



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

The official organ of the Victorian Race Walking Club
2019/2020 Number 47
Monday 17 August 2020



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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

I have been overwhelmed by the many messages of support, too many to reply to individually, following the death of my wife Lois last Thursday morning. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has reached out to us on hearing the sad news. Our family feels surrounded by love. Understandably, I have more important matters to attend to this week, so this is a smaller newsletter than usual and will just contain information and articles and results sent in to me.



Due to COVID restrictions, a private funeral service for Lois will be held on Wednesday 19th August at 2PM AEST at St Linus Anglican Church in North Coburg (Melbourne). Alas, it will be restricted to our immediate family, with a maximum of 10 mourners. Accordingly, the service will be streamed live via link <http://tobin.5stream.com/webcast/57020>, should you wish to join us.

PAUL F DEMEESTER TALKS MATTERS IAAF AND IOC

Thanks to US Attorney at Law Paul F. DeMeester for another insightful analysis. That is the 22nd in a row and is as good as ever. You can see links to all Paul's articles at the bottom of webpage <http://www.vrwc.org.au/save-the-50km.shtml>.

MIND THE GAP: COMPARING THE MARATHON RUN WITH THE 50K

By Paul F. DeMeester

One of the arguments against continuing with the 50K Race Walk Event after the Rio Olympics was that the race is not exciting enough to garner broadcast interest. Too long; too boring. Never mind that the 2016 Olympic 50K was very exciting, with a great number of lead changes, the leader collapsing, then resuming the race, a literal collision for bronze and only 26 seconds separating

the medalists. An exception to the rule, maybe? Let's compare the margins among medalists in the 50K with those among the men's marathon medalists.

A word about the numbers first. Only men's races are compared. The obvious reason is the absence of a women's 50K at the Olympics. Only Olympic races are compared held in the same venue at the same Olympics. Therefore, the comparison starts in 1932, the year of the first Olympic 50K. For the same reason, 1976 is not included, as the 50K fell victim to the Olympic event cutters. The results reflect any adjustments made after drug cheats were disqualified, often long after the road race was over. The performance times are all taken from the International Olympic Committee's website. Some of the times reflect fractions of seconds, a practice that was wholly discontinued after 1980. Any calculation errors are strictly mine.

The tables below are organized in seven columns. From left to right, they represent: (1) the year of the Olympic Games and the medal type (gold - G; silver - S; bronze - B); (2) the finishing times of the 50K Race Walk medalists; (3) the absolute differences behind the 50K winner in seconds; (4) the relative differences behind the 50K winner as a percentage; (5) the finishing time of the Men's Marathon medalists; (6) the absolute differences behind the Men's Marathon winner in seconds; and (7) the relative differences behind the Men's Marathon winner as a percentage. The 1960, 1964 and 2016 relative differences are expressed to the third decimal for the 50K only; the 1988, 1996 and 2016 relative differences are expressed to the third decimal for both the 50K and the marathon.

1932	50K Times	Abs. Diff. 50K (sec.)	Rel. Diff. 50K (%)	Marathon Times	Abs. Diff. Marathon (sec.)	Rel. Diff. Marathon (%)
G	4:50:10	-----	---	2:31:36	-----	---
S	4:57:20	430	2.5	2:31:55	19	0.2
B	4:59:06	536	3.1	2:32:12	36	0.4
1936	50K Times	Abs. Diff. 50K (sec.)	Rel. Diff. 50K (%)	Marathon Times	Abs. Diff. Marathon (sec.)	Rel. Diff. Marathon (%)
G	4:30:41.4	-----	---	2:29:19.2	-----	---
S	4:32:09.2	87.8	0.5	2:31:23.2	124	1.4
B	4:32:42.2	120.8	0.7	2:31:42.0	142.8	1.6
1948	50K Times	Abs. Diff. 50K (sec.)	Rel. Diff. 50K (%)	Marathon Times	Abs. Diff. Marathon (sec.)	Rel. Diff. Marathon (%)
G	4:41:52	-----	---	2:34:51.6	-----	---
S	4:48:17	385	2.3	2:35:07.6	16.0	0.2
B	4:48:31	399	2.4	2:35:33.6	42.0	0.4
1952	50K Times	Abs. Diff. 50K (sec.)	Rel. Diff. 50K (%)	Marathon Times	Abs. Diff. Marathon (sec.)	Rel. Diff. Marathon (%)
G	4:28:07.8	-----	---	2:23:03.2	-----	---
S	4:30:17.8	130.0	0.8	2:25:35.0	151.8	1.8
B	4:31:27.2	199.4	1.2	2:26:07.0	183.8	2.1
1956	50K Times	Abs. Diff. 50K (sec.)	Rel. Diff. 50K (%)	Marathon Times	Abs. Diff. Marathon (sec.)	Rel. Diff. Marathon (%)
G	4:30:42.8	-----	---	2:25:00	-----	---
S	4:32:57.0	134.2	0.8	2:26:32	92	1.1
B	4:35:02.0	259.2	1.6	2:27:47	167	1.9
1960	50K Times	Abs. Diff. 50K (sec.)	Rel. Diff. 50K (%)	Marathon Times	Abs. Diff. Marathon (sec.)	Rel. Diff. Marathon (%)
G	4:25:30.0	-----	---	2:15:16.2	-----	---
S	4:25:47.0	17.0	0.107	2:15:41.6	25.4	0.3
B	4:27:55.4	145.4	0.910	2:17:18.2	122.0	1.5

