tallent, Australia 3:54:55 4. Tianfeng Si, China 3:55:06 5. Jesus Garcia, Spain 3:55:41 6. Yuki Yamazaki, Japan 3:55:44 7. Cristian Berdeja, Mexico 3:56:26 8. Lei Li, China 3:56:46 9. Faguang Xu, China 3:57:50 10. Sergey Sergachev, Russia 3:58:11 11. Mikel Odriozola, Spain 3:58:15 12. Yuriy Andronov, Russia 3:58:21 13. Omar Zepeda, Mexico 3:59:39 14. Marco DeLuca, Italy 4:00:45 15. Chris Erickson, Australia 4:03:56 16. Sergey Melentyev, Russia 4:05:00 17. Rafal Sikora, Poland 4:05:02 18. Bertrand Moulinet, France 4:05:08 19. Jose Leyver Ojeda, Mexico 4:05:23 20. Rodrigo Moreno, Colombia 4:05:44 21. Colin Griffin, Ireland 4:06:05 22. Juan Manuel Molina, Spain 4:06:08 23. Ferran Collados, Spain 4:06:24 24. Emerson Hernandez, El Salvador 4:06:47 25. Yunpeng Du, China 4:07:32 26. Diego Cafagna, Italy 4:10:18 27. Federico Tontodonati, Italy 4:11:29 28. Cedric Houssaye, France 4:12:55 29. Ivan Zhbanov, Russia 4:14:31 30. Marc Mundell, South Africa 4:14:42 31. Dionisio Ventura, Portugal 4:15:17 32. Milos Batovsky, Slovak Rep. 4:15:23 33. Tom Barnes, Australia 4:16:17 34. Jorge Costa, Portugal 4:17:19 35. Luis Gil, Portugal 4:17:47 36. Andrea Adragna, Italy 4:18:53 37. Herve Davaux, France 4:18:53 38. David Guevera, Ecuador 4:20:59 39. Dusan Majdan, Slovak Rep. 4:21:23 40. Claudia dos Santos, Brazil 4:21:28 41. Eddy Roze, France 4:23:16 42. Sebastien Biche, France 4:26:22 43. Magno Mesisa Zapata, Ecuador 4:27:19 44. Xiaoxin Gou, China 4:30:10 45. Robert Tubak, Hungary 4:39:31 46. Laszlo Novak, Hungary 4:45:13 47. Jonathan Matthews, USA 4:44:52 48. Gyula Dudas, Hungary 4:48:19 49. Edgar Cudco, Ecuador 4:48:45 50. Ray Sharp, USA 4:56:52 (50 finishers, 1 DQ, 7 DNF including Luke Adams, Australia and Dave McGovern, USA)

Team Scores: 1. China 21 2. Mexico 22 3. Russia 38 4. Spain 38 5. Australia 51 6. Italy 57 7. Slovak Republic 72 8. France 83 9. Portugal 100 11. Ecuador 130 12. Hungary 139

Jr. Women's 10 Km—1. Antonella Palmisano, Italy 47:52 2. Oin He, China 47:57 3. Anna Lukyanova, Russia 48:00 4. Zhao Jin, China 48:03 5. Svetlana Vasilyeva, Russia 48:35 6. Nina Okhotnikova, Russia 49:02 7. Ting Zhang, China 49:39 8. Alejandra Ortega, Mexico 49:59 9. Sandra Nevarez, Mexico 50:23 10. Sara Alonso, Spain 50:29 11. Federica Curizzi, Italy 50:45 12. Beth Alexander, Australia 50:56 13. Ines Pastorino, France 51:00 14. Emilie Menuet, France 51:08 15. Regan Lambie, Australia 51:16 16. Berta Krivan, Hungary 52:23 17. Paula Martinez, Spain 52:49 18. Wendy Cornejo, Bolivia 52:50 19. Cecilia Stetskiy, Italy

53:30 20. Cornelia Swart, South Africa 53:43 21. Georgiana Enache, Romania 53:51 22. Kimberly Garcia, Peru 54:02 23. Sandra Yerga, Spain 54:06 24. Linda Paz, Spain 54:07 25. Amandine Marcou, France 54:59 26. Magdalena Jasinsk, Poland 54:59 27. Rachel Tallent, Australia 56:19 28. Kararzyna Korzeniowska, Poland 56:32 29. Mirna Garcia, Peru 57:25 30. Josefine Klausen, Denmark 58:28 (1 DNF)
Team Scores: 1. China 6 2. Russia 8 3. Italy 13 4. Mexico 17 5. France 22 6. Australia 27 7. Spain 27 8. Peru 51 9. Poland 54

Jr. Men's 10 Km—1. Eider Arevalo, Colombia 42:13 2. Zelin Cai, China 42:22 3. Valery Filipchuk, Russia 42:58 4. Konstantin Kulagov, Russia 43:24 5. Fudong Cong, China 43:55 6. Wwenbin Niu, China 44:03 7. Ever Palma, Mexico 44:29 8. Alexander Castaneda, Colombia 44:52 9. Trevor Barron, USA 45:17 10. Tadeo Vega, Mexico 45:33 11. Massimo Stano, Italy 45:55 12. Veli-Matti Partenen, Finland 46:14 13. Giovanni Reno, Italy 46:19 14. Julio Salazar, Mexico 46:23 15. Rhydian Cowley, Australia 46:57 16. Mieczyslaw Romanowski, Poland 47:29 17. Alberto Amezcua, Spain 47:43 18. Tyler Sorenson, USA 47:54 19. Juan Antonio Raya, Spain 48:36 20. Viktor Markus, Hungary 48:40 21. Lukas Gdula, Czech Rep. 49:04 22. Ansdzrej Lobaczewski, Poland 49:06 23. Dmitri Malosse, France 49:33 24. Pavel Schrom, Czech Rep. 49:56 25. Nicolas Gosselin, France 50:02 26. Hugo Andrieu, France 50:49 27. Victor Paloma, Spain 51:19 28. Daniel Lord, New Zealand 51:24 29. Jiri Malysa, Czech Rep. 51:54 30. Alejandro Chavez, USA 42:41 (5 DQ, 1 DNF)
Team Scores: 1. Russia 7 2. China 7 3. Colombia 9 4. Mexico 17 5. Italy 24 6. USA 27 7. Spain 36 8. Poland 38 9. Czech Rep. 10. France 45

