Ohio Race Walker
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OHIO RACEWALKER

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U.S. World Cup Trials, Ronkonkoma, New York, April 11

Junior Men's 10 Km–1.Trevor Barron (17), NYAC 43:05 2. Tyler Sorenson (16), Un. California 45:04 3. Alejandro Chaves (16) Southwest Texas WC 47:19 4. Matthew Forgues, (17), Maine RW 47:39 5. Bruno Carriere (17), Canada 52:03 6. Julien Voyer (18), Canada 53:06 7. Mitchell Brickson (17), Miami Valley TC 55:41 8. Jonathan Hallman (18), un. 59:13 DQ–John Randall (17), Miami Valley

The first three will represent the U.S. at the World Cup in Mexico in May.. Trevor Barron had another outstanding performance on a difficult course with many turns and some potholes from a severe winter to dodge. Barron got away early and the outcome was never in doubt. Sorenson, still only 16 also had an outstanding racce. Alejandro Chavez, also just 16, stepped up strongly from his usual 1 mile races and beat out Matthew Forgues for the final spot on the team. The two walked together for most of the first 8 Km, but Alejandro managed to accelerate over the final two laps to take the third spot. All four will still be available for World Cup duty in two years. Assuming they all continue to improve we should have an outstanding junior team. The only fly ointment in that ointment is that Trevor Barron might very well be walking the 20 Km on the men's national team at that time. He could have easily qualified for that team on this day.

Junior Women 10 Km–1. Rachel Zoyhofski (18), un. 55:12 2. Nicolette Sorenson (14), un. 57:04 3. Erika Shaver (17), Miami Valley TC 57:46 4. Abby Dunn (15), Maine RW 58:47 5. Molly Josephs, Walk USA 59:38 6. Courtney Williams, Maine RW 60:21 7. Amy Cheung (17), Walk USA 62:25 8. Nicole Court-Menendez (15), Maine RW 63:06
None of these young ladies walked fast enough to earn the trip to Mexico, but as with the Junior men, most of them will still be juniors in two years and can earn another shot at World Cup competition.

Men's 20 Km–1. Patrick Stroupe, un. 1:32:10 2. Tim Seaman, NYAC 1:36:29 3. Dan Serianni (19), World Class RW 1:38:26 4. Mike Mannozzi, Notre Dame College 1:41:28 5. Michael Kazmierski, Walk USA 1:42:34 6. John Soucheck (44), Shore AC 1:49:35 7. Steve Pecinovsky (55), World Class 1:51:52 8. Marin Perez (40), Park RW 1:55:26 9. Chris Schmid (63), World Class 1:55:47 10. David Swartz (44), Pegasus AC 1:58:30 11. Leon Jasionowski (65), Pegasus 1:59:24 12. Bill Reed (57), Pegasus 2:07:09 13. Alex Davidson (54), Eastside RW 2:10:09 DQ–Alexandre Gagne, Can and Jose Moncada, Southeastern Penn. DNF–Dave Talcott, (50), Shore AC

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A disappointing turnout for this race with many potential team members absent due to injury, personal obligations that prevent travel to Mexico in May, and, perhaps, some reluctance to compete at altitude in a city considered by many to be dangerous because of the drug trade. In any case, Patrick Stroupe easily won the race and at press time, will be accompanied on the Mexican trip by Dan Serianni. Tim Seaman is passing on the trip. Absentees t who would been strong contenders for the team were Ben Shorey, Steve Quirke, Chris Tegtmeier, John Nunn, and Mike Tarantino.

Women's 20 Km–1. Rachel Seaman (24), Canada 1:39:25 2. Miryam Ramon (37), Ecuador 1:41:13 3. Sandra Zapata, Colombia 1:41:35 4. Maria Michta, Walk USA 1:43:36 5. Solomiya Login, Southeastern Penn. 1:44:05 6. Miranda Melville, Parkside U. 1:47:32 7. Stephanie Casey, un. 1:49:43 8. Carolyn Kealty (47), World Class 1:53:02 9. Susan Armenta, New Balance 1:53:34 10. Susan Randall, Miami Valley 1:54:05 11. Lisa Vellucci, Eastside RW 2:02:33 12. Jamie Kootz, un. 2:08:42 DQ–Erin Gray. DNF–Teresa Vaill (47), Walk USA and Erin Taylor, Shore AC

At press time, the U.S. team will be Login, Melville, and Casey, with Michta apparently not available. The entire U.S. contingent will be completed Jonathan Matthews, Ray Sharp, and Dave McGovern who qualified at the U.S. 50 Km Championships in February. Stephen Quirke, who won that race, andAllen James, who finished third, announced at that time that they were not available for World Cup duty.

Augustyn Wins Challenge Race In Ducince

Dudince, Slovak, Republic, March 28–Poland's 25-year-old Rafal Augustyn produced a strong finish to win the 50 Km race at the 29th Dudinska Patdesatka meet. The European Athletics meeting was the fourth event in the 2010 IAAF Racewalking Challenge Series.

Augustyn's 3:49:54 took 2 minutes off his personal best and led his teammate Artur Brzozowski by just 13 seconds. Ireland's Robert Heffernan was just a stride behind Przozowski in third..

Heffernan, sixth in the 2007 World Championships 20 Km, and eighth in the Olympic 20 was making his debut at 50 km and seemed on his way to victory. But, the two Poles caught him with about 300 meters to go and he had no answer to their finish.

Heffernan shared the early pace with Norway's Trond Nymark, the 2009 World Championship silver medalist at the distance, but Heffernan went off on his own after 15 Km. Starting the final 2 Km loop, Heffernan had a lead of 1:20, but started to fold early in that lap. Although having to settle for third, he was rewarded with a National record. Nymark, suffering from stomach problems dropped out after 30 Km. "The pain was so bad I couldn't cope with it any longer. I'm unhappy because I was looking for around 3:45 here," commented Nymark.

Augustyn, on the other hand noted: "I was only thinking about third or fourth place today. I did not expect such a good time, nor expect to beat the likes of Nymark or Heffernan. It's also a matter of huge pride that I'm the Polish champion as well (the race was also the Polish championships) and my name will be inscribed on the trophy alongside famous names

from the past. I knew in the last four kilometers that I had a chance of winning and, 400 meters from the finish, I started to dream about hearing our national anthem.

The meeting also included 20 Km races for men and women though not part of the IAAF Challenge Series) and Junior 10 Km races among a total of 14 races that saw 271 walkers from 22 nations compete. Results of the 50,and other significant races:

Men's 50 Km–1. Rafal Augustyn, Poland 3:49:54 2.Artur Brzozowski, Poland 3:50:07 3. Robert Heffernan, Ireland 3:50:08 4. Lukasz Nowak, Poland 3:50:30 5. Christopher Linke, Germany 3:53:24 6. Antonio Pereira, Portugal 3:55:41 7. Kim Dong Young, Korea 3:56:40 8. Shin Xi-Yong, Korea 3:57:46 9. Cedric Houssaye, France 3:59:20 10. Milos Batowsky, Slovak Rep. 4:01:15 11. Ivan Losev, Ukraine 4:01:51 12. Dusan Majdan, Slo vak Rep. 4:02:56 13. Maik Berger, Germany 4:04:16 14. Vladimir Savanovic, Serbia 4:06:47 15. Brendan Boyce, Ireland 4:08:07 16. Xavier Le Coz, France 4:16:05 17. Aleksey Khimin, Russia 4:16:24 18. Oh Se-Man, Korea 4:17:30 19. Maksym Kovalenko, Ukraine 4:18:18 10. Laszlo Novak, Hungary 4:21:16 21. Christer Svensson, Sweden 4:24:42 (32 finishers; 20 DNF; 2 DQ)
Men's 20 Km 1. Matej Toth, Slovak Rep. 1:22:25 2. Ruslan Dmytrenko, Ukraine 1:22:47 3. Nazar Kovalenko, Ukraine 1:23:46 4.Andrei Talashka, Belarus 1:23:48 5. Anton Kicmin, Slovak Rep. 1:27:04 6. Recep Calik, Hungary 1:28:46 8. Ciprian Deac, Romania 1:32:07 9. Likasz Augustyn, Poland 1:32:16 11. John Egan, Ireland 1:32:35 11. Nils Gloger, Germanyu 1:32:52 12. David Kidd, Ireland 1:33:15 13. Miroslaw Luniewski, Poland 1:52:16 ((3 DQ, 9 DNF **Women's 20 Km**–1. Zuzana Schindlerova, Czech Rep. 1:34:20 2. Zuzana Malikova, Slovak Rep. 1:34:53 3. Viktoria Madarasz, Hungaryu 1:36:27 4. Lucia Pelantova, Czech. Rep. 1:39:01 5. Agniezka Szwarnog, Poland 1:40:31 6. Justyne Swierczyriska, Poland 1:44:56 (12 finishers, 9 DNF **Men's Under 20 10 Km**–1. Ihor Lashchenko, Ukraine 41:20 2. Hagen Pohie, Germany 42:22 3. Aku Partanen, Finland 42:28 4. Ihor Puzanov, Ukraine 42:32 5. Choi Byong-Kwang, Korea 42:36 6. Pavel Schrom, Czech Rep. 43:33 7. Jakub Herba, Poland 45:22 8. Viktor Markus, Hungary 45:34 (17 finishers, 2 DNF, 2 DQ0 **Women's Under 20 10 Km**–1. Anna Chernenko, Ukraine 47:28 2. Berta Kivian, Hungary 47:56 3. Charlyne Czychy, Germany 49:38 (16 finishers) **Men;s Under 18 10 Km**–1. Miklos Srp,Hungary 45:17 2. James Traenor, Ireland 46:06 3. Valters Gerina, Latvia 47:51 4. Peter Tichy, Slovak Rep. 48:51 (10 finishers, 2 DQ) **Women's Under 18 5 Km**–1. Katarina Strmenova, Slovak Rep. 23:40 2. Viktoriya Kudlatska, Ukraine 24:31 3. Anezka Drahotova, Czech Rep. 24:47 4. Nikola Piliarove, Slovak Rep. 24:56 (26 finishers, 1 DQ)

Challenge Continues In Portugal With 20 Km Wins by Vera Santos and Erik Tysse

Rio Maior, Portugal, April 11 (From the IAAF by Antonio Manuel Fernandes)–Rio Maior was the fifth stop on the IAAF Challenge series and the hometown crowd was excited by Vera Santos' win in the women's 20 Km. On the men's side, Norway's Erik Tysse scored a decisive win.

Santos, the fifth pace finisher at the 2009 World Championships, was at the front throughout. In the first 10 Km she had China's Yanfei Li, the 2008 World Junior bronze medalist, and Germany's Melanie Seeger for company. After 12 Km, only Lie remained in contention and soon Santos was on her own. Struggling a bit in the closing stages, Santos finished in 1:29:16. "This was great winning here," said Santos, who was third in the 2008 Racewalking World Cup. "I'm feeling in good shape and felt this was my day. I forced the pace to the finish. I felt that I'm not so good in the final sprint, but I had some good signals after the Portuguese Championship."

Behind Santos, Seeger made a good recovery and forced the pace to finish second in 1:30:11, just ahead of Spain's Julia Takacs, who improved her personal best by 22 seconds, clocking 1:30:20. Yanfei Li struggled in the late stages, and finished fourth, 33 seconds behind Takacs.

In th men's race, the contest was clearly between Tysse and Frenchman Yohan Diniz, with Tysse, the winner here in 2008, prevailing. The Norwegian, who also finished third here twice, clocked 1:20:08 to the Frenchman's 1:20:23.

"The win was a first step towards achieving my main goal, the European Championship podium," said Tysse, who was seventh at the World Championships at this distance last year. "I'm in good shape and I proved it today. I'm going now for a period of training at altitude, in Arizona, where the Portuguese women Susana Feitor, Ines Henriques, and Ana Cabecinha also train." Tysee too is planning to compete at the next Challenge Meeting in Sesto San Giovanni.

Behind the leading pair, China's Zhen Wang, who was sixth in Lugano earlier this season, clocked a personal best 1:20:42 to finish third, ahead of Luis Fernando Lopez of Colombia, the 2008 South American Champion, who clocked 1:21:17. Eder Sanchez of Mexico, third in both the 2008 World Cup and 2009 World Championships, was fifth in 1:21:45, a disappointing performance for him.

Before the start of the competition, the organizers asked for a minute of silence to honor Polish president Lech Kacznski who perished in a tragic plane crash the day before. Poland's Grzegorz Sudol did not finish the race. The results:

Women: 1. Vera Santos, Portugal 1:29:16 2. Melanie Seeger, Germany 1:30:11 3. Julia Takacz, Spain 1:30:20 4. Yanfei Li, China 1;30:53 5. Ana Cabecinha, Portugal 1:31:14 6. Beatriz Pascual, Spain 1:31:41 7. Ines Henriques, Portugal 1:32:19 8. Kristina Saltanovic, Lithuania 1:32:42 9. Li Li, China 1:34:25 10. Maria del Rosario Sanchez, Mexico 1:36:53 11. Tania Spindler, Brazil 1:37:01 12. Cisiana Dutra Lopes, Brazil 1:37:30 13. Lauri Polli, Switzerland 1:38:10 14. Marie Polli, Switz. 1:39:43 15. Sara Alonso Casisio, Spain 1:42:46 (19 finishers, 5 DNF including Olive Laughnane, Ireland, 2 DQ)
Men: 1. Erik Tysse, Norway 1:20:08 2. Yohan Diniz, France 1:20:23 3. Zhen Wang, China 1:20:42 4. Luis Fernando Lopez, Cololbia 1:21:17 5. Eder Sanchez, Mexico 1:21:45 6. Ding Chen, China 1:21:59 7. Matej Toth, Slovak Rep. 1:22:04 8. Hyunsub Kim, Korea 1:22:24 9. Andre Hohen, Germany 1:22:49 10. Jose Ignacio Diaz, Spain 1:23;09 11. Colin Griffin, Ireland 1:23;53 12. Maik Berger, Germany 1:24:39 13. Donatas Skarnulis, Lithuania 1:24:43 15. Jarkko Kinnunen, Finland 1:24:43 15. Young-Joon Byun, Korea 1:25:25 16. Carsgten Schmidt, Germany 1:26:07 17. Pedro Isidro, Portugal 1:26:11 18. Juan Cano, Argentina 1:26:22 19. Jose David Dominguez, Spain 1:26:52 20. Augusto Cardoso, Portugal 1:26:56 21. Andres Chocho, Ecuador 1:27:42 22. Mikel Odriozola, Spain 1:28:09 23. Giovanni Torres, Mexico 1:28:24 24. Hedi Teraoui, Tunisia 1:29:58 25. Jorge Costa, Portugal 1:31:25 (36 finishers, DQ Hatem Ghoula, Tunisia; 11 DNF including Grzegorz Sudol, Poland, and Sergio Vieira, Portugal.)

