
Allen Johnston

Twenty one years ago I joined the Senior Track & Field committee as the Race Walk committee member. The walking program was small but talented. Today it is hard to believe how far this group has come with the hard work and devotion for a small group of coaches and athletes. This past summer saw 3 of our BC Athletics members compete at the Worlds Championships in China (Evan, Inaki and Ben) all finishing in the top 20 and one coming home with a new Canadian record over 20k and a Bronze medal....whether or not we dominate the world in Walks as we have joked in the past, we have certainly rocked it this past year.

This year BC saw the first medal at a World Championships for a Canadian Race Walker.

New BC 50k record – Sr. Men

New 20k Canadian record – Sr. Men

New 5k Canadian record – Youth Female

Our RW athletes are:

Ranked 1st in Nation – Yth. 3km,5km, 10km, - Alger Liang

Ranked 1st in Nation – Yth. 5k, with a new Canadian Record – Samantha Cho

Ranked 1st in Nation – Jr. Men Erik Thies – and Gold medalist at Western Canada Games.

Stephanie Cho wins WCG gold in 5km.

Ranked 2nd in Nation – Midget – Marina Anderson - Silver medal Legion Nationals.

This has been a fantastic year for Walks in BC and Canada.

Now while the older athletes are doing well the numbers of JD RW's have not increased over the past few years. Interest is still high in some regions but it is time for our accomplished Provincial and National team athletes to begin an outreach program to kindle more interest in this event and to build a bigger base for our future national champs to come from. Now is the time to capitalize on our successes and I hope we are able to do so.