

The New York Times

LETTERING BY BERNARD MAISH



CHEERING SECTION Marathon fans in the Greenpoint neighborhood of Brooklyn watched for runners to tell them how great they were doing. Results start on Page F11.

DAMON WINTER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A Winning First, a Wrenching Last

By LIZ ROBBINS



AVI GERVER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Gebre Gebremariam cruised to a win in his first marathon, finishing more than a minute ahead of the runner-up.

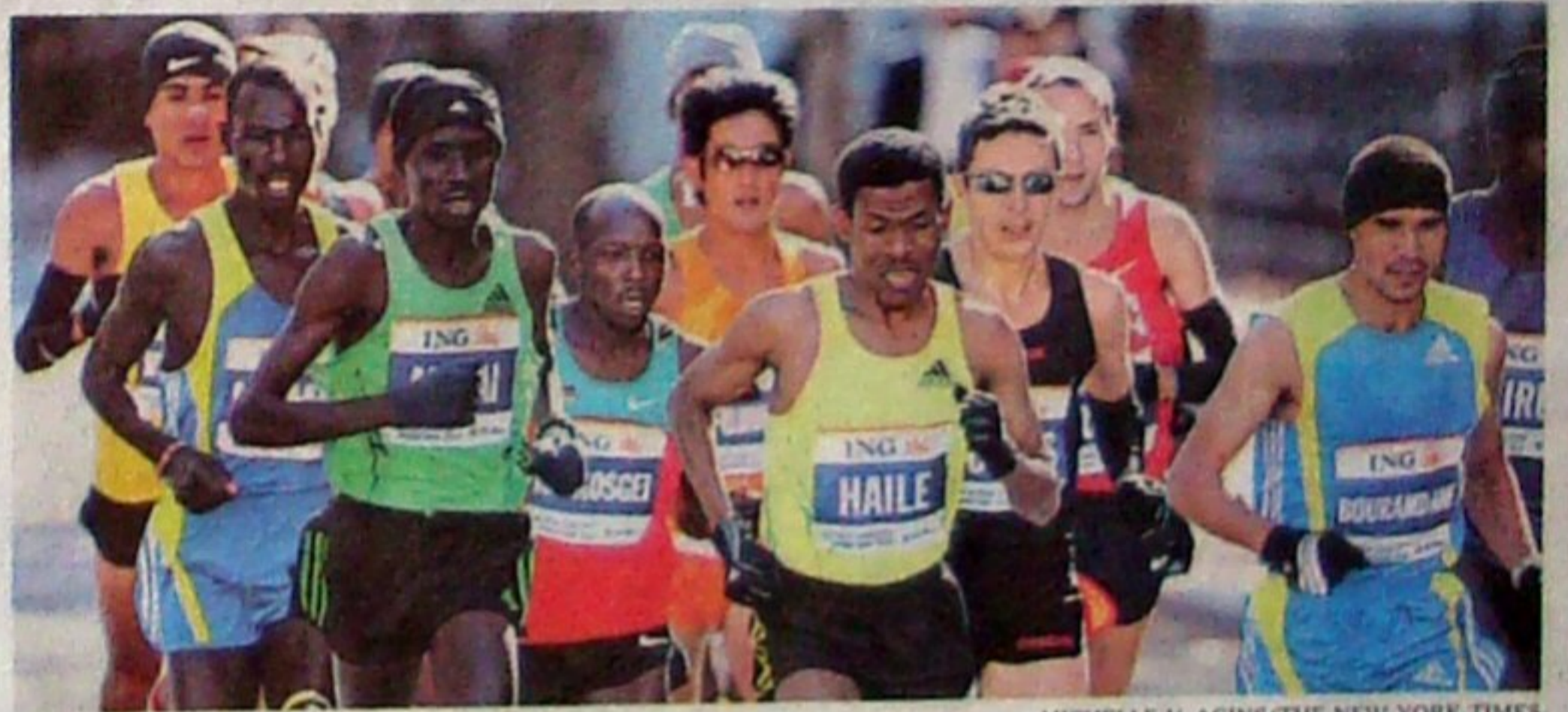
Growing up in Ethiopia's northernmost region of Tigray, Gebre Gebremariam studied Haile Gebrselassie in school, memorizing his medals and records, learning what it took to be a legend.

He got an A. Eight years after becoming a professional runner, Gebremariam, 26, took his lessons to the streets of New York City on Sunday, making his marathon debut in relative obscurity behind the long shadow of his Ethiopian mentor — for nearly 16 miles.

When Gebrselassie, 37, started hobbling on the downhill of the Queensboro Bridge, the tendinitis in his right knee proving too excruciating for him to continue, he turned to Gebremariam, Ethiopia's future, sitting just off the lead.

"You have to move," Gebremariam recalled Gebrselassie saying to him at that moment. "You have to reach them."

Gebrselassie then dropped out of the race, and later, abruptly retired from the sport. Gebremariam, meanwhile, secured his own spot in history, catching the leaders at Mile 17. He ran effortlessly alone in the final two miles in Central Park, capturing the New York City Marathon in 2



MICHELLE V. AGINS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

CALLING IT QUITS The world-record holder Haile Gebrselassie, center, pulled out before the 16-mile mark with tendinitis, then said he was retiring. Page F10.

hours 8 minutes 14 seconds.

"I can't believe it," Gebremariam said, beaming. "I am just so happy. It's my first marathon, and I am No. 1 here."

Gebremariam became the first man to win New York in his marathon debut since Alberto Salazar in 1980 and became the first runner to win a debut in New York since Tegla Loroupe won the women's race in 1994.

Gebremariam's only competition late in the race, Emmanuel Mutai of Kenya, dropped back in the 25th mile in Central Park with cramps in his leg. It was then that Gebremariam looked back twice and stormed ahead with a still-fluid stride.

When he raised his arms to break the tape, Gebremariam was \$170,000 richer and had fulfilled a promise to his wife,

Continued on Page F10

A TANTALIZING VIEW

Chris Solinsky, the American-record holder at 10,000 meters, had a front-row seat for the marathon. George Vecsey, Page F9.

AFTER 69 DAYS: 6 HOURS

Edison Peña, the Chilean miner, finished a surprisingly strong marathon. Page F8.



HELPING THE FITTEST SURVIVE

A small army of medical volunteers mans 36 aid stations and tented field hospitals to care for runners who push themselves too hard. Page F4.



SLOW PACE, FAST FINISH

Edna Kiplagat of Kenya, left, pulled away from Shalane Flanagan of the United States in the late stages to win the women's marathon title. Page F2.



