

JESÚS ANGEL GARCÍA OF SPAIN – WALKING LEGEND

In the results from the 2009 IAAF Challenge event at La Coruna, the small print showed that 11th place in the men's 20km event was taken by **Jesus Angel Garcia** of Spain. What the report did not highlight was the fact that Garcia, at 39 years of age, had recorded a 9 second PB of 1:23:00. He is one of the true legends of the sport and, 4 years after that feat, he is still representing Spain internationally and remains competitive against his much younger rivals.

Jesus Angel Garcia, born 17/10/1969 in Madrid, is the longest standing elite exponent of our sport, having raced internationally every year since 1992, specializing in the gruelling 50 km distance. His PBs are spread over his entire career, from his 10km PB of 40:38, set in 1991, to his most recent PBs, set in 2009 over the 10,000m and 20km distances.

5000 Metres Race Walk	19:33.3	Getafe	10/07/2001
10,000 Metres Race Walk	40:38.86	Barcelona	02/08/2009
10 Kilometres Race Walk	40:38	Madrid	17/03/1991
20 Kilometres Race Walk	1:23:00	La Coruña	20/06/2009
30 Kilometres Race Walk	2:08:47	El Prat de Llobregat	18/02/2001
50 Kilometres Race Walk	3:39:54	Podebrady	19/04/1997



Jesus Angel Garcia finishes 4th in the 50km event at the 2008 Olympic Games (photo Jeff Salvage)

His yearly best time for 50km shows his wonderful consistency over a period of 23 years in the toughest event in the Track and Field program.

1991	4:05:10	Valencia	24/02/1991
1992	3:48:24	Badalona	22/03/1992
1993	3:41:41	Stuttgart	21/08/1993
1994	3:41:28	Orense	20/03/1994
1995	3:41:54	Beijing	30/04/1995
1996	3:46:59	Prat del Llobreg	25/02/1996
1997	3:39:54	Podebrady	19/04/1997
1998	3:43:17	Dudince	25/04/1998
1999	3:40:40	Mézidon - Canon	02/05/1999
2000	3:42:51	Eisenhüttenstadt	18/06/2000
2001	3:43:07	Edmonton	11/08/2001
2002	3:44:33	München	08/08/2002
2003	3:43:56	Paris Saint-Denis	27/08/2003
2004	3:44:42	Athína (Olympic Stadium)	27/08/2004
2005	3:48:19	Tijuana	20/03/2005
2006	3:42:48	Göteborg	10/08/2006
2007	3:46:08	Royal Leamington Spa	20/05/2007
2008	3:44:08	Beijing (National Stadium)	22/08/2008

2009	3:46:27	Metz	24/05/2009
2009	3:41:37	Berlin	21/08/2009
2010	3:47:56	Barcelona (O)	30/07/2010
2011	3:48:11	Naumburg	24/09/2011
2012	3:48:15	Saransk	13/05/2012
2013	3:52:37	Dudince	19/05/2013

Finally, his international appearance list (not necessarily complete but showing the main ones) reads so impressively with gold medals at the 1993 World Championships, the 1996 European Championships, the 1997 World Racewalking Cup and the 2000 and 2001 European Race Walking Cups as well as silver and bronze medals and a whole swag of top ten finishes. His credentials include 6 Olympic, 11 World Championships (including 2013 which is yet to come as I write) and 9 World Racewalking Cup appearances.

1991	Universiade	20km	5	1:26:17	Sheffield, England
1992	25 th Olympic Games	50km	10	3:58:43	Barcelona
1993	16 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	2	3:52:44	Monterrey
1993	4 th IAAF World Championships	50km	1	3:41:41	Stuttgart
1994	16 th European Championships	50km	4	3:45:25	Helsinki
1995	17 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	4	3:41:54	Beijing
1995	5 th IAAF World Championships	50km	5	3:48:05	Göteborg
1996	17 th European Championships	50km	1	3:51:01	La Coruna
1996	26 th Olympic Games	50km	DNF		Atlanta
1997	18 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	1	3:39:54	Podebrady
1997	6 th IAAF World Championships	50km	2	3:44:59	Athina
1998	European Race Walking Cup	50km	2	3:43:17	Dudince
1998	17 th European Championships	50km	DQ		Dudince
1999	19 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	4	3:40:40	Mézidon - Canon
1999	7 th IAAF World Championships	50km	DNF		Seville
2000	European Race Walking Cup	50km	1	3:42:51	Eusenhuttenstadt
2000	27 th Olympic Games	50km	12	3:49:31	Sydney
2001	European Race Walking Cup	50km	1	3:44:26	Dudince
2001	8 th IAAF World Championships	50km	2	3:43:07	Edmonton
2002	18 th European Championships	50km	3	3:44:33	München
2003	9 th IAAF World Championships	50km	6	3:43:56	Paris Saint-Denis
2004	21 st IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	6	3:50:33	Naumburg
2004	28 th Olympic Games	50km	5	3:44:42	Athens
2005	10 th IAAF World Championships	50km	DQ		Helsinki
2006	22 nd IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	6	3:46:11	La Coruña
2006	19 th European Athletics Championships	50km	2	3:42:48	Göteborg
2007	11 th IAAF World Championships	50km	DQ		Osaka
2008	23 rd IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	14	3:52:31	Cheboksary
2008	The XXIX Olympic Games	50km	4	3:44:08	Beijing
2009	European Race Walking Cup	50km	2	3:46:27	Metz
2009	12 th IAAF World Championships	50km	3	3:41:37	Berlin
2010	24 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	5	3:55:41	Chihuahua
2010	European Championships	50km	5		Barcelona
2011	13 th IAAF World Championships	50km	DQ		Daegu
2012	IAAF World Race Walking Cup 2012	50km	7	3:48:15	Saransk
2012	The XXX Olympic Games	50km	20	3:48:32	London
2013	European Race Walking Cup	50km	11	3:52:38	Dudince
2013	14 th IAAF World Championships	50km	TBA		Moscow

And in 2013, aged 43, he continues to represent his country Spain internationally, having been selected to compete in his 11th IAAF World Championships 50km in Moscow in August.