IAAF World Racewalk Standings following World Cup: Women—1. Vera Santos 40 2. Yanfei Li 23 3. Ines Henriques 22 4. Maria Vasco and Melanie Seeger 20 6. Ana Cabecinha 16 7. Vera Sokolova 12 8. Johanna Jackson 11 **Men**—1. Erik Tysse 34 2. Matej Toth 30 3. Hao Wang, Jared Tallent, and Alex Schwazer 20 6. Yohan Diniz 18 7. Luis Lopez 17 8. Horacio Nava and Yafei Zhu 16

IAAF Racewalk Challenge Continues in Italy; Schwazer and Santos Take Titles

Sesto San Giovanni, Italy May 1—In the 53rd Edition of the Coppa Citta di Sesto San Giovanni, which became part of the IAAF Challenge series several years ago, Alex Schwazer became the first Italian to win since Alessandro Gandellini in 2004. His 1:20:29 for 20 km left Norway's Erik Tysse a full minute behind. He was joined at the top of the podium by Portugal's Vera Santos, who took the women's race.

After a first 5 Km in 20:27, where Schwazer was accompanied by Tysse, France's Yohan Diniz, Ireland's Robert Heffernan, and Brazil's Moacir Zimmerman, Schwazer broke away after 6 Km. Going under 20 minutes for the second 5, he reached 10 km in 40:17, with Tysse 20 seconds back and Diniz another 17 back. The rest of the field was stringing out.

Tysse struggled to stay close, but dropped another 14 seconds by 15 Km, which Schwazer reached in 60:19. Tunisia's Hassanine Sebei had moved ahead of Diniz in third. Schwazer continued to stretch to the finish and Diniz managed to get back in front of Sebei for third.

"Today my goal was to win and not to walk a fast time. It is difficult to walk fast times in Sesto," said Schwazer. "I was unsure about my shape after training hard at altitude. I stayed in the pack at the beginning of the race. Then I realized that was in good shape and I launched my attack. It was not so easy as it seemed."

In the women's race Santos became the first Portuguese woman in history to take the win in this famous race. It was the 31st edition of the women's race. For the 28-year-old

woman it was the second Challenge win a row, following up on her win in Rio Maior last month. Here, she beat Germany's Melanie Seeger by 50 seconds with a solid 1:28:29 effort.

Santos and China's Yanfei Li took the lead early and went through 5 Km in 22:09 with Seeger 3 seconds back and the rest of the field already stringing out. Li (44:03) led by 2 seconds at 10 Km, but then dropped out according to plans. (Why come all the way to Italy for a race that you plan to drop out of?) Santos was on her way to victory with a lead of 15 seconds over Seeger, which stretched to 29 by 15 Km (1:06:21). Ireland's Olive Loughnane was third at that point but was then given her third red card. (Joining countryman Robert Heffernan who was disqualified in the men's race.) When Santos finished, she was just 15 seconds off her career best.

"I am still working hard to be in top for Chihuahua. My biggest goal is the European Championships in Barcelona this summer," said Santos. Seeger noted, "I enjoyed this race. The course was fast and there were a lot of spectators to support. I have not set goals in my comeback year. I won't go to Chihuahua as the German Federation will not send a team." The results:

Women's 20 Km 1. Vera Santos, Portugal 1:28:29 2. Melanie Seeger, Germany 1:29:20 3. Johanna Jackson, Great Britain 1:32:05 4. Lingling Tong, China 1:35:17 5. Gao Ni, China 1:35:33 6. Zuzana Malikova, Slovak Rep. 1:36:24 7. Ainoha Pinedo, Spain 1:38:29 8. Federica Ferraro, Italy 1:36:39 9. Laura Polli, Switzerland 1:36:54 10. Viktoria Madarasz, Hungary 1:39:28 11. Chaima Trabelsi, Tunisia 1:40:13 12. Marie Polli, Switzerland 1:42:12 13. Monica Solorzano, Mexico 1:42:12 14. Fenfen He, China 1:45:02 15. Tania Spindler, Brazil 1:45:19 16. Offa Lafi, Tunisia 1:45:21 17. Eszter, Hungary 1:46:46 18. Maura Marchiori, Italy 1:53:18 (4 DNF, 2 DQ)

Men's 20 Km: 1. Alex Schwazer, Italy 1:20:29 2. Erik Tysse, Norway 1:21:28 3. Yohan Diniz, France 1:22:44 4. Hassanine Sebei, Tunisia 1:22:51 5. Bertrand Noullet, France 1:23:23 6. Wei Yu, China 1:23:38 7. Zhen Wang, China 1:23:49 8. Herve Davaux, France 1:23:52 9. Ding Chen, China 1:24:13 10. Joao Vieira, Portugal 1:24:17 11. Alexandr Yargunkin, Russia 1:24:36 12. Andre Hohne, Germany 1:24:39 13. Cedric Houssaye, France 1:24:49 14. Silviu Casandra, Romania 1:24:52 15. Jamie Costin, Ireland 1:24:55 16. Tianfeng, Si, China 1:25:25 17. Maik Berger, Germany 1:25:48 19. Hedi Teraoui, Tunisia 1:26:31 20. Nazar Kovalenko, Ukraine 1:26:35 21. Marco Giungi, Italy 1:26:36 22. Rusi Liu, China 1:27:26 23. Vladimir Savanovic, Serbia 1:27:50 24. Alexandra Papamihail, Greece 1:28:17 25. Mirko Dolci, Italy 1:29:48 26. Alex Wright, GB 1:30:27 27. Claudio Campelo Dos Santos, Brazil 1:31:20 28. Gang Wang, China 1:31:52 29. Daniele Masciadri, Italy 1:32:31 30. Lorenzo Dessi, Italy 1:32:31 (45 finishers, 8 DNF including Trond Nymark of Norway, 5 DQ including Robert Heffernan of Ireland)

