

Howard Beach Race Saturday

It isn't often that the memory of a racial incident can overshadow a road race. But Saturday's "Reach for the Beach" 5K race will be held in Howard Beach, where only five months ago a young black man, fleeing a gang of white youths, was killed when he was struck by a car on the Belt Parkway. That incident became the focal point and rallying cry for racial protests.

The negative connotation disturbs race director Pat O'Donohue. "It was an isolated incident which doesn't reflect the true spirit of the community," said O'Donohue, referring to the Dec. 20 tragedy. "Anyone who comes into our community this Saturday . . . we anticipate treating them as a host would treat a guest. We welcome the runners."

Last year's debut "Reach for the Beach" was, by all accounts, well-organized and O'Donohue said participants can expect more of the same Saturday: traffic-free streets (a rarity in city races), ample toilet facilities, mementos for all runners who finish, and plenty of police — ostensibly for traffic control.

"It's a good, safe course, with lots of well-intentioned volunteers," O'Donohue said.

But what do a few local black runners think about running a race in Howard Beach? "It's always difficult when you know there may be a lot of hostility," said Bob Winn, a staff member at the New York Road Runners club. "But I would say a race is a race, wherever you go, and you shouldn't let it bother you. If you're into running, you block everything else and don't worry about what other people think."

Cliff Pauling of the Bronx, a six-time national champion Masters runner, believes otherwise. "I would not run that race. Howard Beach is basically a segregated community . . . I don't think my presence there would be welcome."

"If the race was being held, let's say, to raise bail for one of the people involved in the incident, I wouldn't show up," Art Hall, president of Manhattan's North Shore Track Club, said. "But I have no problem with this type of community run. We shouldn't take a whole town and judge it by the actions of a few."

For more information, call (718) 835-7988.

■ On the Roads

You gotta have runners to make "You Gotta Have Park" races a success. In Central Park last

Saturday, 805 runners competed in the 5K designed to promote awareness and volunteer cleanup efforts in the city parks. The men's winner was Rich McNally of the Warren Street AC, who finished in a fast 15:36. The women's winner was Alicia Moss of the Adams Track Club in Brooklyn in 16:44.

Prospect Park's "You Gotta Have Park" race drew 200 runners for the 3.35-mile course. Reynold Mason of Brooklyn (18:33) and Caroline Truesdell of Flushing (21:05) were the winners.

On Sunday, 160 runners braved the heat to run a 5-mile cross-country course through Van Cortlandt Park, in the annual Bronx Historical Society race. Art Senior of the Prospect Park Track Club (27:55) won for the second time. If the Parks Commission truly is interested in expanding the "You Gotta Have Parks" program, wouldn't Van Cortlandt be the next logical choice? They've already got an established race there on the same weekend.

The Emerald Society, the pipe and drums corps of the NYPD, is sponsoring a 5-mile race 10 a.m. Saturday at Flushing Meadow Park. You'll be serenaded after the race. For more information, call Mike Healey at (212) 374-6681 or Ray Duffy at (718) 574-1265.

Concerned Pitt Coach Wants to Stop Agents

University of Pittsburgh football coach Mike Gottfried, calling himself "very concerned" by the possibility that two Pitt players with eligibility remaining have had dealings with New York sports agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**, said he will ask school officials to consider taking legal action against the two agents.

"I have no use for those guys [**Walters** and **Bloom**]," Gottfried said Tuesday in a telephone interview with New York Newsday from Detroit, where he was scouting recruits. "I think they've really damaged a lot of areas and damaged a lot of kids. I have no use for the way they've done this. I think right now we're going to get to the bottom of it, and I think one thing I'm encouraging the University of Pittsburgh to look at is the legal possibilities. I think it's something we need to consider because of what's happened here."

Gottfried said he plans to meet with Pitt athletic director Ed Bozik early next week to discuss the idea that Pitt should take legal action against **Walters** and **Bloom** and their firm, World Sports and Entertainment Inc.

Former Pitt defensive end / linebacker Tony Woods, the Seattle Seahawks' first-round draft choice this year, has admitted signing with **Walters** and **Bloom** before his eligibility expired, a violation of NCAA rules. Woods has been subpoenaed to appear before the Chicago federal grand jury investigating the business practices of **Walters** and **Bloom**, according to Woods' lawyer, Richard

Zaroff. Running back Charles Gladman and defensive back Teryl Austin, who would enter their senior seasons at Pitt this fall, have been subpoenaed as well, according to a Pitt source who asked not to be identified. Gladman and Austin also have been interviewed by the FBI as part of the investigation, the source said.

