

# Runners Pass Tough TEST

The first Trans Empire State Trek (TEST) really lived up to its acronym. It was a test of wills, of endurance, of organization.

And when seven of the original 14 starters crossed the finish line in Riverside Park on Aug. 14 — eight days and 347 miles after they had started out from the village of Rouses Point on the Canadian border — the TEST earned its place in the history books as the first successful cross-state run to be held in the U.S. since 1929.

The competitors of the TEST ran a certain distance, or "stage," to a pre-determined point each day. But calling it a stage race just doesn't do justice to what the event really was. "We called it a journey run," said race organizer Rich Innamorato of Long Island City, "because that's just what it was. A physical and metaphysical journey."

Indeed. The competitors ran daily from 7 a.m. to about 6 p.m., averaging about 43 miles per day along dirt paths, back roads and state highways. Following a course mapped out by Innamorato prior to the race, they went from the very northern tip of New York State, south along Lake Champlain, west through Albany and down along the Hudson River Valley into Manhattan. All of this in seven straight days of 95-degree heat and oppressive humidity.

Remarkably, there were no serious medical problems and not a single runner got lost. Most of that can be attributed to good management. Working with a budget of only \$2,500 — most of it donated by members of his running club, the Broadway Ultra Society — Innamorato was still able to keep the runners as comfortable as one can be on a 347-mile run conducted in the midst of a blistering heat wave. Every morning, Innamorato and his group of five volunteers, among them legendary ultramathoner Ted Corbitt, drove ahead of the runners to set up self-serve water and food stations along the day's route. Every evening, the runners had air-conditioned rooms with showers and comfortable beds waiting for them, in lodgings that Innamorato had arranged for prior to the race.

Still, even those amenities couldn't quench the thirst for knowledge and self-discovery that, Innamorato believes, is what compels people to run a race like the TEST. "You ask yourself a lot of questions," said Innamorato, who last year did a solo journey run down the coast of California. "That's what you're there for. To find answers."

Jim Shapiro of Manhattan, the winner of the TEST, said he was afraid of what those answers might be. "I never asked why," laughed Shapiro, "because if I did, I might have stopped running." A 41-year old writer, Shapiro covered the TEST distance in a total of 67 hours, four minutes and 47 seconds — seven hours ahead of second-place finisher Ed Finnegan of West Haven, Conn. "It was a very intense experience," said Shapiro, who has done solo runs across the United States and Japan. "You're in a different world in a competitive journey run like this. It's a world where you're trying to hang on for another half-mile . . . where you find yourself saying, 'Only six more hours today, until I can stop.'"

So why would anyone even want to take a test like the TEST? "I know it sounds mind-boggling," said Innamorato. "But it's not impossible. Remember, most of the people in this race had never done a journey run before." In fact, the participants included a 71-year old retiree, a diabetic, a 27-year-old female attorney who decided this would be an interesting way to spend her summer vacation, and a married couple from Britain who passed love notes to each other at the water stations.

"It sounds like a cliché," said Innamorato, "but we became like a family. I really felt close to these people by the time the race was over." Shapiro agreed. "It's like working with a stage crew in a theatrical production. When you break the set, there's a sadness because you've really been through something together."

The TEST was an experience they're not likely to forget. It was a formidable test of body and soul — and they passed with flying colors.

## ■ On the roads

Is it that time of year already? The 4-Mile-Back-To-Work run will be held in Central Park this Sunday. Call 212-860-4455 for more info. The summer's final Marine Park Mile will be held next Wednesday, August 31, at 7 p.m. in Marine Park. Call 718-645-2004.



Dino Ciccarelli arrives at jail after being sentenced. He was released on appeal. AP Photo

## N. Star Gets Day in Jail

Toronto (AP) — Warning that professional athletes are not above the law, Judge Sidney Harris yesterday sentenced North Stars forward Dino Ciccarelli to one day in jail and fined him \$1,000 for hitting the North Stars' Luke Richardson with his stick. Ciccarelli is believed to be the first NHL player to receive a jail term for an on-ice attack.

"It is time now a message go out from the courts that violence in a hockey game or in any other circumstances is not acceptable in our society," Harris said after finding Ciccarelli guilty of assault. Ciccarelli, 28, was released when his lawyer filed an appeal.

"I think it's ridiculous," Ciccarelli told KSTP-TV. "I don't see where these people are getting involved in the hockey aspect. I think the league office should be taking more charge and taking more control of it. Obviously, they are using me as a scapegoat and the judge wanted to use me as an example."