Other results

5 Km, Portsmouth, N.H., May 16—1. Brian Savilonis 30:53 2. Bill Harriman (63) 31:30 3. Kynoshi Innoa (52) 32:30 **5000 meters, Orlando, Fla., May 2**—1. Yancy Alvaarez 24:44.45 2. Maite Moscoso (15) 27:29.90 3. Juan Moscoso (37) 26:28.62 4. Brandon Kruppenbacher (14) 33:06 5. Sandra DeNoon (54) 33:07 6. Paul Alvord (66) 34:37 7. Peter Bayer, (71) 34:47 (11 finishers) **10 Km, Coconut Creek, Fla., May 9**—1. Juan Yanes (60) 57:35.77 2. Ann Harsh (59) 64:54 (4 finishers) **Jack Mortland Walks, Dayton, Ohio, May 9: 20 Km**—1. Mike Mannozi, Notre Dame Col. 1:39:14.4 (24:26, 49:40, 1:14:52) 2. Kyle Hively, Miami Valley TC 1:43:43 (20 Km debut) 3. Susan Randall, World Class Walkers 1:47:39 (now coached by 1964 Olympic 5000 meter run champion Bob Schul. Bob and your editor spent much of the race reminiscing about the '60s, when we were on three National teams together.) 4. Chris Knotts (50+), Miami Valley 1:50:26 5. Mitchel Brickson (17.), Miami Valley 1:51:16 (20 Km

debut 6. John Randall (17) 1:51:28 7. Max Walker, Indiana Walkers (60+) 1:59:17 8. John Conroy (45+) St. Louis 1:59:49 9. Omar Nash, Miami Valley 2:04:36 (1:24:23 at 15 Km before he hit the wall in his 20 Km debut. **10 Km**—1. Alex Lo Po 52:59 (A student at McKendree College in Missouri, who dawdled through the first 5 in 27:06 and then accelerated to the finish.) 2. Eirka Shaver, Miami Valley 57:27 3. Joyce Prohaska, Buckeye Striders (55+) 67:46 Walkers 1:59:49 9. Omar Nash, Miami 4. Cathy Mayfield (55+), Indiana Walkers 68:51 **5 Km**—1. Damon Clements (50+), Indiana Walkers 27:45 2. Reini Brickson, Miami Valley 29:10 3. Ed Fitch (45+), Miami Valley 29:21 4. Sherry Watts (55+), London, Ontario Pacers 29:22 5. Sharon O'Leary (44+) London Pacers 30:31 6. Danielle Stockham, Rio Grande U. 33:24 7. Sydney Beal (14), Miami Valley 34:35 8. Barb Hensley (65+), Miami Valley 41:31 9. Jack Shuter (80), Buckeye Striders 42:36 **H.S. 8900 meters at Bulldog Invitational Track Meet, Yellow Springs, Ohio, May 9**—1. Reini Brickson 3:48.60 2. Keturah Fulton 4:38.60 3. Alisha Hamilton 5:04 4. Sara Fishbien 5:11 (12 finishers, in what was a scoring event in the meet) Boys—1. Mitchell Brickson 3:33.80 2. Aaron Reed 4:05 3. Joel Decker 4:26 4. David Robinson 4:29 5. Jerad Wilson 4:32 6. Zach Sicree 4:42 (12 finishers, 3 DQ) **5 Km, Kalamazoo, Mich. April 24**—1. David Swartz (44) 26:01 2. Bill Reed (47) 27:31 3. Johnny Olsey (57) 28:57 4. Susan Fassett (47) 31:13 5. Tom Belford (61) 31:57 6. Don Knight (63) 32:56 7. Sven Bohn (44) 33:17 8. Lori Short (44) 33:19 9. Marshall Sanders (69) 33:56 (12 finishers, 1 DQ) **Half-Marathon, Lake Wobegon Regional Trail, Minn., May 15**—1. Phillip Rogosheshe (65+) 2:23:17 2. Anita Macias-Howard (55+) 2:24:31 (4 finishers plus 41 finishers in non-judged division) **Marathon, same place**—1. Will Loew-Blosser (55+) 4:52:23 (4 finishers, plus 13 in non-judged division. (the event also included a Nordic Walking Division and a Walk-Run division) **5 Km, Denver, April 22**—1. Darl Graff (42) 30:57.4 **2.8 Miles, Seattle, April 3**—1. Bob Novak (60) 26:45 2. Stan Chraminski (62) 26:47 3. Michelle Cunningham (49) 29:32 **5000 meters, Seattle, April 11**—1. Evan Dunfee, Can. 19:55.6 2. Gerry Dragomir (58), Can. 26:04.4 3. Bob Novak 28:28.3 4. Stan Chraminski 29:19.1 5. S. Ann Tuberg (50) 29:27.8 6. Bart Kale (53) 32:40 **Argentina Championships, April 25**—1. Fabio Gonzalez 1:29:00 **20 Km, Birstonas, Lithuania, May 1**—1. Tadas Suskevicius 1:25:58 2. Marius Ziukas 1:27:42 3. Denis Krabck, Balarus 1:29:30 **Women's 10 Km, same place**—1. Brigita Virbalyte 26:24 2. Agnese Pastare, Latvia 47:03 3. Anita Kazemaka, Latvia 47:55 4. Inga Mastianica 50:34 **Jr. 10 Km, same place**—1. Genadij Kozlovskij 44:31 2. Akim Ovsjannikov, Estonia 45:26 3. Gerard Chmyznikov 45:44 4. Artur Mastiaica 45:59 **20 Km, Portugal, Feb. 21**—1. Bertrand Moulinet, France 1:25:16 2. Sergio Vieira 1:28:36 3. Pedro Isidro 1:28:43 4. Damien Molmy, France 1:28:57 5. Augusto Cardoso 1:29:56 (11 finishers, (10 DNF) Women—1. Vera Santos 1:30:09 2. Ana Cabecinha 1:32:36 3. Inis Henriquers 1:33:47 4. Laura Polli, Switz. 1:39:57 6. Zuzana Schindlerova, Czech Rep. 1:40:48 (9 finishers) **Balkan Championships, Bucharest, Romania, April 17: Women's 20 Km**—1. Ana Veronica Rodean, Romania 1:37:26 2. Ana Maria Greceanu, Rom. 1:39:34 3. Panhiyoti Tsinoipoulou, Greece 1:41:21 **Jr. Women 10 Km**—1. Ekaterini Theodoropoulou, Greece 47:17.80 2. Adriana Georgiana Enache, Romania 48:05.30 3. Georgiana Loredana Stefan, Rom. 49:13.80 **Women's Youth 5 Km**—1. Gunes Tugce, Turkey 24:39.00 2. Koc Elif, Turkey 24:39 3. Alexandr Aichimoaei, Romania 24:58 **Men's 20 Km**—1. Silviu Casandra, Romania 1:23:29.30 2. Pedrag Filipovic, Serbia 1:25:22.23 3. Fedosei Clmacenco, Moldova 1:29:55.64 4. Nenad Filipovic, Serbia 1:30:36.07 5. Theodoros Kefalopoulos, Greece 1:31:15.47 (3 DQ) **Jr. Men 10 Km**—1. Chril Capatina, Moldova 44:51.90 2. Julian Rosu, Romania 47:14.80 3. Kaya Tacettin, Turkey 47:28.20 4. Georgios Kelepouris, Greece 47:54.20 5. Thomas Stefanopoulos, Greece 48:36.10 6. Gul Salih, Turkey 49:12.60 **Youth Male 5 Km**—1. Igor Seremet, Moldova 21:32.40 2. Adrian Dragomir, Romania 21:52.60 3. Atli Mert, Turkey 23:18.80 **Women's Team Score:** 1. Romania 24 2. Greece 19 3. Turkey 15 4. Bulgaria 3 5. Serbia 2 **Men's Team Score:**

