

ROBERT KORZENIOWSKI			
1	Olympic Games	1996	Atlanta
1	Olympic Games	2000	Sydney
1	Olympic Games	2000	Sydney
1	Olympic Games	2004	Athens
1	World Championships	1997	Athens
1	World Championships	2001	Edmonton
1	World Championships	2003	Paris
3	World Championships	1995	Göteborg

Question:

1) Race walking is undergoing a transformation compared to traditional race distances. What do you think of this standardization of running and walking distances with the introduction of the marathon and half-marathon race walking distances?

It is an excellent direction. Race walking is an integral part of athletics, so we should communicate with fans using the same clear and understandable language. Over time, when an electronic system for ground-contact control is introduced, the distances should also be shortened so they could be held on a track.

2) Do you have memories of a specific period in world race walking. What would you like to convey about that world to young people and current enthusiasts?

The most beautiful period for me was the time that inspired me personally to take up race walking, starting with the 1989 World Cup in L'Hospitalet. I believe that today's World Team Championships are still an exceptionally strong motivator. The concept of team competitions, with the shared presence of U20 categories and adult stars, was—and still is—a great celebration of race walking.

3) Race walking is performance, but also, and above all, technical identity. What do you think should be done to improve understanding and identification of the discipline, and to ensure fairness of judgment?

We should definitely implement an objective electronic system for monitoring ground contact. This would be a major step forward and would allow race walking to have a broader presence in mainstream sports culture.

4) Do you think that current race courses, mostly reduced to 1,000-meter laps, improve the spectacle and understanding of the race, or would slightly longer courses help spectators better understand the event?

For championship events, a 1,000–2,000 meter loop is very beneficial for following the course of the competition. However, in the amateur version of the sport, routes based on road races should also be considered. This is the best target model for promoting the discipline of race walking.

5) You are a symbol of the history of the discipline, a legend of race walking. How would you describe your love and passion for this discipline?

It is a Sport that shaped me both as an athlete and as a person. I believe that every champion carries within them a need to fulfill a mission related to preserving the legacy of the sport. I am looking for young successors, but I also believe that race walking can be the healthiest and most universal form of physical activity for all social groups.

6) Do you think the current judging system is understandable and reflects the values of the discipline?

I believe that judging has made enormous progress. The introduction of the penalty zone was a true revolution and can continue to evolve in terms of its form. We certainly still have a lot to do in educating the media world, especially those who comment on competitions live. The next stage of this revolution will be the introduction of new standards related to electronic verification of an athlete's contact with the ground, with real-time information for spectators about the correctness of each athlete's individual technique.