Year	50K Times	Abs. Diff. 50K (sec.)	Rel. Diff. 50K (%)	Marathon Times	Abs. Diff. Marathon (sec.)	Rel. Diff. Marathon (%)	
1964	G	4:11:12.4	-----	---	2:12:11.2	-----	---
	S	4:11:31.2	18.8	0.107	2:16:19.2	248	3.1
	B	4:14:17.4	185.0	1.227	2:16:22.8	251.6	3.2
1968	G	4:20:13.6	-----	---	2:20:26.4	-----	---
	S	4:30:17.0	603.4	3.9	2:23:31.0	184.6	2.2
	B	4:31:55.4	701.8	4.5	2:23:45.0	198.6	2.4
1972	G	3:56:11.6	-----	---	2:12:19.8	-----	---
	S	3:58:24.0	132.4	0.9	2:14:31.8	132.0	1.7
	B	4:00:46.0	274.4	1.9	2:15:08.4	168.6	2.1
1980	G	3:49:24.0	-----	---	2:11:03.0	-----	---
	S	3:51:25.0	121.0	0.9	2:11:20.0	17.0	0.2
	B	3:56:32.0	428.0	3.1	2:11:35.0	32.0	0.4
1984	G	3:47:26	-----	---	2:09:21	-----	---
	S	3:53:19	353	2.6	2:09:56	35	0.4
	B	3:53:45	379	2.8	2:09:58	37	0.5
1988	G	3:38:29	-----	---	2:10:32	-----	---
	S	3:38:56	27	0.206	2:10:47	15	0.191
	B	3:39:45	76	0.580	2:10:59	27	0.345
1992	G	3:50:13	-----	---	2:13:23	-----	---
	S	3:52:09	116	0.8	2:13:45	22	0.3
	B	3:53:45	212	1.5	2:14:00	37	0.5
1996	G	3:43:30	-----	---	2:12:36	-----	---
	S	3:43:46	16	0.119	2:12:39	3	0.038
	B	3:44:19	49	0.366	2:12:44	8	0.101
2000	G	3:42:22	-----	---	2:10:11	-----	---
	S	3:43:40	78	0.6	2:10:31	20	0.3
	B	3:44:36	134	1.0	2:11:10	59	0.8

Year	50K Times	Abs. Diff. 50K (sec.)	Rel. Diff. 50K (%)	Marathon Times	Abs. Diff. Marathon (sec.)	Rel. Diff. Marathon (%)
2004	G	3:38:46	-----	2:10:55	-----	---
	S	3:42:50	244	2:11:29	34	0.4
	B	3:43:34	288	2:12:11	76	1.0
2008	G	3:37:09	-----	2:06:32	-----	---
	S	3:39:27	138	2:07:16	44	0.6
	B	3:40:14	185	2:10:00	208	2.7
2012	G	3:36:53	-----	2:08:01	-----	---
	S	3:37:16	23	2:08:27	26	0.3
	B	3:37:54	61	2:09:37	96	1.2
2016	G	3:40:58	-----	2:08:44	-----	---
	S	3:41:16	18	2:09:54	70	0.9
	B	3:41:24	26	2:10:05	81	1.0

The 50K Race Walk and the Men's Marathon are very comparable in the margins between the winner and the runner-up (or walker-up). The biggest margin between gold and silver in the 50K Race Walk Event was 3.9%; in the men's marathon it was 3.1%. Both margins were established in epic races by legends in the sport. East Germany's Christoph Höhne was the 50K Race Walk winner in Mexico City 1968; Abebe Bikila of Ethiopia repeated his 1960 gold at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics by a wide margin in the men's marathon. Both margins were also the largest absolute winning margins, 603.4 seconds for Höhne and 248 seconds for Bikila. It's not always the closest races that provide for the memorable Olympic moments that stand the test of time. Interesting also that Bikila's winning time in Tokyo was still worth a bronze medal 40 years later.

