

## CHINESE GO WILD

# An Orgy Of WRs

Beijing, September 8-13 - The shocking showing of the Chinese distance women in Stuttgart was only a prelude to their efforts at the Chinese National Games. By the time the last beam had been broken, six had gone under previous WRs a total of 14 times and experts the world over were shaking their heads in stunned disbelief (see p.4).

The meet began hot and stayed that way. On day one, Wang Junxia, the Stuttgart 1 OK champ, followed veteran Zhong Huandi for more than 17 laps of the 10,000. Zhong had passed halfway in 15:05.69, and five laps later they were still on even pace to challenge Ingrid Kristiansen's WR 30: 13.74 from '86.

Wang, running well within herself, finally unleashed her kick with 3000 remaining. She tore through the next kilo in 2:45.6, and followed with a 2:44.9. She needed to run her last kilo in only 3:28.9 to break the mark, but hammered a 2:47.0 to finish in an historic 29:31.78, continuing to run, with arms raised, after the finish. Zhong, a half lap behind, came home in 30:13.37, also under the record.

Wang's performance put the world on notice that more records would follow. She had run her last 5000 in 14:26.0, well under Kristiansen's WR 14:37.33. Truly unbelievable was Wang's last 3000, clocked by Omega in 8:17.47, more than five seconds faster than Tatyana Kazankina's WR from '84.

Wang and her compatriots had more races to run. Two days later, in the heats of the 1500, she ran 4:01.55 **Stuttgart** 3000 champ Qu Yunxia led the qualifiers at 3:59.38; the 12th and slowest qualifier ran 4:02.44

The next day, teammate Liu Dong acted as rabbit in a planned assault on Kazankina's WR 3:52.47 - a mark that had stood for 13 years. Liu, the World 1500 champ, embarked on an ambitious pace that favored her more talented training partners. She hit 400 in 57.1, 800 in 2:00.7, and stepped off the track.

Qu took the initiative, with Wang following. They covered the next lap in 64.5. Qu who had earlier run a 1:56.24 for 2nd in the 800 to Liu's 1:55.54, took advantage of her superior speed to get a meter ahead of Wang. With 200 left, Wang made a last-gasp effort to take the lead, but Qu prevailed. She emerged triumphant with a 350.46 WR. Wang also bettered the record with her 351.92.

Zhang Linli, 2nd in the Stuttgart 3000, finished well back at 357.46. Altogether, 7 women broke 4:00, including 17-year-old Wang Yuan, whose 3:59.81 bettered the WJR she had set in the heats. Three days earlier she had toppled Maria Mutola's WJR with her 157.18 in the 800 heats.

A day later, the heats of the 3000 shocked even more. In the first, Zhang Linli and Zhang Lirong both cruised under Kazankina's WR of 822.62, running 822.06 and 822.44 respectively. It was a WR fated to last only some 14 minutes.

In the second heat, Qu teamed up with Wang Junxia and lesser-known teammate Ma Liin. Training partner Wang Yanfang set the pace for a quick 529.43 at 2000 before she faded. As Qu and Wang Junxia gradually sped up, Ma lost contact but did not fade.

Wang edged ahead at the finish, her 8:12.19 shattering Zhang's mark by 9.87. Qu finished just 0.08 back (8: 12.27). Ma also ducked under the mark with her 8:19.78.

A day later, Wang and Qu faced each other again to settle the score. This time, no rabbits led the way. Wang moved to the fore and hit 1000 in 2:42.0. She lagged on her next kilo, running 2:47.7 for a 529.65, slower than the heat. In her sixth race in as many days, Qu finally found her speed blunted. She could not pull even with Wang, who had unleashed her trademark kick.

On the last lap, the margin grew steadily, and before long it was not a question of who would win; it was how much damage they would do to the record. Wang covered the last kilo in 236.4 and crossed the line in a stunning 8:06.11.

Qu also broke the mark - by the barest of margins - finishing in 8:12.18. Three others trounced the ghost of Kazankina: Zhang Linli (8:16.50), Ma (8:21.26) and Zhang Lirong (8:21.84).

### -MEN'S EVENTS-

100(2.0). Li Tao 10.24 = NR. 200, Huang Tanwei 20.92. 400. fhaou Cunlin 45.85 NR. 600, Mu Weiguo 1:49.27. 1500. Liu Fuxiang 348.68. St. Sun Ripeng 824.97 NR, NJR (2.2 WJ). 5000, Hong Buo 13:32.46. 10,000 Jiu Shangxuan 28:40.81.

110H. Chen Yanhao 13.59; 2. Li Tong (Tony Lii 13.59. 400H, Yang Xianjun 49.59 NR. 20kmW (questionable distance), Chen Shaoguo 1:19.43. 50kmW. Li Mingcai 3:49.17. 4x100, Guangdong 39.16. 4x400, Beijing 3:08.54.

HJ. Xu Yang 7-7 (2.31). PV, Liang Xwren 17-4 1/2 (530)). LJ. Huang Gang 27-T/r (8.30) TJ, Zou Sixin 56-7 1/2 (17.26). SP, Liu Hao 64-8x (19.72). DT, Li Shao 199-8 (60.88). HT, Bi Zhong 237-1 (72.52). JT, Zhang Lianbiao 257-7 (78.52). Dec, Guo Jin 7780.

### -WOMEN'S EVENTS-

100(-0.0) Liu Xiaomei 11.02 NR. 200 (-2.1). Chen Zhaojing 22.56 NR. 400] Ma Yuqing 49.81 NR(WL); 2. Zhang Hanyun 51.25 NJR.