Other Results

Great races at Penn Relays, Philadelphia, April 24 Men's 10 Km–1. Dan Serianni, World Class RW 44:57.16 2. Mike Mannozzi, Notred Dame Col. 46:41.64 9 (Personal records for both) 3. Michael Kazmierczak, Walk USA 48:26.91 4. Kyle Hively, un., Ohio 49:11.11 5. Kris Shear, Cornerstone U. 51:11.66 6. David Lindenmann, Lindenwood U. 58:54.62 **Jr. Men's 10 Km**–1. Tyler Sorenson, un. 43:58.06 (personal record) 2. Alex Chavez, South Texas WC 48:19.85 3. Mitchell Brickson, Miami Valley TC 52:57.47 4. John Randall, Miami

Valley 53:08.93 5. Jonathan Hallmann, un. 57:40.95 **Women's 5 Km**–1. Joanne Dow, un. 22:19.91 2. Rachel Seaman, Ontario RW 22:30.40 3. Maria Michta, Walk USA 22:55.55 4. Lauren Forgues, Champions International 23:28.96 5. Erin Bresnahan, Walk USA 23:59.07 6. Jessica Ching, Lindenwood U. 24:10.85 7. Janelle Brown, Cornerstone U. 25:10.76 8. Susan Randall, World Class RW 25:24.62 9. Olivia Lapham, Penfield AC 25:48.77 10. Lindsay Herman, un. 27:08.28 11. Katie Malinowski, Cornerstone U/ 27"29.72 12. Alexis Gutterman, Lindenwood U. 28:01.33 **Masters**–1. Maryanne Daniel, Conn. RW 26:47.85 2. Panseluta Geer, Shore AC 32:15.94 **Jr. Women's 4 Km**–1. Abby Dunn, Maine RW 25:34.15 2. Erika Shaver Maimi Valley TC 26:16.61 3. Cosby Tillman, Somers H.S. 26:40.84 4. Molly Josephs, Walk USA 27:37.06 5. Courtney Williams, Maine RW 27:57.58 6. Rachel Tylock, Penfield H.S. 28:03.80 7. Reini Brickson, Miami Valley 28:13.14 8. Nicole Court-Mendendez, Maine RW 28:28.96 9. Cristine Kubus, Penfield H.S. 30:29.64 10. Hannah Kisley, Raleigh Walkers 30:29.87 11. Mercedes Mancha, Saint Xavier U. 30:36.35 12. Alyssa DeNisco, Minisink Valley H.S. 30:55.87

USATF National Masters Indoor 3000 meters, Boston , March 28: Women 30–1. Erin Taylor 15:15.56 Women 45–1. Rebecca Garson 18:59.36 Women 50–1. Maryanne Daniel 18:07.54 Women 55–1. Debbie Topham 18:0827 Women 60–1. Panseluta Geer 19:)9.23 2. Kathleen Frable 19:28.20 3. Jeanette Priest 20:43.50 Women 65–1. Jolene Steigerwalt 19:55.84 2. Carole Homer 24:25.21 Women 80–Miriam Gordon 25:30.41 Men 45–1. Dave Talcott 14:17.04 2. Bruce Logan 16:07.89 3. Pal D'Elisa 18:51.99 Men 50–1. Don Lawrence 15:49.58 2. Stephen Peckiconis 15:53.56 3. Larry Epstein 17:09.55 (1 DQ) Men 55–1. Peter Blank 18:51.55 2. Richard Tuers 21:24.58 Men 60–1. Chris Schmid 14:20.64! 2. Bob Keating 15:13.02 3. Andrew Smith 15:17.42 4. Norman Frable 16:06.10 5. Jay Diener 17:54.22 6. John Fredericks 17:59.38 7. Bill Harriman 19:26.66 8. Joe Light 19:13.55 Men 65–1. Leon Jasionowski 16:44.57 2. Tom Knatt 18:49.97 3. Joel Dubow 19:47.41 4. Charles Mansbach 19:49.68 (2 DQ) Men 70–1. James Beckett 17:42.96 2. Robert Nichols 20:45.18 3. Gustave Davis 21:47.61 (1 DQ) Men 80–1. John Starr 20:08.03 Men 85–1. Charles Boyle 23:11.86 **8 Km, Westerley, R.I., April 18**–1. Mike Kazmierczak 40:22 2. Maryanne Daniel (51) 47:53 3. Larry Epstein (51) 48:16 4. Brian Savilonis (59) 50:34 5. Barry Fowler (52) 50:34 6. Dorothy Zullo (50) 51:23 7. Jay Diener (61) 52:26 8. Mark Zullo (57) 52:27 9. Bill Harriman (67) 53:15 10. Charles Mansbach (65) 55:04 **5 Km, New York City, April 18**–1. Bill Vayo (45) 26:34 2. Rafael Marin (44) 26:59 3. Bruce Logan (45) 27:44 4. Diana Quinde (16) 28:24 5. Vlado Haluska (57) 28:58 6. Alexis Davidson (54) 29:06 7. David Wolf (50) 29:10 8. Greg Dawson (43) 30:02 9. John Kosa (53) 30:02 11. Kimberly Iboy (15) 31:36 12. Karen Zheng (15) 32:05 13.Andres Fernandez (58) 32:16 14. Lisa Li (16) 32:28 15. Naomi Kim (16) 32:29 16. Nicole Zhao (16) 32:32 17. Katerina Lembrikova (16) 32:42 18. Pansuleta Geer (63) 32:54 19. Myrian Rangon (42) 32:55 20. Linda Luu (14) 33:00. . .26. Frank Bergsen (71) 34:16 (42 finishers, 3 DQ) **5 Km, Ronkonkoma, N.Y., April 11**–1. Danielle Opatorsky (16) 28:56 2. Kelly Manachuck (15) 31;18 3. Spencer Dunn (11) 31;34 4. Katie Michta (13) 32:02 5. Katie Barber (17) 32:17 6. Brittany Collins (15) 36:00 (10 finishers, 1 DQ) **10 Km, Wall Township, N.J., March 28**–1. John Soucheck 51:15 (1st 40-49 2. Alexis Davidson 61:19 (1st 50-59) 3. Tom Quattrocchi 65:25 4. Ray Robertson 66:50 (1st 60-69) 5. Ben Ottmer 71:20 (1st 70-79) 6. Victor Martinez 1;22:16 7. Bob Mimm 1:24:05 (1st 80-89) Women–1. Maria Paul 69:17 (1st 40-49) 2. Susan Middaugh 73:25 (5 finishers) **5000 meters, Raleigh, N.C., March** –1. Miranda Melville 24:42.80 2. Le'erin Voss 25:56.88 3. Rachel Zoyhofski 26:15.71 4. Tony Hackney 27:37.83 5. Mike DeWitt 28:38.79 6. Lindsay Herman 28:40.77 7. Hannah Kisley 30:27.81 9. Zach Zenko 31:46.71 9. Cher Armstrong 31:48.34 10. Paula Graham 33:46.72 11. Stephen Durrant 36:)8.26 (1 DQ) **5000 meters, Cedarville, Ohio, March 27**–1. Megan Furnish 25:18.98 2. Erika Shaver 25:32.21 3. Susan Randall 26:15.90 4. Amanda Johnso;n 26:30.47 5. Chelsea Conway 28:14.93 6. Reini Brickson 28:51.96 7. Marie Egbert 32:20.29 8. Danielle Stockham 32:50.05 Men–Josh Wiseman