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The Marathon

The 1st Running New York City

TOP FINISHERS

TOP 10 MEN

1	Gebre Gebremariam	2:08:14
	Ethiopia	
2	Emmanuel Mutai	2:09:18
	Kenya	
3	Moses Kigen Kipkosgei	2:10:39
	Kenya	
4	Abderrahim Goumri	2:10:51
	Morocco	
5	James Kwambai	2:11:31
	Kenya	
6	Meb Keflezighi	2:11:38
	Mammoth Lakes, Calif.	
7	Marilson Gomes dos Santos	2:11:51
	Brazil	
8	Dathan Ritzenhein	2:12:33
	Beaverton, Ore.	
9	Abel Kirui	2:13:01
	Kenya	
10	Abderrahime Bouramdane	2:14:07
	Morocco	

TOP 10 WOMEN

1	Edna Kiplagat	2:28:20
	Kenya	
2	Shalane Flanagan	2:28:40
	Portland, Ore.	
3	Mary Keitany	2:29:01
	Kenya	
4	Inga Abitova	2:29:17
	Russia	
5	Kim Smith	2:29:28
	New Zealand	
6	Christelle Daunay	2:29:29
	France	
7	Ludmila Petrova	2:29:41
	Russia	
8	Caroline Rotich	2:29:46
	Kenya	
9	Madai Perez	2:29:53
	Mexico	
10	Buzunesh Deba	2:29:55
	Ethiopia	

TOP 5 MEN, WHEELCHAIR

1	David Weir	1:37:29
	Britain	
2	Masazumi Soejima	1:37:31
	Japan	
3	Kurt Fearnley	1:38:44
	Australia	
4	Krige Schabert	1:39:37
	Cedartown, Ga.	
5	Aaron Gordian	1:40:35
	Mexico	

TOP 5 WOMEN, WHEELCHAIR

1	Tatyana McFadden	2:02:22
	Clarksville, Md.	
2	Christina Ripp	2:08:05
	Lakewood, Colo.	
3	Amanda McGrory	2:09:42
	Champaign, Ill.	
4	Diane Roy	2:11:50
	Canada	
5	Sandra Graf	2:13:03
	Switzerland	



PHOTOGRAPHS BY AVI GERVER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

In her marathon debut, Shalane Flanagan crossed the finish line second, then fell to her knees.

An Untested Two Set the Women's Pace

By DAVE UNGRADY

Before this year, Edna Kiplagat had developed a distant relationship with the marathon. She had run the event just once, finishing 10th in the Las Vegas Marathon in 2 hours 50 minutes 20 seconds. Her coach and husband, Gilbert Koech, felt that she needed time away from the 26.2-mile distance and instead focused on developing her career in shorter road races.

But after winning the 2010 New York City Marathon on Sunday for her second victory at the distance this year, Kiplagat now embraces the marathon and looks toward being a major player in the top global races.

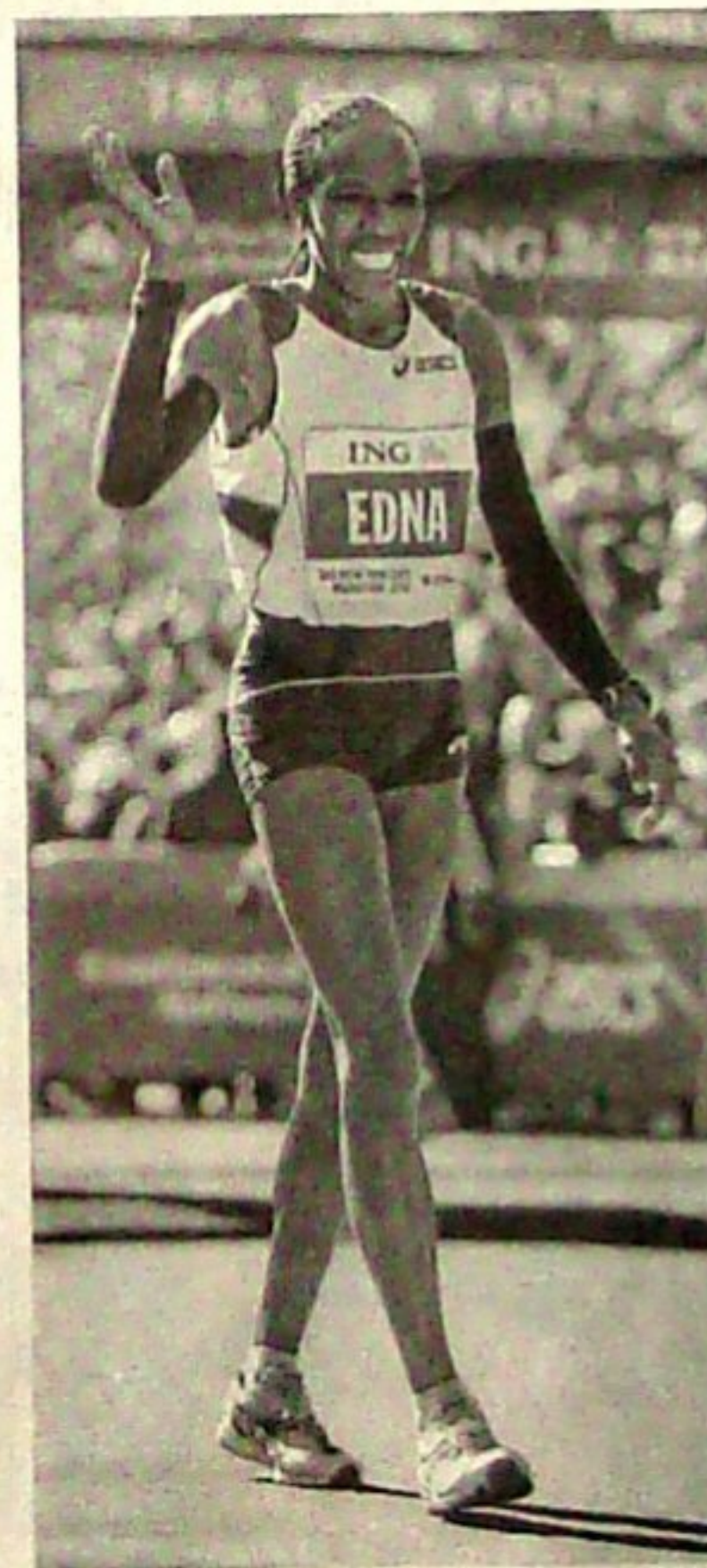
"We certainly want to talk with anybody after a race like today," her manager, Brendan Reilly, said after Kiplagat ran 2:28:20.

Kiplagat and her crew should expect a flurry of interest, although hers was the second-slowest winning time in New York in 13 years, ahead of only Derartu Tulu's 2:28:52 in 2009.

For the American Shalane Flanagan, second place very likely never felt better. Making her marathon debut, Flanagan pushed through the last few miles to finish in 2:28:40 after she led through parts of the last six miles. Flanagan had the best finish by an American woman in the race since Kim Jones finished second in 1990.

Mary Keitany of Kenya, the 2009 world half-marathon champion, who also made her marathon debut, finished third in 2:29:01.

Kiplagat, 31, is the first Kenyan to win the women's race since 2003. She used patience to propel herself to victory, staying tucked



Edna Kiplagat of Kenya won the women's championship with the second-slowest time in 13 years: 2:28:20.

at the back of a lead pack of about a dozen runners through most of the race, which started at a plodding 5:48-per-mile pace through 10 kilometers, or 6.2 miles. She shared the lead along with Flanagan and Keitany at Mile 22.

Flanagan, 29, led by a forearm's length as they entered Central Park and gained momentum with a 4:48-per-mile pace. Keitany then started to create a step of distance. As Flanagan strode down a slight hill approaching 24 miles, her pained face foretold the last two miles. Kiplagat then led Keitany on a breakaway and the two Africans staged what was presumed to be a shoulder-to-shoulder battle to the finish.

But as she passed Mile 25, Kiplagat created a five-second gap ahead of Keitany, and Flanagan and finished well.

"When we started, my body did not respond," Kiplagat said of the beginning of the race. "I had to wait until 24 miles; that's when I had to feel how my body was going to react. I was happy because I tried to pull away when it was a little flat. I was excited at 25 miles."

