

2013
USA TRACK & FIELD ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT
Indianapolis, Indiana
December 4th – 8th

This meeting was my first since 2003 when I wasn't the national chairman of the National Race Walk Committee.

- 1) I started off the convention by attending the Podium Project on Wednesday, December 4th. The coaching symposium affords all coaches an opportunity to learn from other coaches and experts in the sport. These sessions have proved to be instrumental in guiding athletes into the Olympic Games and onto the podium. The sessions I attended were on Race Walking. The speaker was Great Britain's head of endurance athletes, specifically race walking, Dr. Andy Drake.

Drake spoke on Talent Transfer. This relates to encouraging running who may be approaching their upward limits in an event, say a 2:16 female half miler, or a 4:25 male miler, to continue in the sport, but to seriously consider and then experiment in becoming a race walker. The conversion is done over a period of 12-18 months. Great Britain has had success with this approach. Many of their best young walkers were middle distance runners until their late teens.

- 2) I also attended the executive session of the race walk committee. Business there was focused on preparing for the General Session of the committee.
- 3) The Opening session of the Convention was on Thursday. The CEO and President changed up the format of the presentation of the reports somewhat. And video presenting the highlights of the last year was slickly done. And as nearly devoid of anything hinting that race walking even existed in the USA. There was free food at the reception afterwards.
- 4) The Site Selection sub-committee of Race Walking met early on Friday morning. This annual meeting reviews the bids and makes recommendation to the committee-of-the-whole as to what bids should be awarded. The bid submitted by the Miami Valley TC was accepted and the Ohio Association was awarded the USATF National Championships in the 10 Kilometer Race Walk for Junior and Open Men and Women. The date of the competition is Sunday, May 11th (Mother's Day), 2014. The location is Eastwood Lake Park in Dayton. I have typed up the entire schedule and submitted with this report.
- 5) The General Session of the Race Walk Committee was called to order shortly after 11am by the Chairman, Ron Daniels. Reports were given by all of the officers (Most are available on-line at the USATF web pages for the convention). About a dozen other reports were then made by the various point people of the numerous sub committees of the organization. The slate of events proposed by the Site Selection Committee earlier in the day was approved. With regard to the junior and senior race walk events at the indoor and outdoor T&F championships – there was no change to the qualifying standards for 2014. The majority of the reports are on-line at the following link: <http://www.usatf.org/Events---Calendar/2013/AM/Document-Library.aspx>
- 6) Race Walking General Session II was called to order was called to order shortly after 11:30am on Saturday morning Business remaining from Friday was concluded. Saturday's business included the presentation

of the committee's awards . Susann Randall and Omar Nash from the Ohio Association were among the masters athletes recognized as the 2013 top performers in their age group. Randall was also the Masters female athlete of the year for Race Walking.

A report was made on the Elite Junior Camp. It was scheduled for December 27th thru January 4th. Four Ohio athletes had the necessary standards to get in, were accepted. Each one also applied for and received a \$250 grant covering the cost of the tuition for the camp. They were Michael and Emily Belovich from Springfield Catholic HS, and Cameron Haught and Charlotte Walkey from Yellow Springs HS. Their coach from the Miami Valley TC would be accompanying them. Overall the camp sold out. Over 40 young people, the top kids in the 13-14, 15-16 and 17-18 age groups will be there, along with some of the collegians. Olympians Rachel & Tim Seaman will be the main coaches.

Also discussed was improving the presence of Race Walking at the JO Nationals, as well as the improvements in the officiating there.

The IAAF's Pit Lane proposal was discussed as well changing the distance contested at the USATF outdoor nationals. Neither was viewed favorable by this delegate, or the committee as a whole. As with everything else in race walking, we'll visit the subject again at some future date.

One of the last items of business was the regional schedule. Ohio and the Miami Valley TC will be hosting the Midwest Region 10k Championships (May 11th with the USA Nationals) and the Midwest 1 Hour (Sunday, June 8th) at Yellow Springs HS. The schedule is attached to this report.

7. The Jesse Owens Banquet was well produced and I enjoyed the Hall of Fame inductions greatly. My HS kids enjoyed getting Mary Cain's autograph.
8. The closing session of the National Meeting of USATF on Sunday morning was short and sweet.

Report by Vince Peters, Ohio Association Race Walk Chairman