22:21.21 2. Roberto Vergara 22:57.90 3. Ricardo Vergara 23:02.91 4. Mike Mannozzi 23:36.50 5. Kyle Hively 24:12.49 6. John Randall 25:11.04 7. Mitchell Brickson 25:20.50 8. Paul Ikeda 26:20.54 9. Grant Bacon 26:25.16 10. Joel Pfahler 28:47.77 (1 DQ) **5000 meters, Canton, Ohio, April 3**–1. Mike Mannozzi 22:40.53 2. Chris Schmid 25:18 3. Paul Ikeda 25:44 4. Joel Pfahler 27:51 5. Kyle Shaffer 31:44 (1 DQ) Women–1. Reini Brickson 30:11 2. Marie Egbert 31:24 3. Danielle Stockhan 32:45 4. Leanna Hartsough 34:44 **Mideast Conference 5000 meters, North Canton, Ohio, April 17**–1. Josh Wiseman, Cedarville U. 20:46.06 (The junior is coming on strong.) 2. Mike Mannozzi, Notre Dame Col. 21:37.78 3. Paul Ikeda, Cedarville 25:36 4. Grant Bacon, Cedarville 25:59 5. Joel Pfahler, Cedarville 26:11 6. Kule Shaffer, Malone 29:26 7. Brandon Lang, Malone 31:35 8. Bob Fay, Walsh 31:41 (10 finishers, 1 DQ) Women–1. Amanda Tingley, Cedarville 35:20.42 2. Allison Black, Malone 35:22 3. Page Nagy, Malone 36:20 (6 finishers, 1 DQ) **Mid-South Conference 5000 meters, Rio Grande, Ohio, April 24**–1. Robert Vergara, Lindsey Wilson Col. 23:37.42 2. Ricardo Vergara, Lindsey Wilson 23:42.21 3. Kyle Goode, Rio Grande 29:41.97 (f (5 finishers) Women–1. Megan Nicole Furnish, Lindsey Wilson 25:54.81 2. Amanda Johnson, Lindsey Wilson 18:01.72 3. Chelsea Conway, Lindsey Wilson 38:39.44 4. Danielle Stockham, Rio Crande 31:43.05 (5 finishrs, 2 DQ) **5000 meters, Goshen, Indiana, March 27**–1. Tina Peters 26:23.58 2. Janelle Brown 26:57.39 3. Katie Malinowski 27:00.62 4. Katie Burnett 27:25 (1 DQ) Men–1. Kris Shear 24:59.90 2. Jacob Gunderkline 25:38.26 3. David Horst 16:20.52 (1 DQ) **World Youth Olympics USA Trials, Arlington, Texas, April 3: Boys 10 Km**–1. Tyler Sorenson 45:52.61 2. Joshua Haertel 58:21.52 3. Jonathan Hallman 63:36 **Girl's 5 Km**–1. Julia Townsend 32:18.20 (The winnes are eligible for selection to the World Youth Olympics in Singapore this summer. Four young men and three young women from all of North and South America will be selected for the team. Tyler Sorenson would appar to be a strong candidate for selection.) **20 Km, Huntington Beach, Cal., March 14**–1. Mike Tarantino 1:32:19 2. Creighton Connolly, Canada 1:36:42 3. Lauren Forgues 1:51:08 4. Pedro Santoni (52) 1:57:26 5. Sherry Watts (56), Canada 2:07:37 6. Rick Campbell (64) 2:14:49 7. Deo Jaravata (45) 2:17:49 8. Louise Walters (70) 2:17:49 9. Mike Mazote (52) 2:18:40 10. John Backlund (70) 2:22:36 (13 finishers) **5 Km, same place**–1. Constantine Yap (10) 30:45 2. Ray Billig (52) 31:17 3. Patsy Hurley (15) 31:24 4. Ryan Thong (9) 32:26 5. Courtney Thong (12) 32:26 6. Art Morrow (45) 32:32 7. Janet Robinson (68) 32:45 8. Victoria Yap (13) 33:41 9. Bill Moremen (82) 35:08 (14 finishers) **10 KM, San Diego, March 28**–1. Andreas Gustafsson, Sweden 40:46 2. Tim Seaman 42:20 Women–1. Liz Salvato 59:40 2. Tcckhnata Mctzlcr 59:44 3. Lillian Cordova 63:59 **10 Km, Walnut, Cal., April 11**–1. Pedro Santoni (52) 56:22 2. Alex Kazaryan (55) 63:23 3. Deo Jaravata (45) 66:59 4. Wayne Wurzberger (68) 68:11 5. Patrick Bivona (67) 69:39 (7 finishers) Women–1. Sherry Watts (58), Canada 60:17 **3000 meteers, Portland, Ore. March 21**–1. Rob Frank (57) 16:07 2. Dennis Robeson (62) 17:08 3. George Opsahl (68) 17:26 4. Ron MacPike (77) 21:11 5. Dick Vaughn (79) 22:09 Women–1. Carmen Jacinsky (46) 17:14 **1 Mile, Banks, Oregon, April 11**–1. Rob Frank (57) 8:17 2. Dennis Robeson (52) 8:32.5 3. George Opsahl (68) 9:08 Women–1. Nana Bellerud (50) 8:46 2. Carmen Jacinsky (46) 8:54 3. Kara Karanovic (47) 10:21 **5000 meters, Seattle, April 11**–1. Evan Dunfee (19), Canada 19:55.6 2. Gerry Dragomir (58), Canada 26:04.4 3. Bob Novak (60) 28:28.3 4. Stan Chraminski (62) 29:19.1 5. Ann Tuberg (50) 29:27.8 6. Bart Kale (53) 32:40.1

Belarus Racewalking Cup, Nesvizh, April 10: Men's 20 Km–1. Ivan Trotski 1:21:09 2. Andrei Talashka 1:21:13 3. Vitali Talankou 1:21:43 **Men's 35 Km**–1. Aliaksandr Kazakou 2:35:54 2. Andrei Stsepanchuk 2:37:52 3. Alexey Litvinchuk 2:39:27 **Women's 20 Km**–1. Hanna Drabenia 1:34:02 2. Sniazhana Yurchanka 1:34:28 3. Alina Matveyuk 1:34:57 **Junior Men's 10 km**–1. Aleh Sauchanka 42:03 2. Yauhen Zaleski 43:58 3. Barya Sharhar 42:59