Woods' admission after the fact will bring no NCAA penalties. Gladman and Austin, players who have not been linked previously to **Walters** and **Bloom**, could, however, under NCAA rules, be ruled ineligible for their final seasons if it is determined they signed with agents.

Gladman and Austin could not be reached for comment.

Gottfried declined comment on the Gladman and Austin subpoenas, saying he has not been able to talk with the players because of his travel schedule. But he said the school would conduct an internal investigation similar to the one it conducted when reports of Woods' involvement with **Walters** and **Bloom** surfaced.

"We've already gone through this one time," Gottfried said, "and we're going to go through it again and turn everything we have over to the NCAA. If it costs us, it costs us. But what's got to happen is people like these two people [**Walters** and **Bloom**], they've got to be out of this business, because they're not only screwing up programs across the country, they're screwing up individual people." — Manny Topol and Danny Robbins



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— Pitt coach Mike Gottfried

Agents Allegedly Offered Drugs to Athletes

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Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League, said he once asked **Bloom** about rumors of drug use. **Bloom** denied involvement with drugs, Rambo said yesterday.

"**Bloom** was always high-rolling and there was always a hint of drugs," Rambo said. "I talked to **Lloyd** himself. I said, 'Listen, you've got a good thing going here. You've got the entertainment business. You're high-flying. You don't need the drugs.' He said, 'Well, I don't do that kind of stuff.' And I just told him straight out, because there were some pretty hard feelings going on that **Lloyd** was pumping the drugs to the guys." **Walters** has represented a number of top musical groups for many years.

Eric Tillman, executive director of the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., was interviewed about two weeks ago by the FBI concerning **Walters** and **Bloom**.

Tillman said yesterday he has not been subpoenaed by the grand jury, but was asked by the FBI about allegations linking drugs and prostitution to **Walters** and **Bloom**. He said those were only two of several questions that were asked, but the focus of the interview, Tillman said, was **Walters** and **Bloom**. The subpoenaed players, according to sources, include former Southern Methodist players Jeff Atkins, Jerry Ball and Ronald Morris.

A source close to the investigation said yesterday

that the FBI has learned of a scenario in which these players allegedly were brought to New York in December, 1985, by **Walters** and **Bloom** and set up with prostitutes, who then offered cocaine to the players.

FBI agents questioned the SMU players specifically about the New York trip, and the drug situation as it relates to **Walters** and **Bloom**.

The source said the FBI believes it was on that trip, and on a subsequent trip to New York in the summer of 1986 — both paid for by **Walters** and **Bloom** — that Atkins became addicted to drugs.

Atkins spent four weeks in a Dallas drug rehabilitation center and was released in January.

Atkins was not drafted by the NFL and signed with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League. He was unavailable for comment. Morris declined comment and Ball could not be reached.

If the charges of offering drugs and prostitutes are substantiated, federal investigators could use them as a basis to press charges of racketeering. Sources said the grand jury also is investigating charges of mail fraud, and fraud by wire, going on the theory that **Bloom** and **Walters** used the athletes to defraud the schools of large sums of money and tuition. Documents filed in many of the suits indicate that many of the athletes were signed to representation agree-

ments before the expiration of their college eligibility and given large sums of money while eligible, a violation of NCAA rules. The agents also may have defrauded the schools through the use of school affidavits in which the athletes had to swear that they had no outside income or contracts, sources said.

The charge of extortion stems from alleged threats by **Bloom** against some athletes when the athletes attempted to break contracts with World Sports and Entertainment Inc. The investigation was started because of a bizarre incident involving a competitor of **Walters**. On March 16, Kathe Clements, a business associate of Skokie, Ill., sports agent Steve Zuker, was stabbed and beaten unconscious in her office by an intruder wearing a ski mask and gloves. Zuker, who represents Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, said he signed three of **Walters**' former clients. Police say they had no evidence to connect **Walters** to the attack, but sources said the grand jury investigation was sparked by the attack.

Rambo, the Saskatchewan team's player-personnel director, said he spoke to **Bloom** at the Hula Bowl in Honolulu this year, and asked the agent about clients who had defected from his firm. "He said, 'Hey, let them go ahead,'" Rambo said. "I'll take care of them. They won't be playing any pianos for a while . . ."