800, Liu Dong 155.54 NR; 2. Qu Yunxia 1:56.24; 3. Liu Li 1:57.18 (57.6/59.6); 4. Lu Yi 1:57.77 (4, 4 WJ); 5. Wang Yuan 158.16 (x) 7 WJ); 6. Chen Xuehui 158.48.

Heats: II-1] Liu Li 1:56.96 NR (57.1/59.9); 2. Wang Yuan 1:57.18 WJR (old WJR] 1:57.63 Mutola [Moz] 31). III-I. Liu Dong 15625 NR (55.5/60.8); 2. Lu Yi 1:59.39 (11, x WJ).

1500, Qu Yunxia 3:50.46 WR (old WR 3:52.47 Kazankina[SU] '80) (45.3); 2. Wang Junxia 3:51.92 (2, 2 WJ); 3. Zhang Linli 3:57.46; 4. Wang Hongmei 358.64; 5. Liu Li 3:59.34; 6] Zhang Lirong 359.70; 7. Wang Yuan 3:59.81 WJR (old WR 4:01.79 Wang in heats); 8. Lu Yi 4:00.05 (3, 3 WJ); 9. Li Ying 4:02.12;...rabbit — Liu Dong (57.1, 63.6[2:00.7]).

(best-ever mark-for-place: I-2, 7-9

Heats: I-5. Wang Yuan 4R1.79 WJR (old WJR 4:04.39Pieterse[GB] '85) (2, 3 WJ); 6. Lu Yi 4:01.82 (3.5 WJ).

3000, Wang Junxia 8:06.11 WR (old WR] 8:12.19 Wang in heats) (2:42.0, 2:47.7][5:29.65—6, 6 WJ]



After claiming the 3K and 10K bests and topping the old 1500 WR, Wang said, "I think I can break WRs again."

2:36.4]; 2. Qu Yunxia 8:12.18 (2, 2 WJ); 3. Zhang Linli 8:16.50 (3, 5 WJ); 4. Ma Liin 8:21.26 (x, 7 WJ); 5] Zhang Lirong 8:21.84 (5, 8 WJ); 6. Wei Li 8:39.74; 7. Zhong Huandi 8:41.67; 8. Li Ying 8:42.39; 9. Wang Hongmei 8:49.86; 10. Wang Xiuji 8:50.94]

(best-ever mark-for-place: I-5)

Heats: I-I. Zhang Linli 8:22.06 WJR (dd WR 822.62 Kazankina[SU] '84); 2. Zhang Lirong 822.44 (2, 2 WJ]

(best-ever mark-for-place: I-2)

II-1] Wang Junxia 8:12.19 WR (old WR 822.06 Zhang in previous heat); 2. Qu Yunxia 8:12.27 (2.2 WJ) (2:43.6); 3. Ma Liin 8:19.78 (3, 3 WJ); 4. Wei Li 8:47.96.

(best-ever mark-for-place: 1-3)

10,000, Wang Junxia 2931.78 WR (old WR 30:13.74 Kristiansen[Nor] '86) (15:05.8/14:26.0) (last 3K—8:17.47); 2. Zhong Huandi 30:13.37 (15:05.69/15:07.68) (2.2 WJ); 3. Zhang Lirong 31:09.25 (9. x WJ); 4. Ma Liyan 31:10.46 (11, x WJ); 5. Zhang Linli 31:16.28; 6. Liu Jianying 31:23.92; 7. Wei Li 31:28.83; 8. Wang Yongmei 31:31.54; 9. Feng Wenhui 31:32.15; 10. Wang Xiuting 31:32.23]

11. Wang Yanfang 31:32.50; 12. Wang Dongmei 31:50.39; 13. Dong Li 31:52.59;...dnf—Ma Ningning. (Leader: Zhong Huandi 2:54.7, 3:01.8][5:56.5], 3:02.6 [8:59.1], 3:03.6 [12:02.7], 3:03.0 [15:05.69], 3:04.3 [18:10.0], 3:04.3 [21:14.3]; Wang Junxia 2:45.6 [23.59.9], 2:44.9 [26:44.8], 2:47.0.]

(best-ever mark-for-place: 1-13)

100H(0.1), Zhang Yu 12.64 NR. 400H, Han Qing 53.96 NR;...5. Bong Liwun 55.72 NJR (4, 7 WJ)]

10kmW] Li Chunxui 41:48] NR (3, 3 WJ); 2. Gao Hongbiao 41:57 WJR (old WJR 43:45] Jin Bingjie [Chn] '87) (6, 6 WJ); 3. Wang Yan 42.46; 4. Gu Yan 42:50; 5. Liu Hongyu 43:01.

4x100] Guangxi 43.16 NR] 4x400, Hebei 32428 NR (No. 8 Nation); 2. Guangxi 328.58.

### Field Events

HJ, Jin Ling 64% (1.94). LJ] Ma Miaolan 23-2w (7.06) (22-10%[6.97]) TJ, Wu Ruiping 46-10%[14.29 WJR (old WJR 45-7%[13.91 Wu 33] (1, 1, x WJ) (f, 46-1%w] (ac: 1, I, WJ], f. f. f. 46-10%]) (f, 14.06w] f, f, f, 1429).

SP, Zhou Tii 65-7% (20.00). 2. Huang Zhihong 65-3% (19.90). DT. Cao Qi 218-9 (66.08). JT, Ha Xiaoyan 214-8 (65.44); 2. Zhang Li 210-2 (64.06).

Hept, Ma Miaolan 6750 NR (10, x WJ) (1328, 6-2/4.89, 49-1%[14.98, 23.86 [4030]; 21-9%[6.64, 147-2/44.86, 2:15.33 [2720]); 2. Zhu Yuqing 6394 (13.05).