



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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INTERCLUB RESULTS, PERTH, FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER

Thanks to Rick Cattermole for the following results from Perth where 15 year old Samuel Dib won with an excellent 24:47.1.

1.	Samuel Dib	M	WestTrack AAC	24.47.1
2.	Hannah Watson	F	Curtin	27.27.0
3.	Tristan Anderson	M	WestTrack	28.34.4
4.	Kate Holt	F	Melville	19.04.1
5.	Jacqueline Smith	F	Curtin	19.16.8
6.	Kimberley Smith	F	AWA	29.59.8
7.	Breanna Brown	F	WestTrack	30.23.7
8.	David Smyth	M	WestTrack	30.31.4
9.	Michelle Butler	F	WestTrack	31.34.0
	Jacob Byrne	M	AWA	DQ

FROM THE ARCHIVES – THE 1992 OLYMPIC SELECTIONS

The 1992 Australian Olympic Games selections are remembered as the most controversial ever and are well worth a revisit.

The 50km Saga

Simon Baker had been preselected for the 1992 Olympic 50 km event after his wonderful 2nd place finish in the 1991 Racewalking World Cup (3:46:36) in Barcelona. Thus two places remained for the other Australian contenders. With Andrew Jachno recovering from glandular fever (see below), the opening was there for the next group of walkers led by Victorians Dariusz Wojcik, Craig Brill and Michael Harvey. Athletics Australia had set an A standard of 3:58:00 and a B standard of 4:03:00 so it was a tough ask but Dariusz and Craig both already had B qualifiers with their times of 4:00:38 and 4:02:45, done in taking gold and silver in the Australian 50km championship in August 1991. The big question was whether they could improve to the A standard of 3:58:00.

The 50km Olympic trial was held in January 1992 in Melbourne and, in a high quality event, Dariusz won with 3:58:30 and Craig was second with 4:00:21, both bettering the Olympic B Qualifying standard yet again but once again short of the A standard. To further complicate things, the event was besmirched with false accusations that Andrew Jachno had paced his clubmate Dariusz early in the event. Since they were both official entrants and were simply walking together, such an allegation was ridiculous and it left a bad taste in the mouth for many of us.

Whatever, the selectors were not satisfied with the performances and, in a surprising and very controversial decision, it was announced that a further 50 km trial would be held as part of a 50km international event in Czechoslovakia. Anyone wishing to gain one of the remaining Olympic 50km spots must compete in this race. With A.A. unwilling to bend, walkers had no alternative but to self-fund a European trip. This second trial was duly held in Czechoslovakia on 26th April 1992 in dreadful conditions and understandably no one could produce the goods. Dariusz was DQ'd at the 40 km mark while still on sub 4 hour pace. Michael Harvey went through the halfway mark in 1:59 but then struggled to eventually finish 15th in 4:13:58. Craig and Ricky Cook of Qld both failed to finish.

Consequently Simon was our only 50km Olympian in 1992. Dariusz has the rather dubious honour of being the only Australian to have broken 4 Hours for the 50km and yet to never have gained an Australian vest.

The Men's 20 km

The top 20km walkers on paper were Simon Baker, Andrew Jachno and Nick A'Hern and the trial had been set for March 1992, in conjunction with the Australian Track and Field Titles in Sydney. The 20km trial would be held on the Thursday and the 5000m track championship would be held on the Sunday.

But things were not good in the Jachno camp as Andrew had contracted glandular fever in the 1991 winter season and been forced to withdraw from the 1991 IAAF World Championship team as the illness lingered. As 1992 started, he seemed to have overcome his illness when a critical nerve problem put his athletic career on hold again. Applying ice to a sore knee, he froze one of the key nerves in the knee and electrical impulses to the shin were impaired. The diagnosis – wait for it to repair naturally – the timeframe 3 to 6 months.

With his preparation in tatters, he looked like missing the Olympic 20 km trial. AIS physio Peter Stanton came to the rescue and devised a contraption using a bicycle inner – the tube was attached to the shoelaces and taped under the kneecap. The result – the toes were held firm at 90° to the shin and he had the necessary control to pull the foot forward. Some people questioned the legality of the device but it was ruled by Athletics Australia to be within the rules.

The trial went as expected. After trailing Dave Smith and Nick early, Simon stormed home to win by nearly a minute in 82:16. Nick was second in 83:13 and Andrew took 3rd place in 83:36. All three were under the A standard and Simon now had the option of both events for the Olympics. Predictably, he chose to concentrate on the 50km event and forgo the 20km. This left Nick and Andrew as the likely Olympic 20km representatives.