Junior women's 10 Km–1. Marina Kuzhyak 47:42 2. Kseniya Umets 48:08 3. Tatsiana Stsefanenka 48:32 **South African Junior Championships, Germiston, April 10-11: Men's 10 Km**–1. Ruan Wessels 48:27.05 2. Jandre Botes 49:50 3. Mfana Mbatha 50:49 (8 finishers) **Women's 10 Km**–1. Corli Sart 51:40.20 2. Inge Kotze 54:57 3. J. de Klerk 56:23 (9 finishers) **20 Km Podebrady, Czech Republic, April 10**–1. Giorgio Rubino, Italy 1:22:22 2. Antonin Boyez, France 1:23:25 3. Jakub Jelonek, Poland 1:23:28 4. Ato Ibanez, Sweden 1:23:30 5. Anton Kucmin, Slovak Rep. 1:23:37 6. Kevin Campion, France 1:24:01 7. Tadas Suskevicius, Lithuania 1:24;09 8. Daniele Paris, Italy 1:25:12 9. Perseus Karlstrom, Sweden 1:25:32 10. Fortunato D'Onofrio, Italy 1:25:53 11. Milan Rizek, Slovak Rep. 1:26:13 12. Mehdi Boufraine, France 1:27:47 13. Daniele Masciandri, Italy 1:28:57 14. Nils Gloger, Germany 1:29:27 15. Carlo Alberto De Casa, Iaaly 1;30:47 16. Karel Ketner, Czech Rep. 1:30:55 17. Milos Holusa, Czech Rep. 1:31:09 18. Ricardas Rekst, Lithuania 1:32:15 19. Ro;man Riha, Czech Rep. 1:33:29 20. Jakub Zajic, Czech Rep. 1:33:29 (30 finishers , 4 DQ, 6 DNF) **Women**–1. Sibilia De Vincenzo, Italy 1:32:10 2. Brigita Virbalyte, Lithuania 1:32:17 3. Lucie Pelantova, Czech Rep. 1:32:57 4. Eleonora Giorgi, Italy 1:34:00 5. Katarzyna Kwoka, Poland 1:34:21 6. Federica Ferraro, Italy 1:35:45 7. Anne-Gaelle Retour, France 1:36:21 8. Christin Elb, Germany 1:37:41 9. Agnese Pastare, Latvia 1:37:56 10. Christine Duinaudeau, France 1:38:21 11. Anne Halkivaha, Finland 1:40:46 12. Sandra Mitrovic, France 1:42:39 (20 finishers, 2 DQ, 2 DNF) **Under 20 Men's 10 Km, same place**–1. Hagen Pohle, Germany 41:15 2. Aku Partanen, Finland 41:41 3. Massimo Stano, Italy 42:21 4. Giovanni Reno, Italy 42:35 5. Marcel Lehmberg, Germany 43:05 6. Leonardo Dei Tos, Italy 43:10 7. Leonardo Serra, Italy 43:57 8. Jiri Malysa, Czech Rep. 44:23 9. Fenadij Koslovskij, Lithuania 44:26 10. Marcel Faber, Slovak Rep. 44:29 (26 finishers) **Women's Under 20 10 Km**–1. Antonella Palmisano, Italy 45:49 2. Anna Clemente, Italy 46:42 3. Charlyne Czychy, Germany 47:16 4. Berta Krivan, Hungary 47:19 5. Emilie Manuet, France 47:26 6. Ines Pastorino, France 48:07 7. Katarina Strmenova, Slovak Rep. 48:50 8. Federica Curiazzi, Italy 49:51 9. Agne Klebauskaite, Lithuania 49:54 10. Karolia Svwerdaite, Lithuania 50:10 (23 finishers) **Ukraine Indoor Championships, Feb. 20: Women's 5000 meters**–1. Olena Shevchuk 22:10.40 2. Lyudmila Shelest 22:23.14 3. Olena Miroshnechenko 22:31.43 4. Anna Chernenko 22:37.89 5. Nadia Borovska 22:52.78 6. Lydmila Olyanovska 23:00.26 (11 finisherss) **Men's 10 Km**--1. Nazar Kovalenko 39:20.52 2. Andrey Koenko 39:46.62 3. Ivan Losyev 40:08.24 4. Ruslan Dmytrenko 40:24.0 5. Oleksandr Venglo;vski 40:24.56 6. Igor Lyanshenko 40:56.50 (Junior) 7. Oleksandr Romanenko 41:58.61 (13 finishers) **25 Km, Nairobi, Kenya, April 4**–1. David Kimutai 1:48:26 2. Sylvanus Wakesa 1:51:00 3. Eric Shikuku 1:56:37 Women–1. Chepng'etich Koske 1:57:04 2. Esther Murugi 1:57::03 3. Esther Wairinu 1:59:00

Care To Race; There's Many A Place

Sun. May 2	20 Km, Portland, Oregon (B)
Fri. May 7	H.S. Racewalks, Yellow Springs, Ohio (M
Sat. May 8	Masters 5 Km, Wwestminster, Col., 8 am (H))
Sun. May 9	Jack Mortland Walks, 5, 110, and 20 Km, Dayton, Ohio (M)
Sat. May 15	5 Km, Denver, 7:15 am (H)
Sun. May 16	**National USATF and West Region Masers 15 Km, Riverside,Cal.(Y)**
	1 Mile and 3000 meters, Falls Church, Vir. (N)
Sat. May 22	5 Km, Thornton, Col., 8 am (H)
Sun. May 23	Midwest Regional 10 Km and Open 3 Km, Dearborn, Mich. (F)
	5 Km, Littleton, Col., 8 am (H)
Sat. May 29	2 Miles, Royal Oak, Mich. (F)

	10 and 20 Km, Denver area, 8 am (H)
Sun. May 30	1 Mile and 3000 meters, Falls Church, Vir. (N)
Mon. May 31	10 Km, Boulder, Col., 7:30 am (H)
Sat. June 5	5 Km, Fontana, Cal. (P)
	National USATF 10 Km, Albany, N.Y. (D)
Sun. June 6	5 Km, Walnut, Cal. (P)
Sun. June 13	1 Mile and 3000 meters, Falls Church, Vir. (N)
Sun. June 20	SCA Masters 5 Km, Los Angeles area (P)
Sat. June 26	**USATF National Women's 20 Km, Jr. Men's 10 Km Des Moines, Iowa (D)**
	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)
Sun. July 4	8 Km, Alexandria, Va.., 7 am (N)
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)

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From Heel To Toe

Kaniskina honored. Russia's Olga Kaniskina, Olympic and two-time World gold medalist in the 20 Km walk, has been named by the All-Russian Sports Organization as the country's Star of Sport" . A great honor for racewalking.. The second and third place winners were

figure skater Yevgeni Plyushchenko, Olympic silver medalist, and two-time Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbaeeva. Others considered were soccer player Andrey Arshavin, tennis player Nikolai Davydenko, and tennis player Svetlana Kuznetsova. The Russian Union of Athletes who made the award was founded in 1992. Its 52 departments total more than 3000 outstanding Russian athletes. . .**Also from Russia.** The 2007 European Junior 10 Km racewalk champion, Yelena Shumkina, has decided to leave the Russian Olympic training center in Mordovia led by Victor Chegin and will represent Ukraine in the future. Shumkina left after marrying a Ukrainian citizen and apparently there were no hard feeling on the part of the Russians. However, IAAF rules stipulate a three-year waiting period before competing for another nation. The Secretary General of the All-Russian Federation of Track and Field, Mikhail Butov notes that there might be some reconsideration of the rule by the IAAF in light of agreement between Russian and Ukraine on Shumkina's move. . .**Opinion.** This from John Knifton, who, after emigrating from the UK, competed on U.S. World Cup teams in 1970, 1973, and 1975, the first two at 50 Km, the third at 20: ". . I was amazed to read that Jonathan Matthews, at 53 years of aage, could walk 50 Km in under 4:24; I was also impressed that he was able to maintain a 70 mile per week training scheudle in Montona's legendarhy wintoer cold,; ice, and snow. Presumably some of tha distance been covered indoors, possible on a treadmill" As some one who occasionally trains 2to 3 miles n a treadmill when it gets "cold" in central Texas, I get intensely bored after the first five minutes! It would be interestingtohear more from Jonathan regarding his training regime and how he maintains his metal toughness under such harsh conditions. All the finishers of this year's 50 shoul be congratulated on their performances and all thehard work, deication, and preparation it took to reach the finishing line. Jonathan, Ray, Mark, and Chris are turyly amazing "master" 50+ athletes. And yet, when they toe the start at the World Cup, surrounded by many fine 20 +-year-old athletes, they will be regarded as "old men" who will at best finish 30 to 60 minutes behind the eventual winners. Is this the image we want to present to the media regarding the US racewalking scene? **Maybe the US racewalking committee should consider an age cap on the athletes we send to the world championships?** After all, many prominent racewalking countries have their "selection Committee". Possibly the US monies saved could be redirected to our youth programs and in supporting/encouraging our younger athletes to compete at the 50 Km distance.; P.S. After running 15 miles this morning on abeautiful, sunny, warm spring day in entral Texas, I feel extremely lucky to just still "be out there" at 70 years of age.:. **More Knifton.** A few days before John had seen that issue and sent his opinions, I had sent him the following e-mail: "Last evening I discovered that we go back further than I realized. Looking through my files for something else, I noticed my ancient collection *Race Walking Record* issues. (Ed. RWR is a British publication.) The first issue I have in July 1961, which I picked up when Ron Zinn and I were in London with the U.S. National track team, which had duals in the USSR, West Germany, England, and Poland. In London, there was no walk as part of the meet, but Roan and I were allowed to compete in a local 6 mile race in Victoria Park. We preferred to do the 20 at the same site, but for whatever reason, they would no let us into that race. I recalled that Ron won over a Meadows chap and that I was third. But to recall the race further, I checked the Aug. 1961 issue of the *Record* and found the result. Zinn 45:51, Meadows 46:51, Mortland 47:03, and in sixth place one J.F. Knifton, Belgrave Harriers. So, for the first time, I realized that I had competed against you long before you came to the U.S. The 20, that we were allowed to watch after our race was won by G. Williams in 1:35:36 with Rudy Haluza, then stationed in England with the U.S. Air Force, third in 1:40:33. Ray Middleton, Paul Nihill, and John Edgington, all to be met later in Tokyo, were others in that race. I thought this might bring back some memories for you, probably your first "international" race." John replied: "Very interesting. Unfortunately, I ditched all my old issues of the *Record* when we sailed for the U.S. in 1965,