Kiplagat earned \$130,000 for her victory, which represents a slight pay cut from the \$145,000 she won in Los Angeles in March. That amount included a bonus for a special challenge as the first man or woman to finish the race. She crossed the line first after

starting 18:47 ahead of the men's field.

Kiplagat trained with Koech, the 2009 San Antonio Marathon champion, in Boulder, Colo., for a few months earlier this year away from their children: Carlos, 6, and Wendy, 2. Wendy's birth was one reason Kiplagat had not run a marathon since 2005. When Kiplagat and Koech joined the Boulder Wave management company in the fall of 2009, they started planning Kiplagat's return.

Her strong reputation as a road runner helped Kiplagat gain entry in Los Angeles earlier this year, and her victory there, coupled with a second-place finish at the Freihofer's Run for Women five-kilometer race in Albany in June, convinced the New York Road Runners to invite her to this marathon, Reilly said.

Kiplagat had planned to run in the Philadelphia Half Marathon in September, but Koech killed the idea, figuring she had raced enough this year. Kiplagat completed nine road races entering New York, winning three.

Now Kiplagat hopes for an invitation to a World Marathon Majors race in the spring in either London or Boston.

Flanagan, the 2008 Olympic bronze medalist in the 10,000 meters, has wanted to run in Boston since she watched that race while growing up near the city. She has said she would like to wait until after the 2012 London Olympics to run in the race with her family, but after her performance in New York she may have to consider entering the race next spring.

Flanagan pulled away from Keitany over the last mile, and after finishing she dropped to her knees and kissed the ground, a United States flag covering her back and shoulders. Flanagan not only nearly won her first marathon, she also won her first United States women's marathon championship, which was contested in the race.

The slow early pace helped her finish second.

"I loved it," she said. "I loved the warm-up into it and every mile that clicked away that felt good in delaying the incredible pain and fatigue. I felt more and more confident from it. I felt great."

Flanagan won \$65,000 for her finish and \$40,000 for winning the United States championship. Asked what is next, she said, "A nice trip to Hawaii and a burger and a beer."

Katie McGregor was 11th overall and second in the United States women's championships and has qualified with Flanagan to represent the United States women at the 2011 world marathon championships in South Korea.



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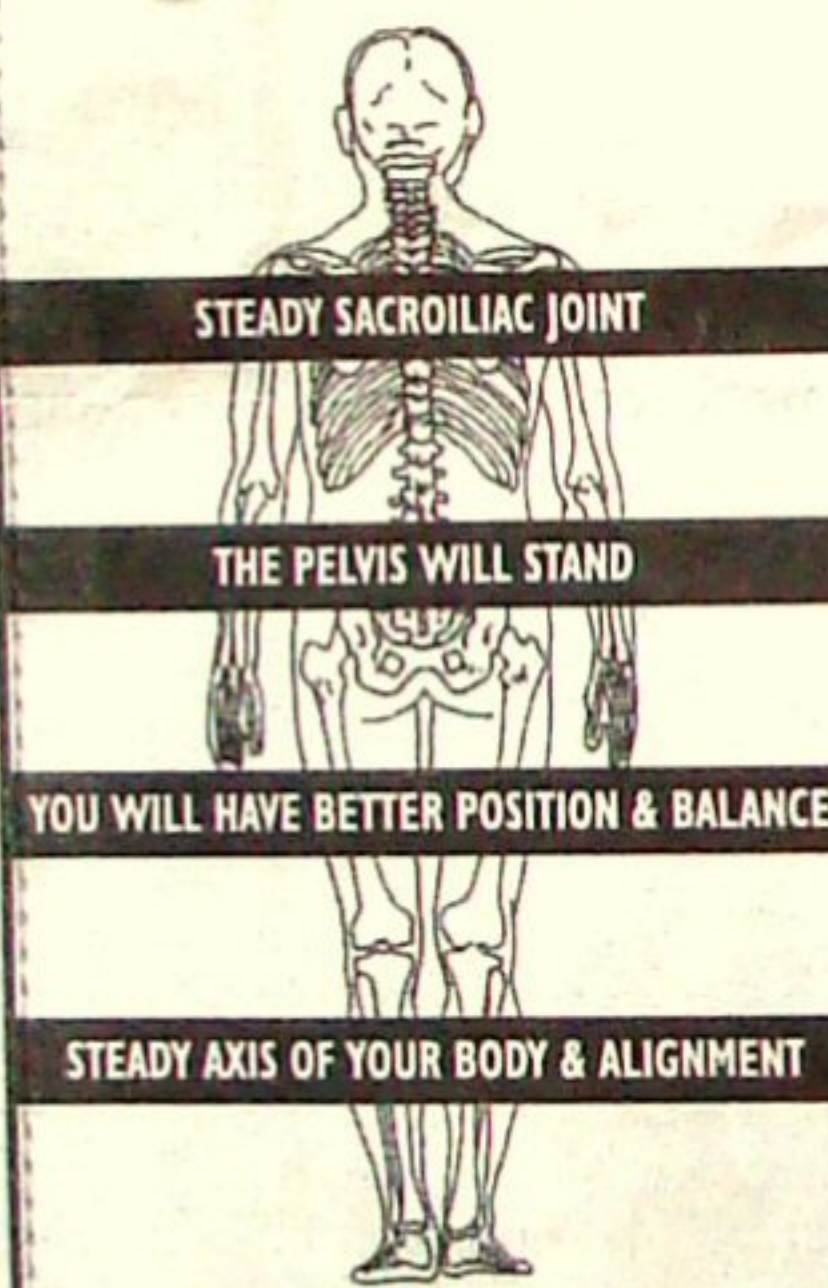
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David Weir, embracing his girlfriend, Emily Thorne, won the men's wheelchair division. Tatyana McFadden captured the women's division.