In absolute terms, there have been some close 50Ks: Poland's Robert Korzeniowski's first gold medal was earned with a 16-second winning margin at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Other winners with close margins were Don Thompson (GB) at Rome 1960 with 17 seconds; Matej Toth (SVK) at Rio 2016 with 18 seconds; Abdon Pamich (ITA) at Tokyo 1964 with 18.8 seconds; and Jared Tallent (AUS) at London 2012 with 23 seconds. In percentage terms, Thompson and Pamich won by 0.107%, Korzeniowski by 0.119%, and Toth by 0.136%. But the 2012 Men's Marathon takes the cake in both categories when Josia Thugwane of South Africa won by 3 seconds (0.038%) with the bronze medalist only 8 seconds behind the winner (0.101%).

Overall, the two long-distance competitions are similar in their overall winning margins. Of the 19 Olympics that have featured both events, the men's marathon had a smaller winning margin percentage-wise than the 50K Race Walk at 11 Olympic Games. The 50K came out ahead at 8 Olympics, including the last two.

Year	50K Winning Percentage	Marathon Winning Percentage
1932	2.5	0.2
1936	0.5	1.4
1948	2.3	0.2
1952	0.8	1.8
1956	0.8	1.1
1960	0.107	0.3
1964	0.107	3.1
1968	3.9	2.2
1972	0.9	1.7
1980	0.9	0.2
1984	2.6	0.4
1988	0.206	0.191
1992	0.8	0.3
1996	0.119	0.038
2000	0.6	0.3
2004	1.9	0.4
2008	1.1	0.6

2012	0.2	0.3
2016	0.136	0.9

As would be expected, both long-distance events are in the same league when it comes to how its winning performances measure up against those of the other medal winners in the respective walking and running events. Just another sign that there is nothing wrong with the 50K Race Walk.

SARWC 'GUESS YOUR TIME' RACES, ADELAIDE PARKLANDS, ADELAIDE. SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

Thanks to Kim Mottrom for this week's results from Adelaide. He writes: No watches allowed, but the results show that some people are very good at estimating their pace. Huge highlight was 12 year old **Sebastian Richards** stepping up to 5km with a fantastic **25:43!** Seth Upton also walked a PB.

5km Walk		Estimated Time	Actual Time	Difference
1.	Olivia Sandery	24:00	24:03	0:03
2.	Liz Downs	37:23	37:15	0:08
3.	Tristan Camilleri	23:00	22:48	0:12
4.	Peter Crump	29:08	29:30	0:22
5.	Mathew Bruniges	25:20	25:46	0:26
6.	James Hoare	41:12	40:36	0:36
7.	Sebastian Richards	26:55	25:43	1:12
8.	Kristie Goznic	25:06	26:19	1:13

3km Walk		Estimated Time	Actual Time	Difference
1.	Katie DeRuvo	18:00	18:01	0:01
2.	Royrie Upton	17:45	18:05	0:20
3.	Cooper Rech	18:30	17:55	0:35
4.	Seth Upton	18:55	18:19	0:36
5.	Archie Braithwaite	18:30	19:26	0:56
6.	Adrian Upton	21:09	22:08	0:59
7.	Ruby Langford	20:00	17:54	2:06

1km Walk		Estimated Time	Actual Time	Difference
1.	Orlando Grantham	5:31	5:36	0:05
2.	Elizabeth Rieger	6:45	7:16	0:31
3.	Alexander Richards	8:30	7:39	0:51
4.	Xavier Upton	6:00	8:05	2:05
5.	Edward Upton	5:55	8:09	2:14



Walkers get ready for their turn in the annual SARWC Guess Your Time Races (photo SARWC facebook)

ACTRWC CHAMPIONSHIPS, LENNOX GARDENS, CANBERRA, SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

Thanks to Val Chesterton for this week's results from Canberra. I hear it was a wet afternoon at Lennox Gardens, so well done to all the competitors who raced in the ACTRWC Championships. And special congratulations to **Val Chesterton** whose 20km performance should be a new W80 Australian Masters Record. Way to go, Val!

Lots of photos available on the club's facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ACTWalkers/>.

20km Walk

1.	Tim Fraser	1:38:05
2.	Ann Stauntn-Jugovic	2:06:42
3.	Sue Archer	2:27:25
4.	Bryan Thomas	2:42:35
5.	Val Chesterton	3:01:19 W80 AR

10km Walk

1.	Hannah Manning	57:58
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5km Walk

1.	Sidney Shaw	35:17
2.	Kate Black	35:29
3.	Greg Durr	36:37

3km Walk

1.	Owen Toyne	14:33
2.	Kodi Clarkson	14:36
3.	Siddharth Dhawan	19:46

TWRC ROADWALKS, SEVEN MILE BEACH, HOBART, SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

Thanks to Dave Moore for this week's results from Hobart. He writes: Forecast rain for the day held off until 20 minutes before the scheduled start of today's walk and then promptly came and gave competitors and officials a sound drenchin during warm-ups and event set up. The rain would make a few more returns before our walks had concluded. The standout performance of the day was a big PB by **Lily Carr**. The rest of the field put in some solid performances, with a firm eye on State Championships coming up in a few weeks' time.