so I have a very few records as to those racewalking exploits and performances from 1956, when I first took up racewalking as an inter-high school sport until it was time to take up my teaching position at UT. For folks lile me who maybe trained twice a week with a race on Saturday, the emphasis was on winning the team titles at each of the British major championships--at that time the Belgrave Harriers walking team included Stan Vickers ('56 Olympics), Ray Middleton ('60 Olympics), Eric Hall ('56 Olympics), and George Williams, so it was not always easy to make that four-man roster. In my mind, the finest racewalker of that era was the incredibly talented Stan Vickers--he had blazing speed and impeccable style, but likel his temperamental personality and lack of experience in walking in the heat led to him not taking a medal in Melbourne. In talking with Rudy Haluza years later, it appeared that we had crossed paths a number of times while he was stationed in England--I particularly remember a 20 Km race in Regent's Park that we participated in ca. 1963, where I was chasing that American bloke"! Belgrave was the winning team and the very fine pewter mugs we received for our efforts tht day are one of the few trinkets I still have from mh 9 years of racewalking in "The Old Country".

The Architect of Mexico's Racewalking Tradition

(IAAF Press Release by Paul Warburton)

Rarely can it be said one man is responsible for an entire country's worldwide success in athletics –and a success that he started from scratch. History has many examples of coaches rekindling a long-held tradition, perhaps, or a country fetching up a bunch of talented athletes for no particular reason other than coincidence.

But an ex-boxer in a foreign country preaching a discipline barely heard of before? And what is even more remarkable about Jerzy Hausleber is that as a Pole, he went to a country about as far removed from his own in culture and ideas--and still produced a hotbed of Mexican Olympic, World, and IAAF Walking Cup champions for 40 years.

To grasp the enormity of the Hausleber phenomenon, imagine if you will, a Norwegian going to Brazil to teach cricket and still producing the World Cup winners for the best part of two decades. Hausleber is now 78, and an icon in the country that granted him naturalization in 1984. No doubt, he will get the same warm reception he gets everywhere in his adopted country when he attends the 24th IAAF World Race Walking Cup in Chihuahua on the weekend of 15/16 May.

Recovering from heart and knee problems, he now limits his activities to coaching coaches, making motivational speeches, and initiating various endurance athletic disciplines that have acolytes soaking up every word. But it wasn't the case in 1966.

Mexico had been awarded the 19th summer Olympics set for two years hence, and noted the hosts always came up with a gold medal somewhere along the line. But the chances of Mexico producing a sprinter or a field-eventer in athletics were about as remote as Usain Bolt attempting a World record in a sombrero. However, Mexico City is 7000 feet above sea level, so the endurance events were an obvious target for those used to thin oxygen. And race walking was seen as a sport without an obvious dominant force. The previous four Olympic champions in the two events had come from Russia, Great Britain and Italy. Before that, even a New Zealander won the 50k event.

Hausleber was brought in as one of a batch of seven foreign coaches by Mexico's Olympic head, General José de Jesús Clark Flores, who expected the mercenaries to make a decent fist of producing Mexican medals on home ground. But walking had none of the machismo of say, boxing--and the Pole started with just six athletes after he arrived on May

30, 1966 (Hausleber remembers the exact day).

Fortunately for Hausleber and Mexico, one of them was army sergeant Jose Pedraza. There was nothing promising about Pedraza's winning time in the Central American Championships in his first go at the sport. His 51:32mins for the 10k is around the pace a decent club walker was recording on training nights even then. But Hausleber's destiny and that of Mexican race walking was sealed in one 300 meter sprint in the Olympic final on a warm October night two years later.

Vladimir Golubnichiy and Nikolai Smaga entered the Ciudad Universitaria stadium in first and second –but the instant Pedraza appeared right behind, it was clear he was traveling much faster than the two Russians. Pedraza tore past Smaga as if he was standing still, and cheered on by the 'Me-hee-co, Me-hee-co' chants down the home straight, came within two yards of winning gold. The Mexican had every reason to beat himself up for timing his charge too late – he clearly had loads left in the tank. *(Ed. Not mentioned here is that most observers, including your editor watching on his TV screen, were agreed that Pedraza was flying well of the ground in his closing surge, which, for whatever reasons, went unnoticed by the judges. Golubnichiy, still looking solid, was able to accelerate enough to hold him off.)*

But it was just the boost Hausleber needed to create a dynasty of champions that requires one-and-a-half pages of A4 paper in very tiny print just to list. Daniel Bautista, Raul Gonzales, Carlos Mercenario and Bernardo Segura to name but a few, all owe their hero status to the coach.

"At the beginning it was not easy," Hausleber said. "But bit-by-bit after the Pedraza medal, there were more and more young athletes interested in walking. Mexico also offered me the chance to keep working there, and walking became popular enough to become almost a national sport." Three Olympic golds, two IAAF World Championship golds, and 12 IAAF World Walking Cup firsts just for starters – not to mention silvers and bronzes enough to fill a jeweler's window as well as Pan and Central American dominance for the best part of four decades.

But almost at the time Hausleber called it a day in 2004 on his full-time coaching, the medals mostly stopped for Mexico. Eder Sanchez is the one home-grown walker likely to get to the podium in Chihuahua after winning both the 2009 IAAF Walks Challenge and a bronze in the IAAF World Championships last August.

But the country's 'father of walking', according to his own CV, refuses to criticize the coaching set-up he left – or why there are not more obvious prospects besides Sanchez. Hausleber said: "Because of professional ethics, I have never liked predicting the future for others or speaking about other trainers. My role is strictly as a speaker or a coordinator in the Ministry of Sport in Mexico. I am not comfortable in discussing why there appears to be a bit of a lull in walking triumphs in the country."

For all that, there's a hint that Hausleber is unhappy with the level of commitment shown by the modern--day Mexican athlete. The tough Pole raised in sight of the Gdansk shipworks emailed his answer for what's needed to produce another Mexican wave of champions.

He said: "In Mexico as in many other countries, many factors affect this type of situation. One of the most important is that ONE MUST HAVE MORE PASSION AND SELF DISCIPLINE and work in a scientific and technical professional way as a trainer and athlete" The capital letters were added by a man still clearly passionate about his beloved sport in the country's he's called home for 44 years.