1. Romania 19 2. Moldova 16 3. Greece 10 4. Turkey 9 5. Serbia 8 6. Bulgaria 1 **Combined Teams Score:** 1. Romania 43 2. Greece 29 3. Turkey 24 4. Moldova 16 5. Serbia 10 6. Bulgaria 4 British RWA 10 Mile, Feb. 20—1. Darryl Stone 1:13:49 2. Scott Davis 1:14:10 3. Tommy Taylor 1:15:08 4. Luke Finch 1:15:20 5. Paul Evandale 1:18:00. . . 11. Shaun Lightman 1:37:54. . . 32. John Padick 1:45:11 (I note these latter two because they are British Internationals from back in your editor's era, i.e., the 1960s.) (44 finishers, 5 DQ Women—1. Lisa Kahler 1:23:14 2. Diane Bradley 1:31:58 (12 finishers, 3 DNF, 1 DQ) **British RWA 20 Km**—1. Tom Bosworth 1:31:06 2. Daniel King 1:32:52 3. Luke Finch 1:33:38 4. Dominic King 1:33:48 5. Tommy Taylor 1:34:52 6. Scott Davis 1:36:17 (32 finishers, 12 under 2 hours) Women—1. Johanna Jackson 1:39:14 2. Niolo Menendez 1:45:45 (11 finishers)

Seeking A Race; There's Many A Place

Thur. Jne 3	1 Mile, Houston (G)
Sat. June 5	5 Km, Fontana, Cal. (P)
	National USATF 10 Km, Albany, N.Y. (D)
	1500 and 3000 meters, Seattle (C)
Sun. June 6	5 Km, Walnut, Cal. (P)
Thur. June 10	1 Mile, Houston (G)
Sat. June 12	2.8 Miles, Seattle (G)
Sun. June 13	1 Mile and 3000 meters, Falls Church, Vir. (N)
	5 Km, Stapleton, Col., 8 am (H)
	5000 meters, Greeley, Col. (H)
Sun. June 13	1 Mile, Houston (G)
Thur. June 17	SCA Masters 5 Km, Los Angeles area (P)
Sun. June 20	1 Mile, Houston (G)
Thur. June 24	USATF National Women's 20 Km, Jr. Men's 10 Km Des Moines, Iowa (D)
Sat. June 26	USATF National Men's 20, Jr. Women's 10 Km Junior 10 Km, Des Moines, Iowa (D)
Sun. June 27	1 Mile and 3000 meters, Falls Church, Va. (N)
	5 Km, Denver, 8 am (H)
Sun. July 4	8 Km, Alexandria, Va., 7 am (N)
Thur. July 1	1 Mile, Houston (G)
Sun. July 4	5 Km, Evergreen, Col., 8 am (H)
Sat. July 10	Weinacker Cup Ontario vs. Michigan, Port Huron, Mich. (F)
	1 Mile and 3000 meters, Falls Church, Va. (N)
	West Region Masters 5 Km, Los Angeles (P)
	2.8 Miles, Seattle (C)
Sat. July 17	Masters 5 km and 1500 meters, Seattle ©)
	1 Mile and 3000 meters, Falls Church, Va. (N)
Sat. July 24	5 Km and 1500 meters, Olympia, Wash. (C)
July 22-25	National USATF Masters Meet, Sacramento, Cal. (D)
Sat., Aug. 7	1 Mile and 3000 meters, Falls Church, VA. (N)
Sun. Aug. 15	USATF National 15 Km, Minneapolis, Minn. (S)