# Walters, Bloom Indicted

## Grand jury also charges Eagles' Carter

By Manny Topol

A federal grand jury yesterday indicted two New York-based sports agents on racketeering charges, and Cris Carter of the Philadelphia Eagles was charged with mail fraud and obstruction of justice.

Agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom were indicted on charges of racketeering, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion. They were the original targets of a federal investigation that was convened more than a year ago to probe the alleged use of illegal payments and threats by agents to induce college athletes to sign improper contracts.

The federal grand jury in Chicago returned an indictment against Carter for obstruction of justice for concealing from the grand jury a \$5,000 payment from agent Dave Lueddeke. Carter, who had dealings with Walters and Bloom, also was charged with mail fraud. Carter left Ohio State with a year of eligibility left and was picked by the Eagles in the 1987 supplemental draft. Lueddeke, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., was charged with perjury and obstruction of justice stemming from the \$5,000 payment.

If convicted, Walters, 58, and Bloom, 29, would face a maximum sentence of 70 years in jail and \$2 million in fines. Carter, who has agreed to cooperate with authorities, would face 10 years and a \$500,000 fine. Lueddeke, 37, could be sentenced to a maximum of 15 years in jail and could face \$750,000 in fines.

According to the indictment, Walters and Bloom

# Beezer: I'll Be Ready For Camp

By Helene Elliott

His goaltending skills have made Ranger fans marvel, and John Vanbiesbrouck now has doctors marveling at his swift recovery from the hand injury he suffered in June. Vanbiesbrouck, who was expected to be sidelined six months after injuring three tendons and the ulnar nerve in his left hand when he fell through a glass coffee table, yesterday said he will be ready to play when the Rangers open training camp in three weeks. While his quick recuperation may have surprised medical experts, it was no surprise to him.

"When I was in the hospital the night it happened and I saw my main three fingers move, I said, 'It's bad, but I can come back from this,'" said Vanbiesbrouck, who underwent five hours of microsurgery on his catching hand at Lenox Hill Hospital. "My thumb, index finger and middle finger, my power fingers, are very, very strong and the others are coming along. The progress I've made so far is that the tendons are totally healed and the nerve has improved enough to where I don't run the risk of injuring it on impact. As far as mobility and strength, that still has to be worked on."

Vanbiesbrouck credited his doctor, Susan Craig, and his therapist for pushing him toward recovery and allowing him to push them. The ultimate test, of playing in a game, is still to be faced.

"The only two things I've done is play catch with my brother with a puck and glove, and last Saturday I was filming 'View from the Crease' [a feature on Rangers telecast] and James Patrick flicked some shots at me and it felt good. I let the puck hit my wrist and it felt fine. There was no difference. I have no built-in excuses . . . I'm really looking forward to the season."

## Fetisov, Devils Need Aid From USSR Army

Just one hurdle is preventing Soviet defenseman Viacheslav Fetisov from joining the Devils for the upcoming season, but it is a formidable barrier. According to Devils general manager Lou Lamoriello, Soviet sports authorities have given Fetisov permission to play in the NHL and his departure has received the blessings of premier Mikhail Gorbachev, but bureaucrats in the Soviet army have not yet accepted Fetisov's resignation from the service.

"Financially, everything's been straightened out," Lamoriello said. "The only hangup is the army situation."

made payments to star college athletes in exchange for signed — in some cases post-dated — agreements allowing Walters and Bloom to represent them in professional contract negotiations.

The two also were charged with inducing athletes to defraud their schools by accepting cash payments and signing contracts. Walters and Bloom dealt with more than 50 college athletes from 1985-87. Forty-three athletes who signed with Walters and Bloom while in college avoided prosecution by agreeing to perform community service and to reimburse part of their scholarships to the universities they attended.

Walters and Bloom, according to the indictment, allegedly coerced athletes to sign agreements with them by threatening physical harm. The indictment charges that the agents used reputed organized crime figure Michael Franzese to muscle athletes into signing agreements. Franzese, currently serving a 10-year prison term in California after pleading guilty to racketeering and tax charges, was named as an unindicted co-conspirator.

In June, Walters made a deal with Alabama authorities to avoid prosecution on misdemeanor charges there for his dealings with former Alabama basketball players Derrick McKey and Terry Coner. He agreed to play the University of Alabama more than \$200,000 and agreed not to deal with Southeastern Conference athletes. Bloom, who was indicted in the same case, pleaded guilty in May to one misdemeanor charge.