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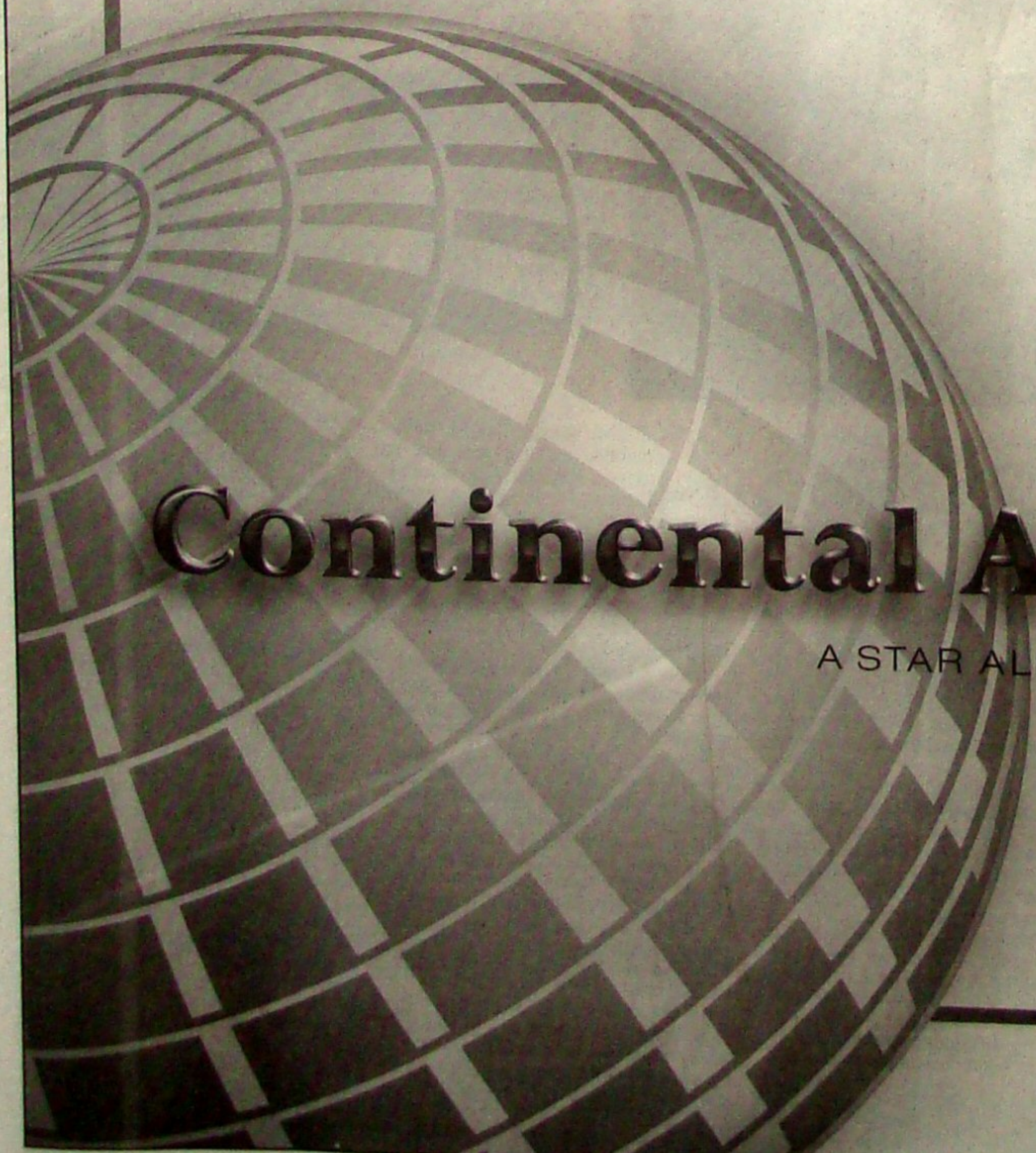
Blisters, aches and pains... you have a lot to celebrate. So in that spirit, we salute you for making this year's ING New York City Marathon so incredible. This marks our 16th straight year supporting the event and, as always, it was definitely worth the effort. For reservations and information go to continental.com.



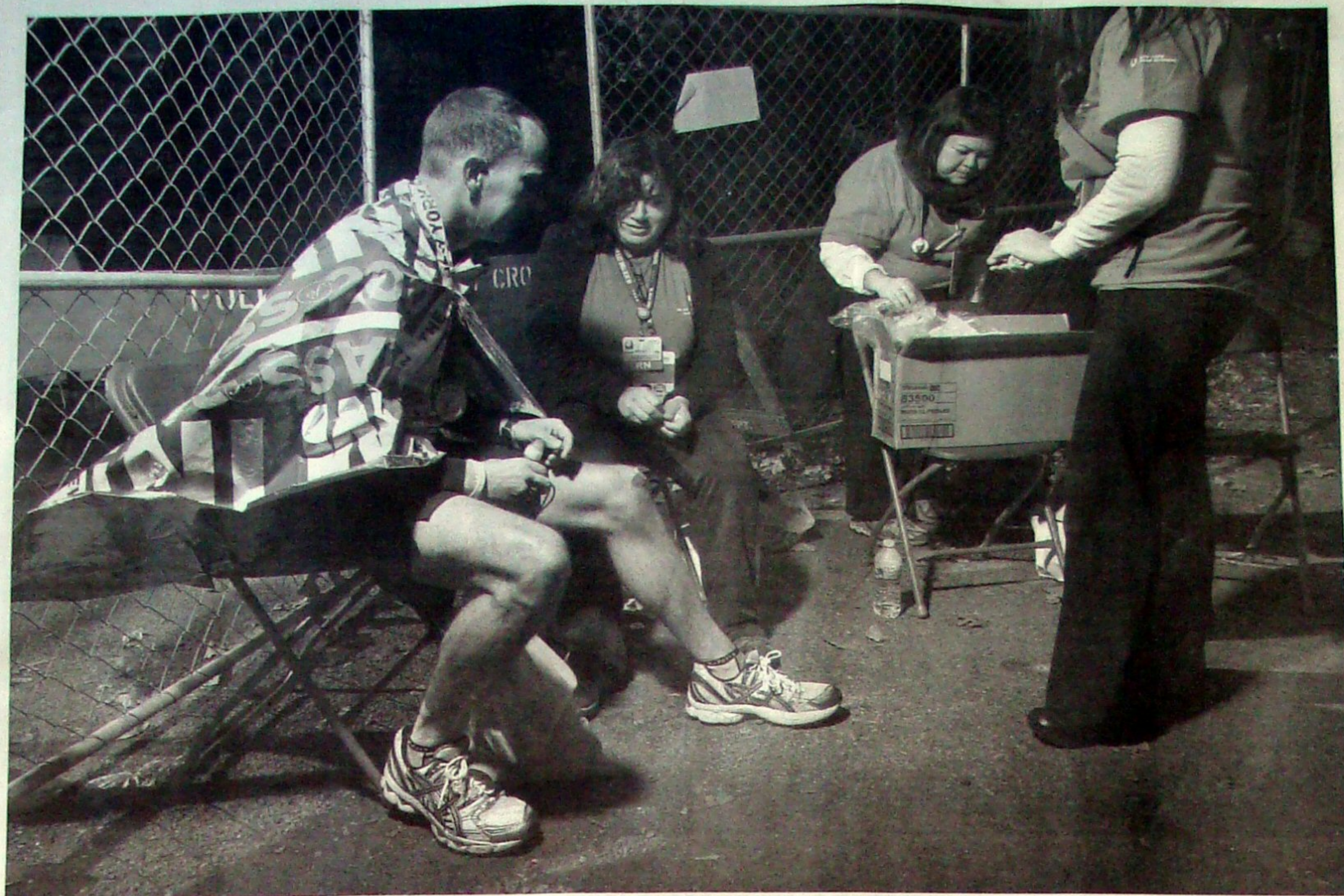
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The Marathon

The 17th Running New York City


PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRED R. CONRAD/THE NEW YORK TIMES

The marathon's medical staff was prepared for emergencies and minor injuries Sunday. All one runner needed was a bandage for his scraped knee.

Prepared for the Worst

The Marathon's Medical Director Brings a New Philosophy to Patient Care

By SHERI FINK

On Sunday morning at 7:30, Dr. Stuart Weiss, the medical director of the New York City Marathon, was holding a coffee with one hand, gesturing with the other, and moving at the stereotypically brisk pace of an emergency room doctor. Walking in and out of the white medical command tent in Central Park, he was focused, he said, on "What's missing? What's missing? What's missing?"

It was an hour before the first wave of runners set off from Staten Island. Two dozen volunteers had arrived — phones were ringing, radios crackling — and a young woman jogged between tables set up for city agencies, New York Road Runners command staff and ham radio operators. "We're the only ones around when the cellphones go down," Steve Mendelsohn, the chief operator, said.

All the pieces were in place: the positions of more than a thousand medical volunteers, represented by multicolored squares of sticky paper (purple for nurses, green for massage therapists, fuchsia for attending physicians, including some of the most prominent emergency medicine specialists in the city) had been posted on large sheets, shifted around like chess pieces in recent days.