1km Walk

1.	Lily Carr	6.48 PB
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1.5km Walk

1.	Theresa Hatten	12.06
2.	Sheridan Hay	12.15
3.	Milah Hatten	13.54

2km Walk

1.	Gabby Hay	13.22
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3km Walk

1.	Alice Randall	16.39
2.	Elizabeth Leitch	20.49
3.	Wayne Fletcher	24.40
4.	Dave Moore	36.00

5km Walk

1.	Ron Foster	38.46
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Congratulations are also in order for **Anna Blackwell** who picked up a key award at the Athletics Tasmania Awards night for her performances on the track during the last year. Anna is now off to Queensland to recommence her University studies.



SAMA ROADWALKS, BURBRIDGE ROAD, ADELAIDE, SATURDAY 15 AUGUST

Thanks to Colin Hainsworth for this week's results from the South Australian Masters in Adelaide.

8km Walk

1.	RICHARD EVERSON	0:50:09	M56	70.25%
2.	MARIE MAXTED	0:54:15	W60	75.20%
3.	GIL MCINTOSH	0:56:19	M70	72.56%

8km Club Walk

1.	BRIAN WITTY	0:59:25	M70	68.77%
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2.	GRAHAM HARRISON	1:04:07	M77	70.09%
3.	ROGER LOWE	1:05:53	M77	68.21%
4.	TREVOR MAYHEW	1:06:54	M75	65.26%

4km Walk

1.	GEORGE WHITE	0:26:33	M75	79.93%
2.	TREVOR BROWN	0:29:00	M71	69.44%
3.	HELEN SURIDGE	0:31:19	W69	69.83%
4.	VALMAI PADGET	0:32:23	W76	75.29%

4km Club Walk

1.	DAVE FALLON	0:30:28	M67	63.01%
2.	MARGARET MCINTOSH	0:31:42	W67	67.12%
3.	JAN LAYNG	0:31:49	W71	70.76%
4.	LIZ NEUBAUER	0:32:09	W69	68.02%
5.	RODGER BARBER	0:32:19	M82	72.89%
6.	GILLIAN WHITE	0:32:23	W71	69.52%
7.	ROSS HILL-BROWN	0:33:04	M65	56.76%
8.	EDNA BATES	0:35:38	W67	59.71%
9.	CATHIE HORE	0:35:39	W69	61.34%
10.	HELEN BOWEN	0:35:40	W68	60.47%
11.	JEFFREY KENNETT	0:41:00	M70	48.51%

QRWC ROADWALKS, LOGAN RIVER PARKLANDS, BRISBANE, SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

Thanks to Robyn Wales for this week's results from Queensland.

10km Walk

1.	Ignacio Jimenez	56.54
2.	Peter Bennett	1.01.15

1.	Jennifer Stuckey	1.07.40
2.	Noela McKinven	1.24.16

5km Walk

1.	Sam McCure	25.15
2.	Kai Norton	30.06

1.	Jayda Anderson	24.31
2.	Lyla Williams	26.49
3.	Amber Norton	27.17
4.	Ashanti Heap	27.58
5.	Anika Clarke	28.12
6.	Mia Bergh	29.38
7.	Brenda Gannon	31.05
8.	Torryn Fisher	33.52
9.	Phoebe Chadwick	39.25

3km Walk

1.	Bailey Housden	14.12
2.	Korbyn Bricknell-Hewitt	21.38

1.	Tamika Gee	16.20
2.	Makenna Clarke	17.14
3.	Destinee Pickvance	17.22
4.	Natasha Flahey	17.45
5.	Olivia Hingst	17.47
6.	Siaan Fisher	21.37

1km Walk

1.	Knox Anderson	6.00
2.	Blake Gee	6.07
3.	Hunter Sibenaler	6.53
4.	Noah Wheelley	7.21

1.	Isabella Gee	5.59
2.	Pippa Andersoon	7.18

WARWC ROADWALK CHAMPIONSHIPS, SHELLEY, PERTH, SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

Thanks to Terry Jones for this week's results from Western Australia. He tells me they are withholding the Masters' 20km results until after the Masters Postal Championship. Shrewd!

Open 20K (No times)

1.	Andrew Duncan	TBA
2.	Victor Munoz	TBA

1.	Karyn Tolardo	TBA
2.	Wendy Farrow	TBA

Masters 5K

1.	Steve Travell	42.16
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1.	Marcela Ruiz	37.19
2.	Glenys Duncan	44.36

U14 3K

1.	John Ronan	14.21
2.	Xavier Bernard	15.44
3.	Riley Wood	15.56

1.	Ashlyn Spence	15.30
2.	Kaytee Bogaers	16.34
3.	Layla Dabala	18.49

U12 2K

1.	Gracie Dabala	11.49
2.	Kaycee Ibbotson	12.03

3. Sylvia Byers	48.45	3. Annabelle Van Sprengel	12.11
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U20 10K

1. Ben Reid	51.22
1. Emily Bogaers	1:30:33

U10 1.5K

1. Ella-Jayde Coleman	11.12
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U16 5K

1. Luke Lawrence	32.12
1. Lataya Lawrence	30.43

20 KM GREEK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, PATRA, GREECE, SUNDAY 9 AUGUST

Thanks to Zoe Gkini for the results from the Greek Open 20km Walk Championships, held a week ago. The report came in just after I had published last week's newsletter so catching up this week. She says:

The Greek 20km championships for men and women were held on the morning of Sunday 9th August in the Greek port city of Patra, 200km west of Athens. Conditions were good, almost like autumn weather. The championships had been planned for 4th April but they were delayed due to the COVID situation. **Alexandros Pappamichail** won the men's 20km for the 11th time. As he is targeting the Olympic 50km next year, this was very much just a training test for him and he finished with a time of 1:28:36. For third placed **Anthimos Kekepouris**, third in last week's U20 10,000m, it was his first 20km and his time of 1:26:08 was good. **Antigoni Ntrisioti** was an easy winner in the women's 20km with a time of 1.34.00. The Greek Youth Olympic medalist **Olga Fiaska** was unable to finish due to stomach problems. **Dimitra Mpochori** surprised in second place with a PB of 1.37.48, well ahead of her previous best of 1.42.48. Third place went to mother and Doha 50km finalist **Angeliki Makri**.

20 km Men

1. PAPANICHAIL ALEXANDROS	1988	AO MYKONAS	1:28.36
2. NEENTOPULOS KONSTANTINOS	1994	AE OLYMIAS PATRAS	1:34.13
3. KELEPOURIS ANTHIMOS	2001	OKA VIKELAS VERIAS	1.36.08
4. STAMOS ANESTASIOS	2000	OKA VIKELAS VERIAS	1.43.37
5. STAMELOS KONSTANTINOS	1989	GS HERAKLIS THESSALONIKIS	1.44.17
6. LITRAS MARINOS	1980	GAS ILISSOS	1:51.16
VAITSIS IOANNIS	1995	GAS ILISSOS	DQ
TSAMOUDAKIS ZACHARIAS	1996	O.F.I	DQ
TSORDIAS DIMITRIOS	1996	AE OLYMPIAS PATRAS	DNF

20km Women

1. NTRISPIOTI ANTIGONI	1984	ASS ALEXANDROS MAKEDONIAS	1.34.00
2. MPOCHORI DIMITRA	1998	OKA VIKELAS VERIAS	1:37.38
3. MAKRI AGGELIKI	1978	AE OLYMPIAS PATRAS	1:43.53
4. KOURKOUTSAKI EFSTATHIA	1998	GAS ILISSOS ATHENS	1.48.13
FIASKA OLGAS	2001	AS ATHLOKINISI MYTILINI	DNF
ALIKANIOTI SOFIA	1998	GAS ILISSOS ATHENS	DNF



The women on the start line



Winners Alexandros Pappamichail and Antigoni Ntrisioti (photos Zoe Gkini)

VIC MILLER REMINISCENCES ON THE MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARIES

Readers of this newsletter will know Vic Miller's name in the context of racewalking stamps. Vic is one of the experts on whom I call when I am reviewing walking related philatelic matters. But Vic is a sports enthusiast in his own right, and has put together his own reminiscences on the Mexican racewalking revolution.

For my friend Down Under, Tim Erickson, who once took a walk and never stopped...

Marche de Mexico

In 1958 an Englishman named John Velzian was hired as a physical education officer for Kenya, overseeing athletics in the emerging African country's school system. With an emphasis on track, Velzian began to tap a reservoir of natural runners. Before the end of the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in August of 1966, Kenya, the young independent country, had come of age in track.

Given the fanaticism for futbol and a seemingly inexhaustive supply of inexhaustive participants, it was only a matter of time that a similar breakthrough in track would occur in the land of the Aztlán. Just a little over two months prior to the opening of the aforementioned '66 British Empire and Commonwealth Games, seven foreigners had been inserted into Mexico with a vision of giving the host nation of the next Summer Olympics some athletes to cheer about. One of these coaches, **Jerzy Hausleber**, assembled a half dozen hopefuls. Of Hausleber's six students, his proverbial prize pupil was soon identified. **Jose Pedraza Zuniga**, a soldier in the enlisted ranks of the Mexican army who was pushing thirty years old, was as unlikely a person to pin a medal hope on as was his discipline: race walking!