A few days later the Australian 5000m track title saw an unforgettable three way tussle between Andrew, Dave Smith and Simon. Dave eventually won in 19:23 with Andrew crossing the line in 2nd place, only a couple of seconds behind, only to find that referee Jill Huxley had ruled his support strap illegal and disqualified him.

This raised a whole new controversy as to whether his 20km place should be reviewed. But common sense prevailed and the 20km result was ratified. He was named in the Olympic B squad and, with the shin responding to treatment, he was off to Europe to chase further performances to confirm his selection. In May he had a series of races that showed he was regaining form. First he placed 2nd in the German Olympic Games 20 km trial in 1:21:37, then followed this up with 38:49 for 2nd place in a road 10 km event in Copenhagen and a week later finished 4th in a track 20 km in Bergen, recording 1:21:34.1 for a new Victorian record. This confirmed his selection and he joined Nick A'Hern in the Olympic 20km team.



Athletics Essendon team mates – Dariusz did 3:58:30 but still missed out on Olympic 50km selection while Andrew had to make use of an experimental lower leg splint to get his 20km berth

The Women's 10km Walk

It was not easy for Australians to be selected for this first Olympic walk for women. Although the I.O.C. had set a B standard of 48:00 and an A standard of 46:30, Australia had set its own standard of 45:30. The womens walk was the only event which warranted such special treatment.

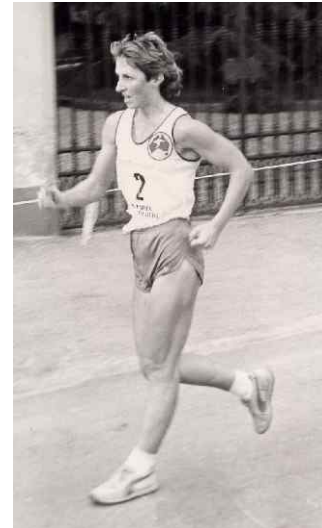
Kerry Saxby-Junna was expected to be a shoe-in and Lorraine Jachno was expected to be the next most likely for Olympic selection. Lorraine had been gradually improving over the previous few years, including fourth place in the 1990 Commonwealth Games 10km in Auckland. Then on 19th May 1991 she recorded an A qualifying road time of 45:25 in Melbourne on her way through to 15 km. This bettered her previous PB of 46:02, set in May 1989, and gave her that all important Olympic A qualifier. She decided to postpone her family plans and try for one final big competition.

The trial was held in Sydney in March 1992 in Sydney. Kerry gave a great exhibition to win in 43:03 and was an obvious selection. Second place went to NZ walker Anne Judkins with Lorraine third in 46:56, Gabrielle Blythe fourth in 47:49, Sue Cook fifth in 47:51 and Nat Camplin sixth in 48:00. With Lorraine as the second Australian in the official trial and with an A qualifier already under her belt, we expected to see her name announced in the official lists. It was with some astonishment that we read that Lorraine had only been given a B grade selection, meaning that she had to confirm her place with other qualifying performances. She did this twice, firstly in Melbourne on the road (45:24) and then in Bergen in Norway on May 16 on the track (45:26). Her Bergen time was a new Victorian record and she beat the Chinese girl who went on to win the 1992 Olympic walk. Surely this was enough to satisfy the selectors!

The situation changed radically while Lorraine was in Europe. Fellow Victorian Gabrielle Blythe, who had been convincingly beaten by Lorraine in the trial, won the Australian 20 km title in Melbourne on May 24 in 1:40:02. In this race, her first 10 km split had been 44:21. She then backed this up with 44:27 in La Coruna in Europe.

The selectors were faced with the choice – which one of Lorraine and Gabrielle to select. The answer seemed obvious to us – both girls had repeatedly beaten the tough Australian standard and both deserved selection. There was consternation when Lorraine was left out of the team in favour of Gabrielle. Was the decision political (Gabrielle was at the AIS and Lorraine was

not) or did they choose a younger walker instead of an older walker (Lorraine was 32). In any case, much discussion occurred behind closed doors. Lorraine had been led to believe that a time under 45:30 would gain her selection and she had met this criteria on 3 separate occasions. Her subsequent omission from the 1992 Olympic team rates as one of the blackest moments in Australian walking history.



Gabrielle Blythe (left) and Kerry Saxby-Junna (middle) made the inaugural women's Olympic 10km walk but Lorraine Jachno (right) was controversially left out

Postscript

Following such turmoil, it was perhaps not surprising that the Australian 1992 Olympic walk performances were mediocre. Andrew Jachno and Gabrielle Blythe had been forced to chase times in Europe in the leadup to the Games and not surprisingly both subsequently walked personally disappointing Olympic races in what turned out to be their last international appearances. Nick A'Hern was diagnosed with a hyper-active thyroid gland soon after his Olympic trial performance in April (explaining why he had been so tired for some time) and an operation was required in April to remove a tumour from his neck. He bounced back but again his Olympic performance was below his usual high standard. Only Simon Baker and Kerry Saxby-Junna could break into the top twenty with Olympic placings of 19th and 15th respectively.