An added personal note:

. Ron Laird and I were fortunate enough to get a jump on the rest of the world in

meeting Jerzy. We were members of the U.S. National T&F team in 1965 for dual meets with the USSR, West Germany, and Poland. The Polish meet was in Warsaw, but did not include a racewalk. However, they arranged for us to travel north to Gdansk and its sister cities of Gydnia and Sopot on the Baltic Sea where the Polish walkers were having a training camp, headed by Jerzy Hausleber. Jerzy met us when we arrived in Gdansk on a Thursday, showed us to our quarters, ang got us to a lovely cinder track in the middle of a pine forest near Sopot for a 3000 meter race that evening. While Jerzy spoke little English and Ron, our manager Blll Jimenson, and I spoke no Polish (except for good morning and thank you, which I had learned four years earlier when Ron Zinn and I were the walkers on an earlier national team), we managed to communicate and Jerzy was a wonderful host. The Pole Czaplinski won the 3000 in 12:45.2, 7 seconds ahead of Ron, with me third in 13:09.2, not too far ahead of two other Poles.

The next morning, we moved a few miles to the south to the town of Malbork, for a 20 Km race on Saturday. There, we had a wonderful interpreter, who had once worked as a waiter at the Brown Derby in L.A. and were able to communicate on a wider basis with Jerzy. The 20 Km was on the road from the small town of Sztum (we were told we were the first Americans in Sztum since the end of WWII) to Malbork. Ron won in 1:29:39.6, avenging his loss to Czapliski by nearly 3 minutes. I came third in 1:34:38.8, my personal best, but for the fact that I am sure the course was somewhat short, the 15 km splits suggesting finishing times of perhaps 2 minutes slower.

We had flown from Warsaw to Gdansk, but on Sunday morning, Jerzy acompanied us on a train ride back, arriving in time for the second day of the US-Poland track meet. I have fond memories of the time we spent with Jerzy Hausleber and have felt honored to have known him at a time he was preparing for all his future successes. His program in Mexico revolutionized the sport.

(With the World Cup of Racewalking coming up the middle of May, here is a brief history of that event, as written by Tim Watt in another IAAF press release. Again, there is mention of Jerzy Hausleber's contributions.)

Race Walking tends to appeal to individuals, nations even, with the mindset of the dogged and determined. The underdog - passionate, defiant, yet unassuming. While, in this toughest of endurance tests, success requires inspiration from within, more often than not, supreme triumph occurs when a group of athletes share the same passion, often inspired by a visionary leader.

For historic reasons, Mexico shares this passion, arising from the Olympics Games, and the IAAF World Race Walking Cup, a competition that was formed from one man's vision for breaking down barriers between people. With race walking's popularity in Britain and the United States at the turn of the last century it was part of a multi-event competition in the 1904 Olympics, as two track races in the 1906 Interim Olympics, then as full events in the 1908 London Games.

Judging controversies there and in ensuing Games left race walking vulnerable to changes to the program, indeed the rules were standardized by the IAAF after walking was dropped from the 1928 Olympics. The walk distances were set at 20 and 50km from the 1956 Games, but then politics intervened. The Swiss, among other nations, initially decided to boycott Melbourne in protest at Russia's suppression of the Hungarian uprising. After protests, the National Olympic Committee voted to participate, but too late for many athletes to travel.

Armando Libotte, a Swiss 50km champion and sports writer, made it to Melbourne and there conceived of the idea of an alternative competition to be held more in "a spirit of

friendship without the troublesome interference of politics. He made a proposal the next year to the IAAF Race Walking Committee and in 1961 the first 'Lugano Cup (named from its venue) was organized by the IAAF. The biennial event, from 1985 known as the IAAF World Race Walking Cup, is now approaching its 24th occasion and will attract the best race walkers from across the globe.

At Lugano in 1961, and two years later just over the border in Varese, Italy, the 20km races were won by Great Britain's Ken Matthews. Such wins were taken in their stride by Britain at that time. The European and future Olympic champion"s main recollection of Varese (as an engineer from the similarly industrial English Midlands) was walking round the local motorcycle plant in the race. From the mid 1960s, results reflected developments in athletics with East German and Russian walkers taking every individual gold medal in the 20 and 50km competitions.

In 1979 the first 'Eschborn Cup'for women was held, in conjunction with the men's Lugano Cup finals in Eschborn, West Germany. As the 1976 Montreal Olympics program was limited to one walk, the IAAF staged a replacement 'World Championship' for those that had dedicated their athletics careers to the 50km event. This precedent, and the growth of Armando Libotte's initiative, then helped the IAAF decide to hold its own World Championships in Athletics. In 1977, in the unlikely setting of Milton Keynes, Great Britain, Mexican race walkers transformed the World Cup, then dominated for a decade.

The Inception for this came a decade earlier. Jerzy Hausleber - a Polish race walker - arrived in Mexico on a sports exchange, and in May 1966 was appointed by the President of the Olympic Committee to boost the chances of the host nation's athletes for the Mexico City Games. His coaching inspired José Pedraza to produce the moment of the Games for the hosts, only narrowly missing out on snatching the gold medal in the 20km walk - his silver being Mexico's sole athletics medal.

Daniel Bautista, Ernesto Canto, and Raúl González, all achieved ultimate Olympic glory under Hausleber in the 1970s and 1980s, plus Carlos Mercenario won silver at Barcelona in 1992. Mercenario holds a joint record three wins in six appearances in World Cups. Aged just 19, in New York's Central Park in 1987, he was inspired to overtake the Olympic champion Ernesto Canto to take the 20km title in a world best time.

Four years later in San José, California, Mercenario benefited from one of the most memorable incidents in any World Cup at the climax of the men's 50km. On the back straight of the final lap of a race long battle with Andrey Perlov, the Russian wouldn't accept disqualification from Chief Judge Gary Westerfield, and steamrollered past.

With Mercenario the real leader, the race to the line became between Perlov and the judge. Westerfield sprinted, and in front of an amazed grandstand intervened just in time with DQ paddle and a blocking tackle that wouldn't have looked much out of place on an American football field! Seconds later, Mercenario broke the tape with glee - also in a then event record.

In Chihuahua, Mercenario will be acting in an official capacity, liaising between the Organizing Committee and CONADE (Comisión Nacional de Cultura Física y Deporte) for whom he is coordinator of elite athletes.

Considered the 'Father of Mexican Race Walking', Jerzy Hausleber continues as an authority in coaching, as recently as December presenting a paper to a coaching conference, in Puebla. 'Continuity and consistency in training loads, continuous and progressive increase of training and adequate planning and definition of goals with assessment and analysis of the process' are his key principles. Modestly, he indicated that "the success of athletes does not emerge solely from the work of the coach".

Science will play a part, but the motivation of race walkers who will triumph at the

24th IAAF World Race Walking Cup Chihuahua on 15 and 16 May, will likely be a shared passion. Certainly, on the streets of the city, there will be noisy cries of "Meh-Hi-Co" from a nation passionate about re-asserting its place in race walking history.

LOOKING BACK

45 Years Ago (From the April 1965 ORW)–Our second issue was still quite parochial in nature as we had yet to develop our vast national and international network of sources (still working on that). However, we did show races in New York City, Kings Point, N.Y., and Toronto on our schedule of events. . .The big news was Jack Mortland's decimation of Jack Blackburn on the famous Doc Blackburn side-yard track (9.3 laps to the mile). Blackburn held on for 5 3/4 miles of the 8-mile race and then had to stagger in as Mortland's 61:18 left him nearly 2 minutes behind. The 52-year-old Dr. John Blackburn recorded a 1:15:56. . .Mortland also won a 12-mile affair in 1:36:32, but fell apart himself in that one, requiring nearly 18 minutes for the final 2 miles.