Jose Pedraza, though, quickly established himself as someone worthy of Jerzy Hausleber's focus. In only July of that first year of the Hausleber/Pedraza combination, a gold medal was realized at the 10th Central American and Caribbean Games. The next July, Jose Pedraza earned a silver medal in the 20 kilometers walk at the 1967 Pan American Games. Sure, the Pan-Am Games weren't comparable to the IAAF World Race Walking Cup, but Jerzy Hausleber still had a good fourteen months to work with Pedraza before the '68 Games arrived. There was something else that Hausleber had at his disposal, and it was the same thing John Velzian had been naturally exploiting with his Kenyan runners: high altitude! Mexico City and its upcoming fall fiesta occupied 7,000+ feet of thinner air.

While there wasn't much question about the aerobic advantage that Jose Pedraza would enjoy at los Juegos de la XIX Olimpiada, there was plenty pause where his style was concerned. The contributing staff of Sports Illustrated put a bronze chip down on Pedraza for the 20-KM. walk but cautiously wondered how "...his unusual stride..." would fare.

On October 14, 1968, the exciting and very real possibility of seeing the first athlete win an Olympic medal in track and field for Mexico and in Mexico City, no less, resonated throughout the Estadio Olimpico Universitario. Mexico's El Sargento Pedraza would most certainly thrill the assembled multitude. Jose Pedraza thrilled 'em, alright, but not before giving the passionate throng an early "thrill" when he was semi-unshoed! After getting his sneaker back on, Pedraza gave determined chase, and it wasn't too long before he'd got himself right back in the pack of it. After approximately an hour and a half out in the streets, Pedraza plunged down the tunnel leading to the track and gave determined chase yet again. He got himself in between the 1-2 finishers of the 1967 IAAF World Race Walking Cup, Nikolay Smaga and Vladimir Golubnichiy, respectively. Despite edging on running - Smaga is said to have animated disapproval of the Mexican's loco motion, Pedraza just could not overtake the unyielding Golubnichiy.



Viva la Revolucion

Jose Pedraza returned to the Estadio Olimpico Universitario three days later for the 50 kilometers walk, but a combination of the altitude, the hot 'n' humid climate of Mexico City and the longer walk's intimidating distance proved too much even for Mexico's foot soldier. Pedraza had to be content with having averaged a fifth place for the two walks.

It didn't matter, or rather, it did. Jerzy Hausleber recruited some younger athletes who had symbolically picked up the sombreros left for Jose Pedraza before the cheers from Estadio Olimpico Universitario had died, furthering Pedraza's frantic finish. His silver would eventually take on the hue of gold as a revolution in race walking's seeds had been dispersed in Mexico.

By the mid-1970s, Jerzy Hausleber's "revolutionaries" had developed a fast, flexible style of race walking, and were threatening an "overthrow" of the more muscular Europeans.

Because the 1975 IAAF World Race Walking Cup conflicted with the seventh Pan American Games, which were held in Mexico City, the official challenge to race walking's status quo by the upstart Mexicans would have to wait until the 1976 Summer Olympics.

Bob Bowman, Track & Field News' resident race walking expert then, picked the terrific trio of **Daniel Bautista, Raul Gonzalez** and **Domingo Colin** to dominate the 20km walk at those '76 Games. Conversely, Bowman largely minimized another threesome in his same pre-race analysis, the DDR!?! Odd, as the three East Germans - Peter Frenkel, Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller and Hans-Georg Reimann - had a much more proven record in "Test matches" than the Mexicans and each also had produced at least one fast time of their own in 1976 leading up to the Montreal Olympics. In fact, Stadtmuller and Frenkel had sandwiched world-record holder Bernd Kannenberg on the Lugano podium just the previous October.

Practically before the smoke from the starter's gun had dissipated at Olympic Stadium, the 20-km walk became a war strictly between the Mexican "revolutionaries" laying siege on the so-called old guard of race walking and East Germany's defense of its European castle. The first casualty of the Battle of Montreal was Raul Gonzalez who later commented that nerves shortened his stride. Another Mexican, Domingo Colin, soon received the axe. Now, only the favorite, Daniel Bautista, remained in the fight. Three-thousand meters from the end, Bautista accelerated, leaving the power trio of Reimann, Frenkel and Stadtmuller to finish 2-3-4 in orderly German fashion. Mexico had its first gold medal in Olympic track and field. A photo or photos of Daniel Bautista airborne during the Montreal walk prompted East German complaint, but the gold remained around Bautista's neck. Perhaps officials had taken into consideration the plight of Domingo Colin. His disqualification earlier in the race was called into question by those who'd seen Colin moving with a fair gait. Perhaps the logic was there may have been a different winner, but not a different nationality.



1976 Olympic 20km - Domingo Colin, Daniel Bautista, Karl-Heinz Stadtmuller (towering behind Bautista), Peter Frenkel, Hans-Georg Reimann (obscured) and Raul Gonzalez

The Mexicans' missteps at Montreal presumably produced some doubt as to whether they could stop clocks sooner at the grand affairs as well.