Nicholas A'HERN (NSW)	20 km Walk	22/42	1:31:39.0
Andrew JACHNO (VIC)	20 km Walk	31/42	1:36:49.0
Simon BAKER (VIC)	50 km Walk	19/43	4:08:11.0
Gabrielle BLYTHE (VIC)	10 km Walk	31/44	50:13.0
Kerry SAXBY-JUNNA (NSW)	10 km Walk	15/44	46:01.0



**Left – Simon Baker collapses on crossing the finish line in the 1992 Olympic 50km walk
Right – Lorraine Jachno and Simon Baker spectating at the 2006 Commonwealth Games 50km walk in Melbourne**

WHAT'S COMING UP

No sooner had I published the January and February dates than it was pointed out that the Eastern Region dates for Rounds 10 and 12 have been changed from Thursday evenings to twilight Saturdays (4:30PM start time). This is because of the large number of athletes competing in the Eastern Region and the fear that the program might not finish by 10pm if held on a Thursday night. The walks will start at 5pm on the two Saturdays. I am told that invitations for Round 10 Eastern Region will be at the discretion of the Event Manager and Track Referee (ie. there is no guarantee of a start) and no invitations at all will be allowed for Round 12.

January

Sat 09/01	AV Shield - Round 11 (BENDIGO REGION)	La Trobe University Athletics Complex, Bendigo
Sat 09/01	AV Shield - Round 11 (GEELONG REGION)	Landy Field, South Geelong
Sat 09/01	AV Shield - Round 10 (BALLARAT REGION)	Llanberris Reserve, Ballarat
Sun 10/01	VRWC Road Races	Albert Park
Thurs 14/01	AV Shield - Round 10 (SOUTHEAST REGION)	Duncan MacKinnon Reserve, Murrumbeena
Thurs 14/01	AV Shield - Round 10 (NORTHWEST REGION)	Moonee Valley Athletics Centre, Moonee Ponds
** Sat 16/01 4.30pm	AV Shield - Round 10 (EAST REGION)	Hagenauer's Reserve, Box Hill
Sat 16/01	AV Shield - Round 12 (BENDIGO REGION)	La Trobe University Athletics Complex, Bendigo
Sat 16/01	AV Shield - Round 12 (GEELONG REGION)	Landy Field, South Geelong
Sat 16/01	AV Shield - Round 11 (BALLARAT REGION)	Llanberris Reserve, Ballarat
Thurs 21/01	AV Shield - Round 11 (SOUTHEAST REGION)	Ballam Park Athletic Track, Frankston
Thurs 21/01	AV Shield - Round 11 (EAST REGION)	Bill Sewart Athletics Track, Burwood
Thurs 21/01	AV Shield - Round 11 (NORTHWEST REGION)	Moonee Valley Athletics Centre, Moonee Ponds
22-24 Jan	Victorian Country Athletics Championships	Joe Carmody Athletic Track, Newborough
Thurs 28/01	AV Shield - Round 12 (SOUTHEAST REGION)	Knox Athletic Track, Scoresby
Thurs 28/01	AV Shield - Round 12 (NORTHWEST REGION)	Moonee Valley Athletics Centre, Moonee Ponds
** Sat 30/01 4.30pm	AV Shield - Round 12 (EAST REGION)	Reischiek's Reserve, Doncaster
Thurs 30/01	AV Shield - Round 12 (BALLARAT REGION)	Llanberris Reserve, Ballarat
Sat 30/01	Possible 3000m handicap walk at the Victorian Athletic League meet at St Albans in Melbourne.	

February

Sat 06/02	AV Shield - Region Final (EAST REGION)	Hagenauer's Reserve, Box Hill
Sat 06/02	AV Shield - Region Final (SOUTHEAST REGION)	Knox Athletic Track, Scoresby
Sat 06/02	AV Shield - Region Final (BENDIGO REGION)	La Trobe University Athletics Complex, Bendigo
Sat 06/02	AV Shield - Region Final (BALLARAT REGION)	Llanberris Reserve, Ballarat
Sat 06/02	AV Shield - Region Final (NORTHWEST REGION)	Moonee Valley Athletics Centre, Moonee Ponds
Sat 13/02	AV Shield - FINAL	Reischiek's Reserve, Doncaster
Sat 13/02	Australian Summer 20 km road championships Includes U20 10km World Cup trials and AustU23 vs NZOpen 20km Teams Competition	Hobart
Thurs 18/02	Victorian Open & U20 5000 Walk C'ships	AV All Comers Meet, Olympic Park, Melbourne
Thurs 25/02	AMA 4 x 800 Walk Relays, 7:45PM	Bill Sewart Athletics Track, Burwood
26-28/02	Victorian Youth Track & Field Championships	Olympic Park, Melbourne

DATES...DATES...DATES

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts.