40 Years Ago (From the April 1970 ORW)–Walking was entereing a new era as evidenced by Dave Romansky's American record 1:58:09 for 25 Km, Tom Dooley's 15 miles 1090 yards in 2 Hours (passing 25 Km in 1:59:20), and Greg Diebold's 13:28.6 for 2 miles. . .Romansky also had an American record 50 Km (4:15:23) on the track. . .Another American record went to Shaul Ladany with his 7:52:04 for 50 miles. . .Locally, the rapidly aging Mortland (then 35) again hit the wall over the last 2 miles as he won a track 20 Km in 1:40:33. He also won a 10 Km on thc track in 48:38, ahcad of Paul Rcback's 49:54.

35 Years Ago (From the April 1975 ORW)–Ron Laird won his 57th U.S. title, and first since 1971, covering 25 Km in 1;56:38 in Seattle. . .Dave Romansky was still getting around quite well, going 1:34:38 for 20 Km on the track. . .The World Record for 100 Km fell to Jean-Pierre Garcia of France, who covered the distance in 9:33:06. . .Ladany was still cleaning ;up in the ultra-distances, winning the U.S. 75 Km title in 7:22:10, 17 minutes ahead of Dan O'Connor.

30 Years Ago (From the April 1980 ORW)–Walking the second fastest 50 Km ever by an American, Carl Schueler won the National title in New York City with his 4:06:07. Dan O'Connor was 13 minutes behind as Schueler bettered his personal racord by 18 minutes. . .A week later, O'Connor won the National 20 Km in Seattle in 1:26:21, a U.S. best ever and 7 minutes ahead of John VanDenBrandt.. .In Mexico, Daniel Bautista went through 15,121 meters in an hour, and four days later did 20 Km in 1:20:59 (4700 feet altitude). Soviets were second in both races–Anatoiliy Solomn with 15,042 meters and Nikolai Vinnetschenko in 1:21:30. . .In a swift Spanish National 50, Jose Marin did 3:43:55 and Jorge Llopart 3:45:55. . . Sue Brodock had the fastest ever 20 Km by an American woman with her 1:45:20.

25 Years Ago (From the April 1985 ORW)–Overtaking Tim Lewis in the final 10 Km, Carl Schueler won the National 30 Km in 2:25:17, 2 minutes ahead of Lewis. . .Two weeks later, Lewis won the National 25 in Washington, D.C. in 1:52:55, nearly 6 ½ minutes ahead of Dave Cummings. . .At the same site, Teresa Vaill won the Women's National 20 in 1;44:29 with Sue Liers second.

20 years ago (From the April 1990 ORW)—Tim Lewis, dominant at 20 Km, was a surprise winner of the National 50 in 4:10:46, nearly 6 minutes ahead of Marco Evoniuk. Mark Manning, Mark Fenton, Eugene Kitts, and Dan O'Connor followed. . .The Mortland

Invitational 20 Km in Columbus went to Gary Morgan in 1:32:07, with Steve Pecinovsky second in 1:34:12, but the big news was 58-year-old Max Green in seventh with a 1:43:41, a world best for those over 55. Zofia Wolan won the women's 10 Km in 49:30. . .In the National Invitational walks in Washington, D.C., Teresa Vaill and Tim Lewis walked to victory. Vaill did 46:21 for 10 Km, leaving Sue Liers more than 4 minutes back. Lewis covered 20 Km in 1:28:05, with Ri hard Quinn (1;29:47) and Curt Clausen (1:30:17) following.

15 Years Ago (From the April 1995 ORW)–Dave McGovern and Victoria Herazo were winners at the National Invitational in 1:28:07 and 46:26, respectively. Philip Dunn finished just 18 seconds after McGovern and Ian Whatley snuck under 1:30. Relative newcomer Joanne Dow was second to Herazo in 47:43, just 5 seconds ahead of Canada's Pascal Grand . .In the Pan Am Games in Argentina, Mexico's Graciela Mendoza won the women's 10 Km in 46:32, just 5 seconds ahead of Michelle Rohl. The 50 went to Mexico's Carlos Mercenario in 3:47:55 with his teammate Miguel Rodriquez second in 3:48:22 and Guatamala's Julio Urias third in 3:49:37. Allen James did 3:59:27 in sixth. Ecuador's Jefferson Perez won the 20 in 1:22:53 when Mexico's Bernardo Segura, who just stayed of him at the finish, was disqualified. Daniel Garcia was second. James and Jonathan Matthews did not finish.

10 Years Ago (From the April 2000 ORW)--.Mexico swept the Pan Am Cup walk events in Poza Rica, Mexico, taking the first three spots in both men's and women's 20 Km races and the first four spots in the 50. The winners were Guadalupe Sanchez in 1:34:25, Bernardo Segura in 1:22:47, and Miguel Rodriquez in 3:43:51. The U.S. finished second in the team standings. In the women's 20, Cuba's Oslaidy Vera was fourth, followed by three more Mexicans and then Michelle Rohl (1:37:49). Susan Armenta was tenth in 1:39:55. In the men's 20, Ecuador's Jefferson Perez was fourth and Andrew Hermann led the U.S. in seventh (1:26:39). At 50, Canada's Arturo Huerta was fifth in 3:56:01 amd Mark Green was the first U.S. walker in 15th. . .Teresa Vaill had a 1:35:45 for 20 Km to win the National Invitational race. Yet another Mexican, Francisco Patteja, won the men's race in 1:28:55, 30 seconds ahead of John Nunn, with Ian Whatley third.. . .Gary Morgan and Cheryl Rellinger won National titles at 30 Km in Flushing, Michigan. Gary had 2:47:22, just 10 seconds faster that Cheryl. Jill Zenner's 2:49:21 in second behind Rellinger, was more than a minute faster than men's silver medalist Rod Craig.

5 Years Ago (From the April 2005 ORW)—-In U.S. Pan Am Cup Team Trials Tim Seaman and Joanne Dow won at 20 Km and Maria Michta and Zac Pollinger won Junior 10 Km races. Seaman had 1:28:32, nearly 5 minutes ahead of John Nunn with Michael Tarantino third in 1:34:33. Dow walked 1:37:04 with Amber Antonio second in 1:38:47 and Deb Huberty third in 1:40:58. Michta walked 48:15, more than 5 ½ minutes faster than second placer Katy Hayes. Pollinger's 44:43 left Jared Swehosky well back in 47:11. . .In IAAF Racewalking Challenge races in Rio Maior, Portugal, Margaryta Turave of Belarus won the women's 20 Km in 1:27:19 and Spain's Francisco Fernandez the men's race in 1:19:02. Australia's Nathan Deakes (1:19:15) and China's Chaohong Yu (1:19:39) chased Fernandez home. Turava won easily won easily with Chinese women Hongjuan Song (1:29:01) and Liping Wang (1:30:06) second and third. . .Three weeks later another Challenge race in China went to Deakes in 1:17:34, 7 seconds ahead of Hongjun Zhe of China. Chines walkers occupied the next seven spots ahead of Mexico's Noe Hernandez and Eder Sanchez and Australia's Luke Adams. The first 17 finishers were under 1:20. On the women's side, China swept the first eight spots with Jiang Jing winning in 1:27:56. Australia's Jane Saville was ninth in 1:29:37 and two other Chinese walkers went under 1:30.