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-Bill Vayo, 25 Rockledge Avenue, #116 East, White Plains, NY 10601
- ✓ F-Frank Soby, 4157 Colonial Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48073
- ✓ G-Dave Gwyn, 6502 Briar Bayou, Houston, TX 77072
- ✓ 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
- K-Indiana Racewalking Club, P.O. Box 1302, Indianapolis, IN 46206
- L-Dave Gwyn, 6502 Briar Bayou, Houston, TX 77072
- M-Vince Peters, 607 Omer Circle, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387 (937-767-7424)
- ✓ N-Potomac Valley TC, 3140D West Spring Drive, Endicott City, MD 21043
- O-A.C. Jaime, acjaime@sbcglobal.net
- P-Chris Rael, 949-429-2161, rael2003@yahoo.com
- Q-New Mexico Racewalkers, P.O. Box 90111, Albuquerque, NM 87199
- R-garywesterfield@verizon.net
- ✓ S-Bruce Leasure, info@twincitiesracewalkers.org
- T-Michael Roth, michael@miroth.com
- U-Elaine Ward, 945 S. Orange Grove Blvd., #D, Pasadena, CA 91105
- V-Joe Light, jolt47@cox.net
- W-Rolland Elliott, 301-292-1441
- X-Save Vaitones, P.O. Box 1905, Brookline, MA 02446 (617-566-7600)
- Y-Walkers Club of Los Angeles, 233 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201
- Z-Jeff Salvage, www.racewalk.com

From Heel To Toe

Fernandez suspended. We reported a few months ago that Spain's Francisco Fernandez was in trouble for involvement in doping. The IAAF has now announced that Fernandez has been suspended for 2 years for his part in a major drug distribution operation that was run out of his house. Fernandez ranked number one in the World at 20 Km in both 2003 and 2006 and is probably second only to Jefferson Perez as the best 20 Km walker of the decade.

\$100 million walking man. A life-size bronze sculpture depicting the figure of a man by Alberto Giacometti was recently sold at auction for the world record price of 65 million British pounds (well over \$100 million). The sculpture "Walking Man" or "l'Homme qui marche" took just eight minutes for bids to reach the hammer price after opening at 12 million pounds at Sotheby's in London. The winning bid—the highest for any work of art ever sold at auction—was made by an anonymous buyer over the phone. The 6-ft. tall sculpture, cast in 1961, is considered to be one of the most important by the 20th century Swiss artist. It had been estimated to sell for 12 million to 18 million pounds. Furious bidding saw more than ten rivals bump the price up to ever higher levels. In so doing, it beat the previous record price held by Pablo Picasso's Garçon a la Pipe, or Boy With A Pipe, which was sold in New York in 2004.

Bringing Racewalking To Elementary Schools

(The following press release from A.C. Jaime, coach of the South Texas Walking Club describes a successful program to introduce racewalking to elementary age children. A pattern for future development of racewalking?)

Tim Seaman of California, Gary Westerfield of New York, Dr. Tom Eastler of Maine, Rachel LaVallee of Canada, Dave McGovern of Alabama, Bert Pickell of San Antonio, Dave Gwyn of Houston, Janis Bluhm of George West and many others never dreamed that their trips to Texas to help teach the PSJA Independent School District Elementary School Coaches the sport of racewalking would someday help racewalking become so successful in those schools. These professors, racewalk Olympians, racewalk authors and master racewalk judges donated countless hours traveling, teaching and demonstrating the art of racewalking to the PSJA coaching staff.

The PSJA Elementary School District coaches now completed their second year of teaching a three week racewalking course to all their 3rd, 4th and 5th graders and held, what are believed to have been the first elementary school sponsored racewalks ever held in the USA. The top three girl and boy racewalkers in each 8, 9, 10 and 11 year age bracket divisions from twenty-four of the elementary schools were bused to the stadium. Eleven schools on Tuesday and thirteen on Thursday. The results were magnificent! The coaches determination and resolve to build a strong racewalking program at the PSJA schools was clearly evident this week. The form and technique demonstrated by the majority of the four hundred six y nine young children participating was exceptionally good. The school administrations support of the program was also evident since many of the school staff were seen actively assisting during the races including the starter, Southwest High School head coach Jesus Reyes.

The four hundred sixty-nine students participated in seventeen 800 meter racewalks over the two day period with thirty-one coming back on Saturday for another three racewalks. Over one hundred volunteers donated their time and energy to help make the twenty events as successful as they were. Among the judge volunteers were officers of the Texas Department of Public Safety plus officers from the Pharr, San Juan and Alamo Police and Fire departments. Other volunteers included many high school teachers, parents and members of the track team.

It was a joy to see three or four of the older South Texas Walking Club kids warming up thirty to forty of the elementary school kids while another three to four had another group of thirty to forty kids going through the drills and yet you could see another group of thirty to forty kids on the track walking their 800 meter walk at the same time. Many positive comments were heard from parents and other spectators that had never witness a racewalk before. The children looked very impressive.