Sat 9 Jan 2010	Athletics Victoria Shield competition resumes at country venues	
Sun 10 Jan 2010	VRWC road races, Albert Park	
Thurs 14 Jan 2010	Athletics Victoria Shield competition resumes at metropolitan venues	
22-24 Jan 2009	Victorian Country Championships, Newborough	
Thurs 28 Jan 2010	Invitational VMA 5000m/3000m walks at East Burwood Masters, East Bwd Aths Track, 7:50PM	
Sat Jan 30, 2010	Canberra Grand Prix (including Australia Cup) – includes Invitation 5000m walks	
	Possible 3000m handicap walk at the Victorian Athletic League meet at St Albans in Melbourne.	
Sat 13 Feb 2010	Australian Summer 20 km road championships, Hobart (including U20 10km World Cup trials)	
	Incorporating Australia U23 vs New Zealand Open 20km Teams Competition	
Thurs 18 Feb 2010	Victorian 5000m track walk title (in conjunction with an AV All Comers Meet at Olympic Park)	
Thurs 25 Feb 2010	AMA 4 x 800 Walk Relays, East Burwood Athletics Track, 7:45PM (also 2km and 4km walks at 8PM)	

26-27 Feb 2010 Victorian U14-U18 & U20 Track and Field Champs, Olympic Park
 27 Feb 2010 Sydney Grand Prix – 5000m walks
 11-14 Mar 2010 Australian U14, U15, U16, U17, U18 and U20 Track and Field Champs, Sydney (walks in all divisions)
 20-21 Mar 2009 Victorian Masters T&F Championships, Hagenauer's Reserve, Box Hill
 26-28 Mar 2010 Victorian Open T&F Championships, Olympic Park (note 5000m walks held separately on Thur 18 Feb)
 2-5 April 2010 Easter weekend - Australian Masters T&F Champs, Perth
 Sun 11 April 2010 VMA 5000m track championships and VRWC events, venue TBC
 16-18 April 2010 Australian Open and U23 Track and Field Championships, Perth

2010 International Highlights

May 15-16, 2010 **IAAF World Race Walking Cup, Chihuahua, Mexico.** See <http://www.iaaf.org/wrc10/preview.html>
 July 3-10, 2010 **Oceania Masters Championships, Tahiti**
 July 19-25, 2010 **World Junior Championships, Moncton, Canada**
 14-26 Aug, 2010 **World Youth Olympics, Singapore** (10000m walk boys, 5000m walk girls)
 Oct 3-14, 2010 **Commonwealth Games, Delhi, India.** See <http://www.cwgdelhi2010.com/>

2010 Race Walking Challenge Series (dates now confirmed)

Apr 10, 2010 IAAF Race Walking Challenge, Rio Maior, POR
 May 1, 2010 IAAF Race Walking Challenge, Sesto san Giovanni, ITA
 May 15-16, 2010 IAAF World Racewalking Cup, Chihuahua, MEX
 May 29, 2010 IAAF Race Walking Challenge, Na Rynek marsz Krakow, POL
 June 19, 2010 IAAF Race Walking Challenge, La Coruna, ESP
 Sept 18, 2010 IAAF Race Walking Challenge Final, Beijing, CHN

2010 – Other International Opportunities

May 30, 2010 German 20km Championships, Naumburg (see <http://www.racewalking-naumburg.de>)

2011 International Fixture

July 7-17, 2011 **World Masters T&F Championships, Sacramento, California, USA**
 Aug 27-Sept 4, 2011 **13th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, Daegu, Korea**
 Aug 12-22, 2011 **26th World Summer Universiade Games, Shenzhen, China.** See <http://www.sz2011.org/eng/index.htm>
 July 7-17, 2011 **19th World Masters Athletics Championships Stadia, Sacramento, USA**

2012 International Fixture

May 2012? **IAAF World Race Walking Cup, Saransk, Russia**
 July 27-Aug 12, 2012 **Olympic Games, London.** See <http://www.london2012.com/>

2013 International Fixture

Aug 10-18, 2013 **14th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, Moscow, Russia**

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