Hundreds of plastic-wrapped carts full of gauze, elastic bandages, saline and other supplies had been hauled into Central Park and to the sites of some 36 aid and medical stations set up throughout the week. The sky was a perfect blue and the temperature 35.1 degrees, said Mike Favetta, the first marathon meteorologist, hired by Weiss to monitor conditions that could affect runner safety.

On a flat dirt field next to the medical command was the centerpiece of the operation, a white-tented field hospital designated P1, nearly half the length of a football field, filled with 162 green cots and dozens of white plastic chairs for the runners expected to collapse or fall ill near the finish line.

In only his second year as the medical director, Weiss has introduced a new philosophy of treatment at the marathon. Medical volunteers are offering free emergency room-like care at a network of tented field hospitals, potentially saving runners a trip to a real hospital. At the same time, the volunteers are gaining real-life experience that could prove valuable in a disaster.

At 9:10 a.m. Weiss stood in P1 before a sea of red-shirted doctors, nurses, massage therapists, physical therapists and emergency medical technicians. The television monitor to his left showed the start of the professional women's race. The tent filled with applause. "There they go," Weiss said. "They're running right for your tent here. When we're in the emergency room, you don't usually see them running to you."

Medical professionals have long been aware of the hazards of marathon running. Legend has it that Pheidippides, the original marathoner, collapsed and died after running from Marathon to Athens. Three years after the marathon was revived in Boston following the 1896 Olympics, "ambulance corps" members on bicycles followed each of the 17 competitors.

Last year, Weiss took over the medical director's job three weeks before race day. His arrival followed two years



Clockwise from bottom left, a runner was taken to one of 36 aid stations; medical staff in Central Park received instructions on using a defibrillator; Paul McGowan managed the vehicles used to transport distressed runners.

marred by race deaths. In 2007, Ryan Shay died during the United States Olympic marathon trials in Central Park, and the next year three New York City Marathon runners died, the first deaths related to the event in over a decade.

The day after being hired last year, Weiss flew to Chicago to see how the second-largest marathon in the nation handled its medical services. Weiss returned with a plan to take the medical tents beyond first-aid posts for the typical aches, strains, sprains and blisters, and it was fully in place for the first time this year.

At an orientation last week at a Manhattan hotel, Weiss paced before a screen and told volunteers that they would have the tools to treat runners with the most common and potentially life-threatening marathon-associated ailments: "too hot," "too cold," "too dry," "too wet" and "wobble and fall down" (heat stroke, hypothermia, dehydration, low blood sodium and collapse).

The medical professionals this year had ice-water dunk tanks to treat runners who developed high fevers. Handheld i-Stat machines enabled them to analyze the chemistry of the runners' blood, then dispense the right amounts of intravenous fluids, salts and sugar.

This represented a new philosophy for patient care at the marathon, Dr.

Lewis Maharam, the marathon's previous medical director, oversaw a drastic growth in medical volunteers who offered bandages, massages and pep talks to runners whose bodies and psyches were bruised.

But Maharam says field medicine at a big city marathon should stick to the basics. "Anything requiring more than first aid is transported to a hospital," he said in a recent interview. "We don't try to do medical care as if we're out in the jungle. With an ambulance, within five minutes you can be at an emergency room where you can have more comprehensive care."

Maharam resigned several weeks before the 2009 marathon. He said that balancing the work with his patient practice and acting as medical director for a growing Rock 'n' Roll marathon series outside New York City had become "too much of a burden."

Mary Wittenberg, the president and chief executive of New York Road Runners, said the timing of Maharam's departure the year after three marathon deaths was "definitely coincidence." But the organization's leaders were interested in taking medical services to a different level. "We were really fortunate to find a medical professional that has as strong of an operational and crisis management background" as Weiss does, she said.

At 12:45 p.m. inside tent P1, volunteers applauded as each sore, injured runner arrived. Virginia Tufaro, an assistant director of nursing at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, stood by the entrance wearing a white smock labeled "Medical Captain." "This is their final cheer," she said.

Within 10 minutes, the cheering had stopped. The cots were filling. Everyone was working.

"Does anyone know who won?" a runner sitting on a cot asked. A podiatrist standing next to him said he was not sure.

Runners began arriving every minute, every half a minute, then one after another after another. Some winced, others looked bewildered, a few smiled. Some shivered. Others were shiny with sweat. They pushed the wheels of their racing chairs. They took slow steps on trembling, stick-thin legs.

They had run 26.2 miles, but once inside the medical tent, some could barely walk two more steps. They sat on the nearest open cot.

As the runners entered, triage officers zapped their bibs with a barcode reader that fed a system aimed at tracking patients and helping families locate them. The system is similar to one the New York Fire Department might one day adopt for use in mass casualty incidents, said Division Chief Fredrick Vil-

lani. The marathon, he said, "probably has the most amount of resources dedicated to managing the medical consequences of any one event" in New York City.

That offers city agencies, medical professionals and others a chance to practice for something even bigger. The marathon is akin to a "planned disaster," said Chris Mercado, the director of health services for the American Red Cross in Greater New York. The organization contributed around 150 CPR-trained volunteers and licensed medical professionals to the marathon effort. "It keeps us sharp," Mercado said.

For hours, the influx to tent P1 continued.

"This one to major!" a triage officer called out. "She's having an asthma attack." The runner managed to smile and say she was all right as a volunteer guided her to a curtained-off intensive care area toward the back of the tent. Within minutes she received a breathing treatment, something not available in earlier years. It might have saved her a trip to the hospital.

A middle-aged man lying under a gray blanket wore an oxygen mask, and the volunteers connected him to a HeartStart MRx, a portable heart monitor that doubles as a defibrillator, on loan from Philips for the marathon. "Your EKG looks pretty good," a doctor told the runner.

But there were limits to what care the volunteers could provide. "We got one coming out!" a man in a Fire Department uniform bellowed. A runner with a suspected ankle fracture was being taken to a hospital. The tents did not have X-ray equipment or supplies for casts.

The stream of runners in distress raised a question: Could a marathon possibly be good for runners' health? Studies going back more than a century have demonstrated numerous changes in runners' physiology after a marathon. But whether most suffer any long-term negative consequences is unknown.

New York Road Runners takes the position that the health benefits of preparing for a marathon outweigh the medical risks of running one. The organization claims tax-exempt status in part based on the marathon's being a "health care program." "There is so much good and higher-level physical fitness that's a result of aiming for the marathon," Wittenberg said.

In the past, the race organizers have not generally welcomed research into the medical effects of marathon running. That is another thing Weiss aims to change. He has invited research proposals for next year's race.

By 6:30 p.m., the Fire Department had transported 26 runners from the network of field hospitals and aid stations in Central Park to hospitals. Those stations had treated more than 2,000 patients, some more than once, and released all except 87 of them. The volunteers in P1 alone had treated more than a quarter of them. Many others were cared for at medical stations outside the park.

Earlier, in P1, a physical therapist had guided a runner to the discharge desk. His bib was scanned and he was offered papers with follow-up instructions. He took them, then turned to the therapist and thanked her. He hugged her before walking out.

The Marathon

The NY Times Running New York City



FROM LEFT, BEN SOLOMON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES; CHRISTIAN HANSEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES; EARL WILSON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES
From left, a participant running the fifth mile, in Brooklyn; spectators on the Pulaski Bridge; a participant in Fort Greene.