The top six schools, their coaches and the points earned by each were:
 North Alamo Elementary School coached by Hector Rios, Maricella Ibarra and Santos Flores—119
 Carnahan Elementary School coached by Eric Yanez and Arturo Gonzalez—72
 Bowie Elementary School coached by Eduardo Martinez, Gavino Villegas Jr. and Olivia Garza—58
 Trevino Elementary School coached by Arturo Gonzalez and Tomas Martinez—57
 Longoria Elementary School coached by Jaime Chavana and Marisol de la Garza— 53
 Reed-Mock Elementary School coached by Maria Garza and Cesar Escobedo —49

The schools with the most first place winners were North Alamo with three and Bowie, Carnahan and Palmer Elementary Schools with two each.

The fastest time achieved was a 3:50 by 12-year-old Amberly Melendez. Next were 4:16 by 11-year-old Crystle Florido and 4:19 by 10-year-old Bianca Garza. The fastest boy was 9-year-old Jonathon Aguilar. The girls were in general achieving faster times than the boys.

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the May 1965 ORW)—In only its third month of publication the Ohio Racewalker was still a bit provincial and this issue featured a lot of the editor and publisher. One week, Blackburn beat Mortland in a 2 miler, 14:05 to 14:08, the next week it was Mortland better than 2 minutes ahead in a 1:17:36 10 miler. Finally, Mortland overcame high heat and humidity—or at least, so we boastfully reported—and Blackburn to take a 10 Km race in 47:51. Blackburn had 49:19. In the hinterlands, Ron Daniel won the Asbury Park, N.J. 10 miler in 1:20:04, 10 seconds ahead of Art Mark. Henry Laskau, in a rare appearance after his retirement nearly a decade earlier, walked a very creditable 1:22:04 in fifth. In yet another 10 miler, Paul Nihill took the British title in 1:14:55, with Ron Wallwork less than a minute behind.

40 Years Ago (From the May 1970 ORW)—Dave Romansky won the National 35 Km in Des Moines, Iowa in 3:13:13 on a 12-lap course that included one hill that had no place in a walking race since it was impossible to actually racewalk up it. A close and steadily closing second was Australian Bob Steadman, then living in Winnipeg, in 3:14:19. Ron Kulk and Canadian Karl Merschenz captured the next two spots, followed by John Knifton, Goetz Klopfer, Canadian Marcel Jobin, and Ron Laird—a very classy field. Romansky also won the National 15 km in Nutley, N.J. in 1:14:09 on a very hot day. Ron Kulik, hosting the race beat Steve Hayden for second, with Ron Laird, Ron Daniel, and John Knifton following. The ORW postal 20 Km went to Laird in 1:32:25 with Tom Dooley just 21 seconds back. Romansky blitzed the course record in the Zinn Memorial 10 Mile in Asbury Park with a 1:10:54. Ron Daniel was 4 ½ minutes back. Wilf Wesch, a West German, walked a 1:29:02 for 20 Km in London. Gennadiy Agapov had a 1:29:19 in the USSR.

35 Years Ago (From the May 1975 ORW)—John Knifton won the National 15 Km in Chicago in 1:10:54 with Tom Dooley 42 seconds back. Bob Henderson, comebacking Larry Young, and Al Shirk followed. Mike Young, from the Colorado TC, won the Junior 15 in 1:25:50. The Mexican Revolution of our sport was really starting to blossom and was well demonstrated in a win over Canada as Bautista won the 10 Km in 42:34 with Enrique Vera just 14 seconds back. The 20 went to Raul Gonzales in 1:27:50 with Pedro Aroche and Domingo Coin also well ahead of Canada's Marcel Jobin.

30 Years Ago (From the May 1980 ORW)—Carl Schueler won the 50 Km Olympic Trial and in the process, became the first U.S. walker under 4 hours. Schueler caught Marco Evoniuk on the last of 20 laps and finished in 3:59:33. Evoniuk's 4:00:30 was also under Larry Young's previous U.S. best of 4:00:45 in the 1972 Olympics. Dan O'Connor passed Jim Heiring just after 40 Km and went on to take the third spot in 4:11:03. Jim finished in 4:12:37. Vincent O'Sullivan and Wayner Glusker filled the next two spots. A week earlier, Marcel Jobin had become the first North American under 4 hours, winning the Canadian title in 3:54:50. Jobin also came first in the U.S. 10 Km race in 41:47.3, nearly a minute ahead of Chris Hansen. O'Connor and Steve Pecinovsky were next. Jobin repeated in the Zinn Memorial 10 Km the next day with a 42:01 ahead of Ray Sharp's 42:49. Pecinovsky edged O'Connor for third this time. The races were in Chicago. Sue Brodock won the U.S. 20 Km in 1:48:22, as Vicki Jones finished second and Lori Maynard third. The men's 20 was held in Seattle with O'Connor beating a relatively weak field in 1:26:26. John

VanDenBrandt, Terry Lingbloom, and Al Halbur followed.

25 Years Ago (From the May 1985 ORW)—With heat slowing the times, Carl Schueler defended his U.S. 50 Km title in New York City. Carl's 4:18:07 left Marco Evoniuk better than 7 minutes back. Randy Mimm was another 12 minutes back, then came Dan O'Connor, Dan Pierce, and Bob Davidson. Jim Heiring won the National 5 Km in Denver in a swift 20:21. Dave Cummings had 20:40 to beat Time Lewis (20:56) for second. Marco Evoniuk, Gary Morgan, and Todd Scully were next. Maryanne Torrellas (23:52) took the women's title ahead of Ester Lopez (24:25) and Teresa Vaill (24:50). At the Mexican Walking Week, Martin Bermudez won the 20 Km in 1:23:50, Colombia's Querebin Moreno the 1 Hour with 14,270 meters, and Norway's Erling Anderson the 50 in 3:59:34. Sweden's Ann Jansson won the women's 20 Km in 1:36:37. China's Hong Yan had a women's world best of 44:14 for 10 Km, with 15 more of her country women under 48 minutes in the same race. Two days later, she did 21:43 for 5 Km, but was beaten by Jungjiy (21:42).

