



RACE WALKING REPORT
March 2023

MARCH MADNESS IN RACE WALK!!!!
Awards! Records! Medals! Oh My!

Firstly, we'd like to congratulate Marianne Martino for her being selected as the 2022 USATF Colorado Association Race-walker of the Year! Her award was presented by Dan Pierce at the Awards Dinner as Liz Shepard was out of state at the time. Martino had a rough go racing in 2022 cumulating in a broken foot while racing representing Team USA Masters at World Masters Games in Finland. She completed her events and had a long road to heal her foot. She tested it out in a local race then was resuming her medal winning form at the annual outing for High Altitude Racewalk Team (HART) at Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George Utah. Being mindful of her injury, Marianne has healed to the point where she's started 2023 with a competitive bang.

Marianne was not the only member of HART to be earning an award. HART Founder and Coach, Dan Pierce received the Officials Committee Lifetime Achievement Award!

For those who don't know, Dan has been an extremely active part of track and field for, quite literally, his entire life. As a competitive race-walker, Dan race walked his way through numerous events. His 100k record set on December 20, 1987 in Houston Texas of 9:36:33 still stands. I remember asking Dan about how he prepared for the race. With a wry smile and his quiet Washington State accent, he stated "um ... I trained." Spoken like a true coach!

This award, however, was for the "other" side of Dan Pierce is as an extremely accomplished and sought after official! Dan is known for his extremely fair, respected and excellent officiating skills. His credits include him officiating at local, national and international levels. Among his numerous events, Dan has officiated at 8 United States Olympic Team Trials, well over 50 National Race Walk Championships, in excess of 40 United States National Track and Field and Long Distance Running Championships and a wide variety of Youth, Open, Masters, Par-athletic, and Junior Olympic competitions. When Worlds came to Eugene, Dan was right there officiating with his COVID long hair (cut after the event).

Dan's encyclopedic knowledge of the rules and how to apply them as an Official is legendary. As a respected member of the USATF Rules Committee, Dan has taken his experience across all events in Track and Field with him to Rules deliberations and is able to explain the rationale and history of the rules to officials of all levels. Dan is the reason I became an official and the reason why I continue as one. I remember talking with him about officiating while we trained during COVID. I could see how he missed the camaraderie of Officiating during the COVID lockdown. Now that we are back racing, there is no stopping Dan – he loves officiating. He has set the bar high and he deserves this lifetime achievement award many times over. Just because you now have this shiny new award, Dan, that doesn't mean you get to stop! You are an amazing official, mentor and friend.

We would like to welcome Erin Talcott to the race-walk division of the Colorado Association. Erin, a native of the East Coast, moved recently to Colorado with her husband, and fellow race-walker, David Talcott. Erin has been active in race-walk for decades and holds several age group American records across a variety of distances including her 100k record of 14:36:14 set at Isle of Man Great Britain's in 2018. Welcome Erin!

BACK to the races!

USATF National Masters Indoor Competition – March 10th-12th Louisville, KY

HART was represented by Carol Wilkinson and Marianne Martino. The two woman team powered through the contested 1500m and 3000m landing a respectable 25th of 93 teams and 15th of 50 women's. Between the teammates, HART brought home 2 golds, and 2 silvers. Once ratified, Marianne continued her record setting ways with bringing home the 70-74 AG 1500m American record.

Erin was also at National Masters Indoors contesting the 40-44 age group. Erin dominated her contested events and brought home 2 golds. She also brings home the 40-44 AG 1500m American record once it has been ratified.

Next Stop – Torun, Poland! World Master Athletics - Indoors March 28th – April 1st

The 3000M indoor race was contested on 28 March, so Torun report will be split between two months!

The Women's 3000m had HART athletes Carol Wilkinson and Marianne Martino racing in the 65-70 age group. Also in this age group is Heather Carr from Australia. She and Marianne have been racing against one another for years and have created an inspiring "rivalry."

Carol left it all on the indoor track and came home with a Season Best of 21:14.09. She found herself 17th overall and 10th for the 70 age group.

Marianne laced up her racing shoes against her friendly rival Carr. Both of these women are complete inspirations to their sport in not only their respective countries but within race walk itself. The Aussie Carr zipped into 7th overall/6th in the 70 age group chased tightly by Marianne - 8th overall/7th - Carr: 19:09.31 Martino: 19:09.91 one bent knee call each.

So – in one month:

Event	Dan Pierce	Marianne Martino	Carol Wilkinson	Erin Talcot
Colorado Awards Dinner	Lifetime Achievement Award - Officials	2022 Race Walker of the Year		
USATF Masters Indoors Louisville KY		1500M: 9:34.58 Gold AR 3000M: 19:16.67 Gold	1500M: 10:43.92 Silver 3000M: 21:55.28 Silver	1500M: 8:02.48 Gold AR 3000M: 16:29.15
World Masters Indoors Torun, Poland		3000M 19:09.91	3000M: 21:14.09 Season Best	

Congrats to All!
Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Shepard
Racewalk Chair