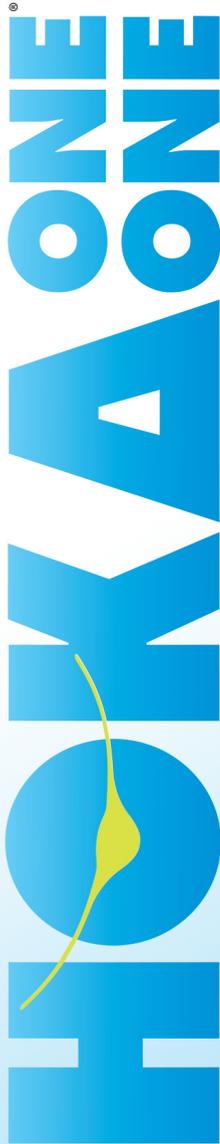




Rapa Nui 2 Tarmac

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from the editor

E. Gary Hill

14 DOWN; HOW MANY TO GO? I'm not one of those who goes out of his way to "collect" seeing of meets anymore, but with Moscow now in the books it is kind of uplifting to realize that I'm now one of the few ever to have been to every edition of the World Championships ever held (where's that Social Security check?).

Traipsing down memory lane, my personal highlight(s) of each of the installments, not all things necessarily those that happened on the field of play, in chrono order:

Personal highlights of each of the 14 Worlds to date

HELSINKI '83: Mary Slaney's 1500/3000 double golds. "Little Mary" (Decker at the time) wasn't the easiest person for journalists to warm to, but her performances brought tears to the eyes of this crusty watcher.

ROME '87: Ben Johnson's head-to-head century with Carl Lewis (forget the disgraceful aftermath; we're talking real time here) captured the world's imagination. And how

about Stefka Kostadinova setting the still-standing WR in the high jump just 12 minutes later, while the stadium was still abuzz and ignoring her?

TOKYO '91: How could it be anything but perhaps the greatest field-event duel of all time, Lewis vs. Powell? I was lucky enough to watch the first 5 rounds from close to the pit, and extra lucky to have made it back to the pressbox in time for the World Record.

STUTTGART '93: It was a great meet for WRs, and who can forget Michael Johnson putting up history's first sub-43 relay leg? But for sheer drama, had to be the protracted photofinish decision for Gail Devers over Merlene Ottey in the 100.

GÖTEBORG '95: Serendipity—leaving the pressbox and sitting with the *T&FN* tour, right on top of the triple jump pit as Jonathan Edwards rewrote the event. And a couple of days later Inessa Kravets did the same in the women's.

ATHENS '97: IAAF majordomo Primo Nebiolo excoriating the locals for having the nerve to stay away in droves, choosing an August vacation over his World Championships.

SEVILLE '99: Johnson's 400 WR. Has anyone ever threatened a WR for so long before actually getting it? I mean, remember, he was No. 1 in the event in '90, and didn't claim the big prize for almost a decade, just shy of his 32nd birthday.

EDMONTON '01: Hard for my first job behind the WC mike not to take precedence. On the field, the women's vault duel, won by Stacy Dragila.

PARIS '03: The Arc de Triomphe, the Champs Élysées, the Louvre... oh, the track meet! That would have to be Jon Drummond's lie-on-the-track protest of his false start that wasn't.

HELSINKI '05: Cold rain put a damper on a lot of things, but couldn't extinguish the fire that was the 100 win of the diminutive Lauryn Williams.

OSAKA '07: Two stunning homestretch battles, in the men's 800 and 1500. In each race "everybody" was in contention with 100 meters to go and almost all the places changed from that point on. And how about out-of-nowhere Donald Thomas in the high jump?

BERLIN '09: The Usain Bolt Show, with a pair of WRs that were surprises in that nobody could do that two years in a row. Could they? Well, not among mortals.

DAEGU '11: That would be the Usain Bolt Non-Show, with one of the most famous false-start DQs in the sport's history. Even if few were there to see it.

MOSCOW '13: The Bolt Show expanded to include fellow Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, who matched her famed compatriot's sprint triple.

In eagerly looking onward to Beijing '15 and London '17 there's only two things I regret: that the IAAF didn't start the WC years earlier (I'd love to be celebrating something like No. 40) and that it didn't decide to have the meet in every non-Olympic year. One can always hope!