The 1977 IAAF World Race Walking Cup removed doubt. Well, mostly anyway. Recent record-setter on the track in the 50-km walk, **Enrique Vera**, faltered at Milton Keynes. Nevertheless, the Mexicans went one and two at both distances, giving Mexico its first team Lugano Trophy. Raul Gonzalez's first place in the 50-km walk became his trademark way of winning - or losing, which was mostly the case that season. The Lugano was the only 50 Gonzalez finished that year!! Setting a frightening pace for the first forty percent of the race, he managed to hold on despite fatigue and a late-race challenge from teammate **Pedro Aroche**. If Raul Gonzalez's predecessor at 50-KM greatness was the Kannenberg Express, then Gonzalez's "mode of transportation" was the Tijuana Taxi. His suicidal romps through the streets left only the bravest racewalkers struggling to stay aboard. One of these brave men was **Martin Bermudez**. At the 1979 World Race Walking Cup, Raul Gonzalez walked the first 20 kilometers in an insane 1:25:03, only to succumb to the effects of his own pace as Martin Bermudez and two others walked on by. Bermudez's time, 3:43:36, was extremely fast in the context of a championship meet in that day and emblematic of the Flying Feet of The Lugano to which that '79 World Race Walking Cup became known.



Coach Jerzy Hausleber with Raul Gonzalez Daniel Bautista, Ernesto Canto and others from the Mexican squad

Moscow es Waterloo

The 1980 Summer Olympics saw a United States-led boycott in protest of the Soviet-Afghan War. Possibly driven by "Yanqui, Go Home!" defiance, Mexico chose to attend. After the pair of '80 Games' walks were over, the Mexican foursome that made the trip may have found themselves wishing their country had boycotted as well.

The 1979 IAAF World Race Walking Cup's hyper-fast times were still all too fresh in the minds of officials when Moscow's summer came, so race walking officiating was hyper-vigilant. Strident about strides, judges raised 136 caution flags during the 20 km cleanup! Seven walkers were red-flagged - including two of the Mexicans, Domingo Colin and Daniel Bautista as he neared the end of his bid for a defense of his Olympic title while out in front.

The 50 km walk was an absolute holocaust for the Mexican squad. The heat and humidity of the USSR's capital put a third of the field down - including Bautista, Martin Bermudez and Raul Gonzalez.

The fleet-footed gods of Teotihuacan were mortal after all.

La Redencion

Sadly, Daniel Bautista retired in disappointment after the Moscow Games. Even without him, though, the Mexicans carried on in their fluid style.

Soon, **Ernesto Canto** revealed himself to be Daniel Bautista's successor at 20 kilometers. Canto took the 1981 IAAF World Race Walking Cup and two years later beat rival Josef Pribilinec in a squeaker at the inaugural World Championships in Athletics. Raul Gonzalez, long the veteran of Mexican race walking teams, kept going long enough to match Christoph Hohne's record of three Lugano victories and mount both the podiums at the 1984 Summer Olympics - a close second to Ernesto Canto followed by a gold in his specialty - for the greatest overall meet triumph of any walker up through that time.



Ernesto Canto (20km) and Raul Gonzales (50km) win twin golds in the 1984 Olympics

Detractors to Mexican success at the '84 Games can cite the lack of Eastern Europeans present in '84 Los Angeles, which was due to a retaliatory boycott by the Soviet Union, but are only partially sure-footed. Both Canto and Gonzalez had obviously demonstrated their ability to beat Eastern Bloc walkers in past meets, and both of them yielded competitive times in 1984 L.A. There was something extra(s) that Ernesto Canto and Raul Gonzalez could draw from against any comers in the Ciudad de Angeles that Olympics. Los Angeles somewhat mirrored Mexico City. Elements such as smog and a heavy Mexican population meant that Canto and Gonzalez felt right at home.



April 2008 - Jerzy Hausleber and his wife with Mexican medallists Miguel Rodriguez, Ernesto Canto, Raul Gonzales and Daniel Bautista

The story of the Mexican racewalkers is obviously open-ended. Jose Pedraza's silver-coated walk never really ended...

Vic Miller
Wednesday 12th August 2020

OUT AND ABOUT

- **Frank van Ravensberg** tells me that there will be an 11th sprint triathlon in race walking this year in the Netherlands. That's fantastic news. He explains:

After the 10th edition last year in Veenendaal I said that it would be my last one. But I found someone who wants to continue the event! The 11th edition will be held on the 12th of September in Drunen, Noord-Brabant (in the southern part of the Netherlands). It will be organised by DAK Drunen, a club which is very active in race walking. Distances will be 3000 m, 1000 m and 2000 m. I will be there to present the prizes. Head of the organisation will be Theo van Houten.