Going the Distance



BEN SOLOMON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Near the 22nd-mile marker, in Harlem, Sisters Leonie Therese and Catherine Planche with a participant taking a break.



CHRISTIAN HANSEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



AVI GERVER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES



Faces of the Proud

An interactive slide show featuring the photos of Raymond McCrea Jones of The New York Times and the faces of marathon finishers is at nytimes.com/sports.



AARON HOUSTON FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

At right, a runner after crossing the finish line in Central Park. Water cups lined the streets of Long Island City, top, and runners left a trail of clothing along the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

The Marathon

The Art of Running • New York City

Along the Route, a Variety Of Music and Messages

By ANDREW KEH

Experiences along the New York City Marathon's 26.2-mile route were as diverse as the 45,350 official entrants who ran it Sunday.

For some, the morning of the marathon was a time of uncertainty.

Erwin Franieck rode the downtown R train in Brooklyn at 8:30 a.m. in sneakers and shorts — out of place among the parkas and scarves in the car. Franieck, 49, who was visiting New York from São Paulo, said he tried to sign up for the marathon but was not accepted. He said a friend had told him that many people unofficially join the race while it is in progress, but he was unsure of where to go.

Frаниеck said his desire to run the course would not take away resources from those running the race legally. As if to prove that point, he pulled a few packets of PowerBar Energy Gel from his windbreaker. "I don't need to take anything from the official runners," he said.

Nearby, a group of seven men from the same block in Tottenville, Staten Island, were equally unsure of where to go to find their friend John Benedetto, 25, who they thought was about to leave the bridge on his handcycle.

Benedetto was paralyzed from the chest down, said his brother Nick, 22, after being thrown by a wave at the Jersey Shore a year and a half ago. The men had come out to support him in his first marathon with 18-inch wooden sticks with pictures of his face attached. "It's unbelievable what he's doing," Nick Benedetto said of his brother.

No matter where Benedetto left the bridge, though, he would have certainly been bombarded by music as soon as he turned onto Fourth Avenue in Brooklyn. In Bay Ridge, the tunes skewed toward classic rock — Steppenwolf and the Beatles — but as the

church, said that noise from the outside disrupted their service and that attendance had been low that morning because people could not get to the building.

"It's hard, but we're used to it now," she said.

Down the block, Michael Fish-

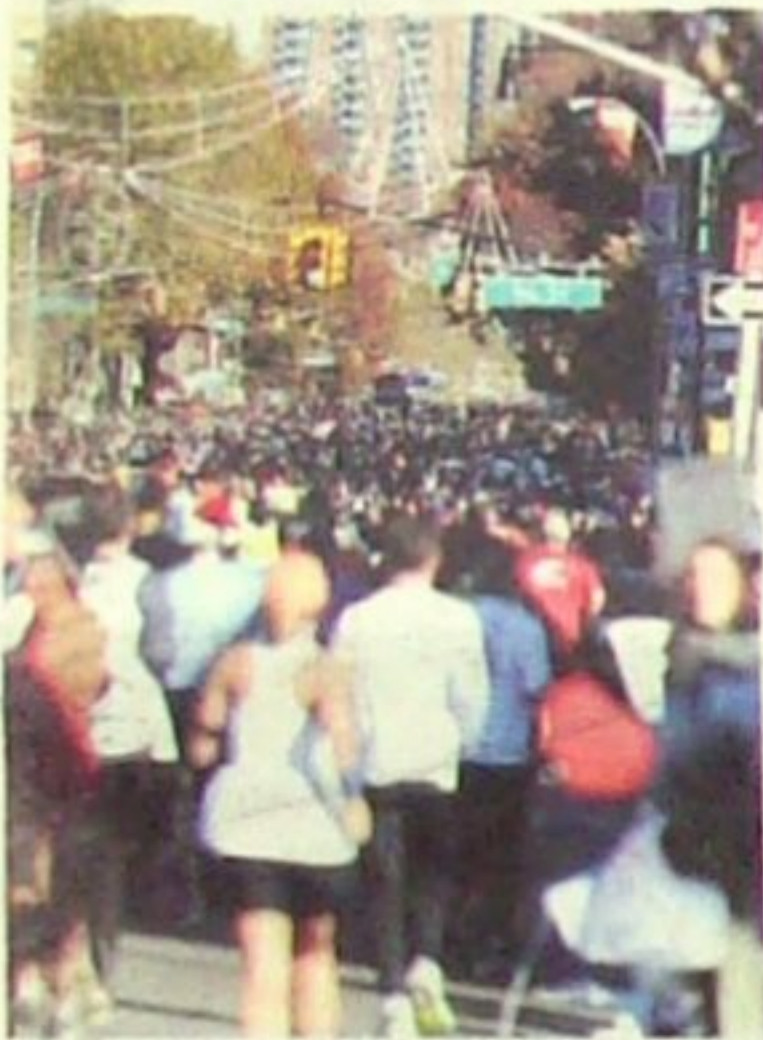
man, 52, who was with about a dozen other people clad in blue sweatshirts representing the charity Harlem United, said such concerns were overblown.

"It's just one day," he said, laughing. "Wherever God is, they can find him."



Runners on a subway in Brooklyn were among those making their way to the New York City Marathon start on Staten Island.

DAMON WINTER/THE NEW YORK TIMES



Still early in the marathon, during Mile 5 in Brooklyn, the street was full of runners.

race went on, the styles became more eclectic.

Standing on the corner of Bedford Avenue and North 8th Street in Williamsburg, a bearded duo called Superman's Guest List struggled to define their style.

"It's experimental," said Gary Cullen, 30, of Bushwick, while standing in front of a row of vintage drum machines.

Further north, people sipped on beer and Bloody Marys at the trendy restaurant Five Leaves while across the street, an eight-member group played the traditional music of abadá-capoeira, a Brazilian musical martial art, creating a pulsating rhythm for the runners streaming around McCarren Park.

And throughout the day, the signs along the route were as eclectic as the music. Around 11:30 a.m. on Manhattan Avenue, Megan Masek, 25, of Greenpoint, stood waiting for her sister, Tracie, 28, to pass. With five of her friends, she held signs that read, "Faster," "Don't Stop" and "That's What She Said."

Across the street, Christopher Sabocinski, 43, held a small sign written in Polish for his friend.

"It basically says run faster," he said.

Later in Harlem, James Crosby, 23, held aloft a sign that read, "Run for this fat kid," with an arrow pointing down. He said that he struggled with obesity and heart problems when he was a child, but that he had lost weight in recent years. As if on cue, a man running by smiled and yelled, "What fat kid?"

But others in Harlem did not seem quite as enthusiastic about the race.

Around 1:30 p.m., Rhonda White, 56, was sitting on a chair in front of Mount Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church on the west side of Marcus Garvey Park bouncing her 9-month-old grandson, Landon, in her lap and looking slightly put upon. "We try to be in the spirit of what's going on," White said with a smile.

Still, she said the marathon brought certain annoyances. White, who plays piano for the

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The Marathon

ON THE RUN

In Under 6 Hours, Miner Puts 69 Days Behind Him

By THOMAS KAPLAN

Edison Peña could be forgiven for having to slow to a walk at times during the New York City Marathon on Sunday. His training, after all, came via subterranean loops of only a few miles at a time, with the tunnels of a collapsed gold and copper mine for a course and sawed-off work boots for footwear.

But after fighting through knee pain to jog across the finish line in less than six hours, Peña wanted to clear something up.

"First of all, I want to say that I would have run faster," he said. "And I did run faster in the mine."