20 years ago (From the May 1990 ORW)—National 5 Km races were held in Bethany, Oklahoma with Tim Lewis (21:06) and Teresa Vaill (22:45) winning. Dave McGovern and Ian Whatley were second and third in the men's race. Victoria Herazo and Susan Liers got the silver bronze in the women's race.

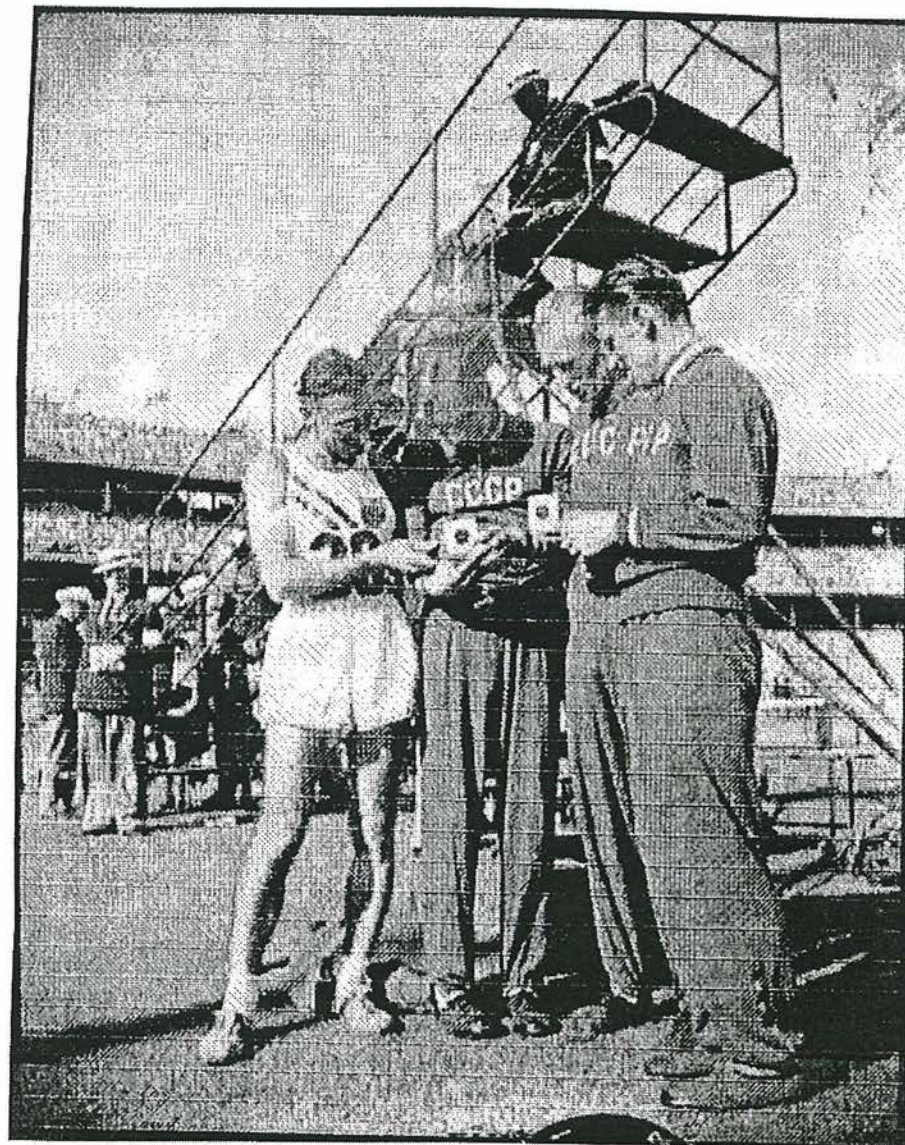
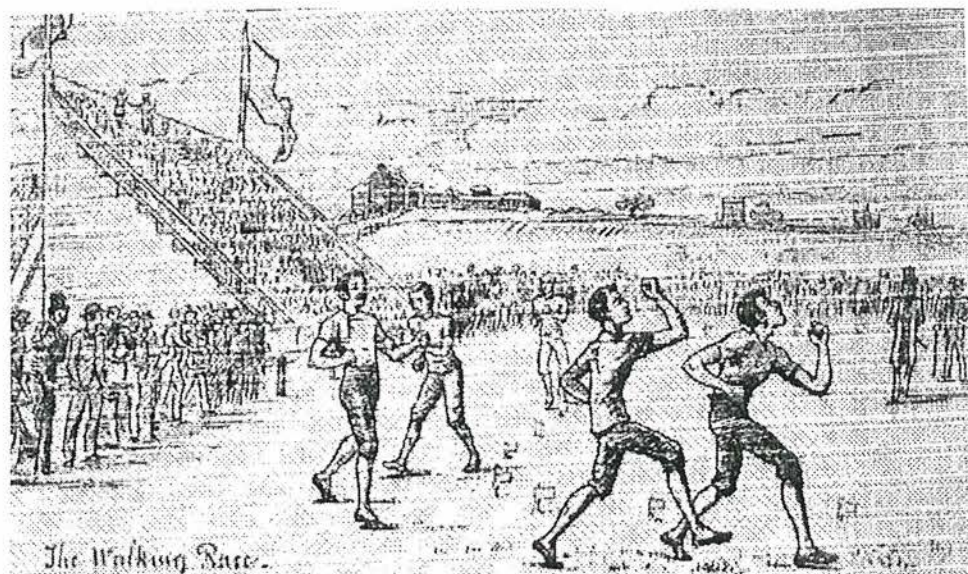
15 Years Ago (From the May 1995 ORW)—Chinese women completely dominated the World Cup 10 Km, held on their home turf in Beijing. They finished 1,3,4,12, and 25, beating Italy by 16 points in the team race. Hongmiao Gao won the race in 42:19, 13 seconds ahead of Russia's Elena Nikolaeva. With Michelle Rohl in 34th (45:57) and Victoria Herazo 42nd, the U.S. women finished 14th. The Chinese men also did well, winning both races, taking four of the top 10 spots in the 20, and finishing third in the final standings (20 and 50 combined). Mexico was first and Italy second in the team standings. The 20 went to China's Zewen Li in 1:19:44, 14 seconds ahead of Russia's Mikhail Schennikov. Bernardo Segura was third for Mexico. In the 50, Yongsheng Zhao led all the way to win 3:41:20 with Spain's Jesus Garcia 34 seconds back. Finland's Valentin Kononen was third. The U.S. men finished 13th. Allen James was 40th in the 10 (1:35:54). Those two grand vets, Carl Schueler (39) and Marco Evoniuk (37) led the way at 50, finishing 42nd and 47th. Carl had 4:06:45. In a fast Penn Relays 10 Km Nerm Nelson won in 42:06, with the Szela brothers, Kukasz and Wojtech) second and third in 42:15 and 42:55. Chad Eder had 43:02 and Tim Seaman and Curtis Fisher were also under 44. Eder had a 1:28:57 for 20 Km in Kenosha, Wis., beating Al Heppner (1:31:53). Debbi Lawrence had a 45:18 for 10 Km at the same venue.