- It's great to hear that the postponed Dudince EA Permit Meet has now been confirmed for Saturday 24th October and will include the usual 20km men/women and 50km men.
- In an interview with London's Daily Mail, Russian whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov makes astonishing new claims of the extent of doping across ALL sports. He claims tens of thousands of elite athletes spanning every major sport have got away with doping, and continue to do so in nations all around the world, aided and abetted in many cases by corrupt anti-doping officials like himself. He says you only need to look at Transparency International's 'Corruption Perceptions Index' (CPI) to see where the biggest problems lie. The CPI rates nations on a scale of 0 to 100, with the lowest numbers indicating most corruption. "At the laboratories from countries below 50, like Russia on 28, there is high probability [of] corruption at sample collection sites, or inside the laboratory," he says. Rodchenkov points out that a country without a WADA lab, like Kenya which has a CPI rating of 28, will also likely be riddled with institutional corruption, including in anti-doping. See <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/othersports/article-8607891/Whistleblower-Grigory-Rodchenkov-makes-astonishing-new-claims-doping-sports.html>.
- Ukraine's canoe sprint paddler Oleksandr Senkevych has been handed a four-year ban after testing positive for the endurance boosting drug meldonium. After a test by the National Anti-Doping Agency of Ukraine during a competition on June 15, 2019, his sample returned with a positive showing for the heart attack drug. Meldonium was initially designed in the Soviet Union to be used on animals, and has since been used for those with coronary artery disease. But it was added to the banned list in 2016 after evidence of widespread elite sports related misuse, especially amongst tennis players. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1097161/oleksandr-senkevych-canoe-sprint-doping>.
- To the USA where The Big Ten Conference has postponed the 2020 football season because of safety concerns stemming from the novel coronavirus pandemic, the league announced Tuesday. The Big Ten is the first of college football's elite Power Five conferences to decide against playing football this fall. The Big Ten's decision to cancel all fall competition also affects all other fall sports — men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, field hockey and women's volleyball. Other Conferences and Universities are also in the throes of sporting cancellation. See <https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2020/08/11/big-ten-cancels-fall-college-football-season/>.
- The Tokyo Olympics will not take place next year unless a vaccine is found, an expert has claimed. Leading Japanese vaccine researcher Yoshiharu Matsuura told Sky News that the only way the games could happen before autumn 2021 would be if a 'golden bullet' vaccine is developed. See <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8633251/Rescheduled-2021-Tokyo-Olympics-NOT-place-unless-vaccine-found.html>.
- A programme that saw more than two-thirds of 5,000 urine and blood samples taken at London 2012 re-analysed to test for banned performance-enhancing drugs, leading to an Olympic record number of disqualifications, has sent a clear message that athletes who have cheated can never rest comfortably. According to the editor of Olympedia, 139 athletes have been banned or disqualified from doping at London 2012, 65 of them caught in the re-analysis programme, with only nine failing during the Games. The figure includes 39 medallists, 13 of them gold. What a dreadful doped up scenario! See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1097290/london-2012-record-doping-cases>. And 10 of those athletes are walkers - <https://www.insidethegames.biz/media/file/183100/Copy+of+List+of+athletes+disqualified+from+London+2012+because+of+doping.pdf>.

DATES...DATES...DATES

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts. Let me know of any errors/omissions. It continues to change quickly as a result of COVID-19 issues.

Australian/Victorian Key Dates – 2020

Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide (Now a Postal Event)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020 Australian Roadwalk Championships and RWA Carnival, Melbourne (POSTPONED - TBA)

International Dates

Sep 18 (Fri), 2020 46th International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania (see <http://www.alytusfestival.lt/>)
Sep 26 (Sat), 2020 International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemyśl, Poland (Includes Polish 20km Champs)
Oct 10 (Sat), 2020 Podebrady Walks Meet, Podebrady, Czech Republic (see <https://www.podebrady-walking.cz/en/>)
Oct 24 (Sat), 2020 Dudince EA Permit Meet (20km men/women and 50km men)
Oct 20-22, 2020 Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China (CANCELLED)

Nov 7 (Sat), 2020	NZ Road Walk Championships, Bruce Pulman Park, Auckland, New Zealand
July 23 – Aug 8, 2021	32nd Olympic Games, Tokyo and Sapporo
July, 2021	23rd World Masters T&F Championships , Tampere, Finland
Aug 8-19, 2021	World University Summer Games , Chengdu, China
Aug 20-21, 2021	18th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships , Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED FROM 2020)
Jan 2022	Oceania Masters Championships , Norfolk Island (POSTPONED FROM JANUARY 2020)
TBA, 2022	9th World Masters Indoor T&F Championships , Edmonton, Canada
Apr 23-24, 2022	29th World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships , Minsk, Belarus
July 15-24, 2022	18th World Athletics Championships , Eugene, USA
July 27 - Aug 7, 2022	XXII Commonwealth Games , Birmingham, GBR
Aug 11-21, 2022	European Athletics Championships , Munich, GER
TBA, 2023	24th World Masters T&F Championships , Gothenburg Sweden
Aug 2023 (TBC)	19th World Athletics Championships , Budapest, Hungary

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