Peña hardly needed to apologize. Three and a half weeks after being freed from the mine in Chile where he was trapped for 69 days, and with no significant distance-running experience, Peña captivated spectators at the marathon in a way few have in the 41 years the race has been run.

He jogged triumphantly across the finish line in Central Park in 5 hours 40 minutes 51 seconds, topping his own six-hour goal and stealing the show from the professionals. The race director, Mary Wittenberg, choked back tears when introducing Peña to reporters after the race.

"I think we've just seen the best story in running I think I've

ever seen," she said.

It is a story that has already become the stuff of marathon legend — and that was before Peña even laced up his sneakers.

During his confinement in the mine alongside 32 other miners, Peña took to jogging in its tunnels — looping three to six miles per day more than 2,000 feet underground. After he was rescued last month, marathon officials immediately invited him to attend the race as a guest.

Wittenberg said she expected Peña to sit in a warm tent and soak in his newfound celebrity. Peña had other plans. He wanted to run.

When he arrived at Kennedy Airport on Thursday, Peña was greeted by some of the legends of the sport and then proceeded to charm reporters at a surreal news conference at which, among other things, he crooned an Elvis Presley tune to demonstrate his affection for the musical artist. Then he was ushered on a whirlwind tour of the city, visiting the Empire State Building and making an appearance on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

By Sunday morning, his celebrity almost seemed to have eclipsed the race, earning him a special introduction from Wittenberg before the start. The New



Despite pain in his knees, Edison Peña, one of the rescued Chilean miners, ran across the finish line in his first marathon.

York Road Runners set him up with two escorts: Juan Jesus Lopez, 34, of the Bronx, and Rene Cuahuizo, 27, of Elmhurst, who were charged with making sure other participants — seeking a brush with celebrity, or at least

the chance to be captured on television with one — did not crowd him too much.

Crowd him they did. Many runners went so far as to whip out cameras midrace and snap pictures of Peña as he jogged along.

Wearing sunglasses, a navy blue cap, and a brace on his left knee, Peña made it across the half-marathon mark in 2:07:34, well ahead of the goal he set for himself.

But while running up First Avenue in Manhattan, he began to favor his left knee. Peña eventually slowed to a walk and ducked into a medical tent between Miles 19 and 20 to get ice packs for his knees.

He said later that the knee pain, which he has said he has long battled, almost made him withdraw from the race. "But I said to myself, I didn't come this far, I didn't travel so many thousands of kilometers, to drop out," Peña said. "So I kept going."

Peña started to jog again after passing through Columbus Circle and heading toward the finish line in Central Park, clutching a Chilean flag as fans roared. Photographers swarmed him as he crossed the finish line; Peña immediately clutched his knees, the crowd cheering wildly and Wittenberg ready with a medal.

He immediately said that he would have been able to finish the race faster if not for his bothersome knees, a point he reiterated when speaking to reporters later. Through an interpreter, Peña said he was taken aback by all the signs and cheers he re-

ceived along the course, adding that all the support helped him get past his knee pain.

"I could have just been a special guest but I wanted to take up the challenge of running, and perhaps that was a mistake," Peña said. "But I wanted to show that I could do it."

Asked by a reporter to sing another Elvis tune, Peña complied, offering a few lines of "Don't Be Cruel." And in perhaps the best news of all for those whom he delighted so much on Sunday, Peña said this would not be his last marathon.

"I know I can improve my time," he said.

WEIR WINS WHEELCHAIR EVENT
As the men or women's elite runners jostled their way through Brooklyn, a sprint to the finish was under way in Central Park in the wheelchair division of the New York City Marathon.

David Weir of Britain held off Masazumi Soejima of Japan in an exciting uphill battle through the park in one of the closest finishes in the 11-year history of the race. Weir finished at 1:37:29, Soejima at 1:37:31.

The two-second gap topped the three-second differential set in 2004. Last year's race ended in a dead heat.

Weir and Soejima were neck and neck throughout the course, with Soejima never more than a few seconds behind.

"I knew Soejima is a good coaster downhill, so I knew I'd have to wait and wait and wait," Weir said. "My arms were so heavy, I didn't think I'd get to the finish line."

Both wheelers held off Kurt Fearnley of Australia, who had won the last four races and set the course record in 2006. Fearnley finished at 1:38:44. Krige Schabert, who finished second in 2009 and has won the race in 2002 and 2003, finished fourth.

Weir, who finished eight minutes off the course record, won \$15,000. Soejima received \$12,000 for finishing second, and Fearnley won \$10,000 as the third-place finisher.

Weir and Soejima each won an extra time bonus \$1,000 for breaking 1:38:00.

Weir, a three-time world champion, was appointed a member of the Order of the British Empire last year.

In the women's division, Tatyana McFadden won her first race in New York in 2:02:22. McFadden's time was about 10 minutes off the course record, but was nearly 6 minutes faster than her sixth-place finish in the race last year. Christina Ripp of Colorado finished second at 2:08:05.

"This course is hard," McFadden said, adding that she wanted to give up by the time she reached the Queensboro Bridge.

"But the support from the fans, from the crowds at each mile, definitely put me back together," she said.

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The former Giants wide receiver Amani Toomer, left, soon after finishing the race.

BOLDFACE NAMES FINISH, TOO

There were plenty of other notables among the record 45,350 official starters. Justin Gimelstob, a former professional tennis player, bet his friend Andy Roddick \$10,000 that he could finish the race for charity. Gimelstob did so, finishing in 4:09:58.

Dr. Thomas A. Farley, New York City's health commissioner, does not just preach healthy living, he practices it. He finished the marathon, his 16th, in 3:18:28.

The celebrity chef Bobby Flay finished at 4:01:37.

The weatherman Al Roker clocked in at 7:09:44. His compatriot on "Today," Meredith Vieira, finished at 5:59:00.