10 Years Ago (From the May 2000 ORW)—In the Russian Championships, Valery Sp9tsyn had a world best for 50 Km with his 3:37:26 and Tatyana Gudkova bettered the World's best for the women's 20 Km by more than 2 minutes with her 1:25:18. Four others bettered the old record. The men's 20 went to Aleksandr Rasskazov in a swift 1:17:46, 30 seconds ahead of Vladimir Andreyev. In the Naumburg Grand Prix races, Germany's Andreas Erm covered 20 Km in 1:20:30 to beat China's Yunfeng Liu. China's Hoongyu Liu won the women's 20 in 1:29:20, 6 seconds ahead of Australia's Kerry Saxby, and Viktor Ginko, Belarus, won the 50 in 3:47:53. In that men's 20, Curt Clausen was 15th in 1:28:43, Sean Albert had 1:31:12, Philip Dunn 1:31:58, Kevin Eastler 1:33:51, and Tim Seaman 1:37:13.

On the women's side, Danielle Kirk did 1:35:46, Susan Armenta 1:38:14, Gretchen Eastler 1:40:24, Sara Standley 1:42:48, and Victoria Herazo 1:44:38. . . In a track race in Bergen, Norway, Ecuador's Jefferson Perez won in 1:22:08. In sixth was Andrew Hermann in 1:25:35. Kevin Eastler did 1:28:05, Sean Albert 1:30:42, and Philip Dunn 1:30:55. . . Two weeks later in Turku, Finland, Perez did 1:20:30 to beat Mexico's Alejandro Lopez (1:20:50) and Russia's Ilya Markov (1:20:53). Tim Seaman did 1:25:47, and Sean Albert 1:28:08 in that one. . . In the U.S., Michelle Rohl bettered her own U.S. best for 20 km with a blistering 1:31:51 in Kenosha, Wis. Debbi Lawrence followed in 1:34:41 with Sara Stevenson third in 1:35:22. . . Stevenson won the NAIA 3 Km in a record 12:39.62 and had a 22:00.88 to win the Penn Relays 5 Km by nearly 40 seconds over Jill Zenner.

5 Years Ago (From the May 2005 ORW)—Ecuador's Rolandro Saquipay won the Pan Am Cup 20 Km in 1:19:21, more than a minute ahead of Colombia's Fernando Lopez. Tim Seaman had a 1:27:18 in 10th. The women's 20 went to El Salvador's Cristina Lopez in 1:30:25. The U.S. was led by Amber Antonio (1:38:42) in eighth and Bobbi Jo Chapman (1:39:47) in tenth. The Junior Men's 10 Km went to Alex Tapia of Peru in 42:11 Zac Pollinger walked 44:47 in eighth. Canada's Rachel Lavallee won the Jr. Women's 10 in 47:37, 26 seconds ahead of Maria Michta. The 50 went to Mexico's Miguel Solis (3:54:24) with Horacio Nava second. Philip Dunn was eighth in 4:18:32. . . European Cup titles went to Russia's Vera Sokolova (44:09) in the Junior Women's 10 Km; Andrey Ruzavin (39:57) of Russia in the Jr. Men's 10; Olimpiada Ivanova (1:28:18) of Russia in the women's 20, Russia's Ilya Markov (1:20:50) in the men's 20; and Russia's Aleksey Voyevodin (3:51:03) in the 50. Voyevodin won by just 8 seconds from Sergey Kiryapkin. . . Racewalking Challenge races in Milan, Italy were won by Margaryta Turava, Belarus (1:28:43) and Francisco Fernandez, Spain 1:19:54.

I guess we have progressed. The drawing below, depicting racewalkers, is from the *Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News*, June 12, 1880. We can hope this was drawn by an incompetent illustrator and does not accurately portray racewalking form of that era. Thanks to Steve Vaitones for submitting it.



Melbourne Olympics, 1956. U.S. T&F Hall of Fame member Henry Laskau, who finished 12th in 1:38:46.8, admires the medals of the three Russians who swept the 20 Km event (I think I have them properly identified from another podium picture). From the left, Laskau, gold medalist Leonid Spirin (1:31:27.4), bronze medalist Bruno Junk (1:32:12), and silver medalist Antanas Mikas (1:32:03). In those days of the Soviet Union, Spirin was the only actual Russian, Mikas being Estonian and Junk Lithuanian.