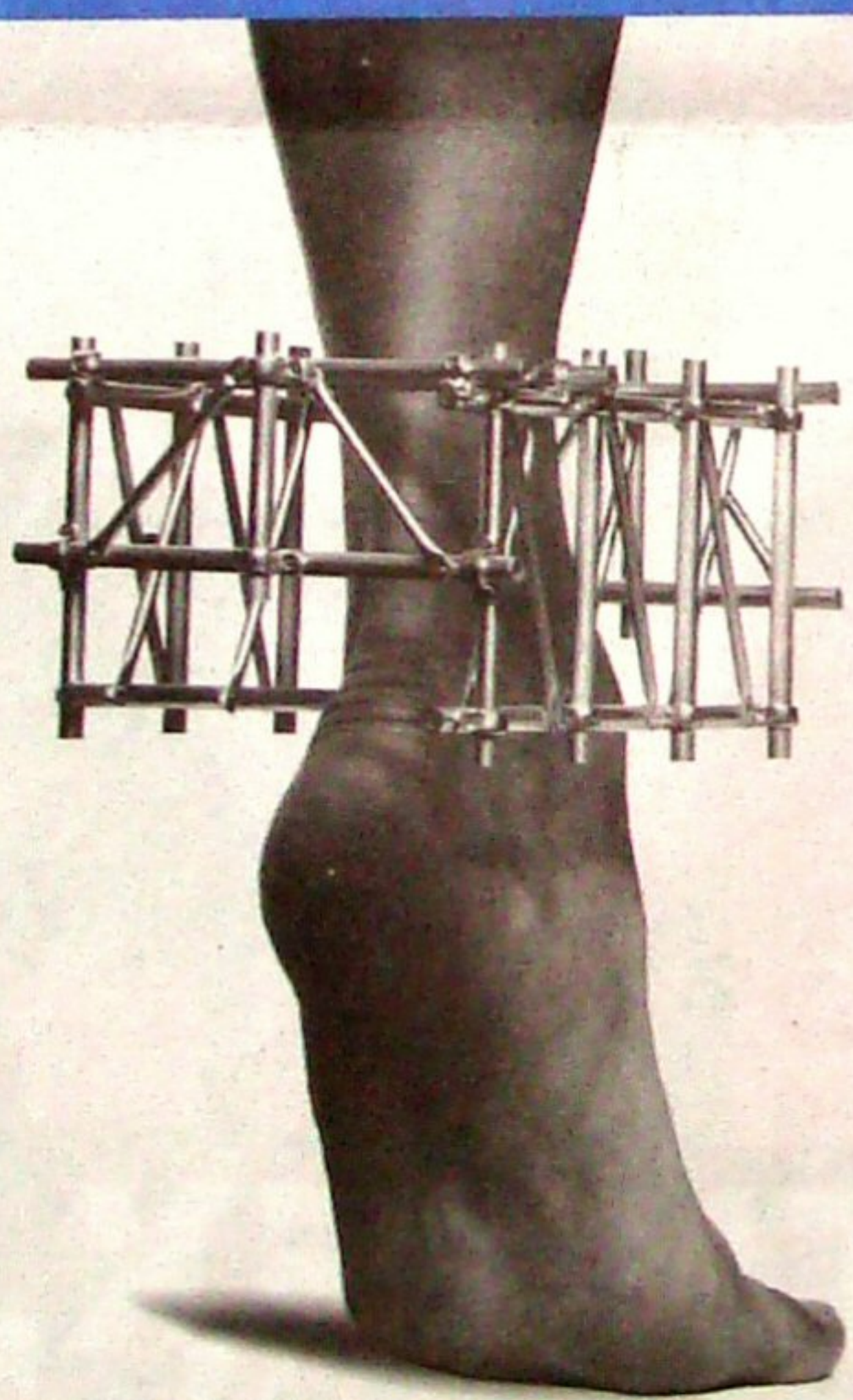
Jared Fogle, the famous Subway dieter, finished in 5:13:28.

Amani Toomer, a former New York Giant, was the last runner to start the race, about 10:50 a.m. He was trying to raise money for charity on behalf of Timex, which was going to donate \$1 for every runner he passed. He finished in 4:13:45.

No word yet on how many people he passed.

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The Marathon

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Best Way to Recruit a Runner? Take Him for a Ride

The torch is passed, one way or the other.

On the day that one champion retired and another champion could not quite repeat, a new champion won the first marathon he ever ran.

GEORGE VECSEY At the same time, a future marathon contender was courted with a front-row seat for his first New York City Marathon.

SPORTS OF THE TIMES It is a wonderful seat, the back of a support truck, watching the elite women and men leave Staten Island, then chugging through the other boroughs, slightly ahead of the great male runners, hearing the cheers.

This kind of experience would give ideas to a premium athlete like Chris Solinsky, 25, who set an American record for 10,000 meters last spring. Solinsky has never run a marathon, but he surely will after participating vicariously in Sunday's race. I happened to be seated next to him in the support truck and saw the marathon through his eyes as they took in the event, and the city.

It is simply the best sporting day of the year in New York. This special Sunday in midfall is when elite runners and admirable plodders and even a Chilean miner come to finish 26 miles 385 yards. Solinsky was being set up.

"Are you kidding? He's our future," said Mary Wittenberg, the race director, who made sure that Solinsky, a large and powerful runner from the University of Wisconsin, had a good view. Wittenberg has invited several potential stars in recent years, including Dathan Ritzenhein, who finished eighth Sunday.

In the breezy chill, Solinsky squeezed his 6-foot-1, 165-pound frame — he's a former soccer player, large for a distance runner — into the middle of the back seat of the open truck parked on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. We watched the elite women, in their cutoff outfits, shiver in place for 10 or more minutes before they were liberated to run. He marveled at the waves of runners who surged in orderly fashion toward the start.

As we came off the bridge into Brooklyn, hearing the bands and the spectators, Solinsky posted updates on Twitter while gazing at the lead pack of 20 runners, moving in unison like 20 very fit molecules.

"They are feeling each other out," he said knowingly.

In that pack were Meb Keflezighi, the American who won last year, and Haile Gebrselassie, a world-record holder, and so many other runners, many from



CHRISTIAN HANSEN FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Marathon runners had a view of the Manhattan skyline Sunday while crossing the Pulaski Bridge from Greenpoint, Brooklyn, to Long Island City, Queens.

Africa. Solinsky had trained with two others — Tim Nelson, an American, and Simon Bairu, a Canadian — and knew their strategy was to stay in the first wave, not become giddy and break away, not fall behind.

The crowds in Brooklyn were amazing. Wittenberg later noted that Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge was catching up with First Avenue in Manhattan for crowd support, high praise indeed. One fan in the crowd shouted, "Solinsky!" I asked, "Do you know him?" and he modestly said no. Setting an American record has made Solinsky recognizable, even huddled in the back of a support truck.

We climbed the Queensboro Bridge and turned into the screaming wall of humanity on First Avenue. Somebody held the best placard of the day, "When

I Grow Up I Want to Be You," about nobody in particular, as far as I could tell, but about 45,000 runners.

The crowds seemed better uptown and in the Bronx than in past years. As we turned back into Manhattan and down onto Fifth Avenue, Solinsky watched Gebre Gebremariam of Ethiopia and Emmanuel Mutai of Kenya take a big lead, side by side. In Central Park, a woman in the crowd shouted, "Chris!" Solinsky did not recognize her, either, but he was getting the feel of hearing his name in New York City.

Solinsky said he liked the stride of Gebremariam, the bigger runner, but did not discount Mutai, whom he had seen run once, getting sick to his stomach late in a race. "But maybe that's the way he runs," Solinsky added.

In the park, Mutai seemed to dimin-

ish, fly away like the booster stage of a rocket, as Gebremariam tossed away his gray ski cap and opened up, his stride even more fluid than it was an hour earlier. A motorcycle cop passed us, saying, "Race over."

And sure enough it was, as Gebremariam won his first marathon, in 2 hours 8 minutes 14 seconds, a full 64 seconds ahead of Mutai. Later, we found out that Gebrselassie had dropped out with a knee injury and announced his retirement and that Keflezighi had finished sixth. (Nelson finished 13th; Bairu dropped out.)

"If it was easy, it would get done a lot easier or a lot sooner, but that's the marathon," said Keflezighi, directing praise at all runners, and calling Gebrselassie a role model. When a man born in Eritrea speaks in glowing terms of a

man from Ethiopia, this speaks to the sportsmanship of running. That camaraderie prompted Howie Evans, the longtime sports editor of The Amsterdam News, to ask Keflezighi about it.

"Distance running is something that you share," Keflezighi said. "Usually you run a 100 meter, 'Get out of my lane!' This is the distance. Or intimidate — if you're going to play football, things like that — you have to intimidate your opponent. But here, it's a long way. Let's help each other out and get the best of ourselves."

That was the ethos of the marathon. I could tell Solinsky was getting into it, as we leapt off the support truck.

"You're hooked," I said.

"Maybe in three years," he replied. Mary Wittenberg's master plan was working.

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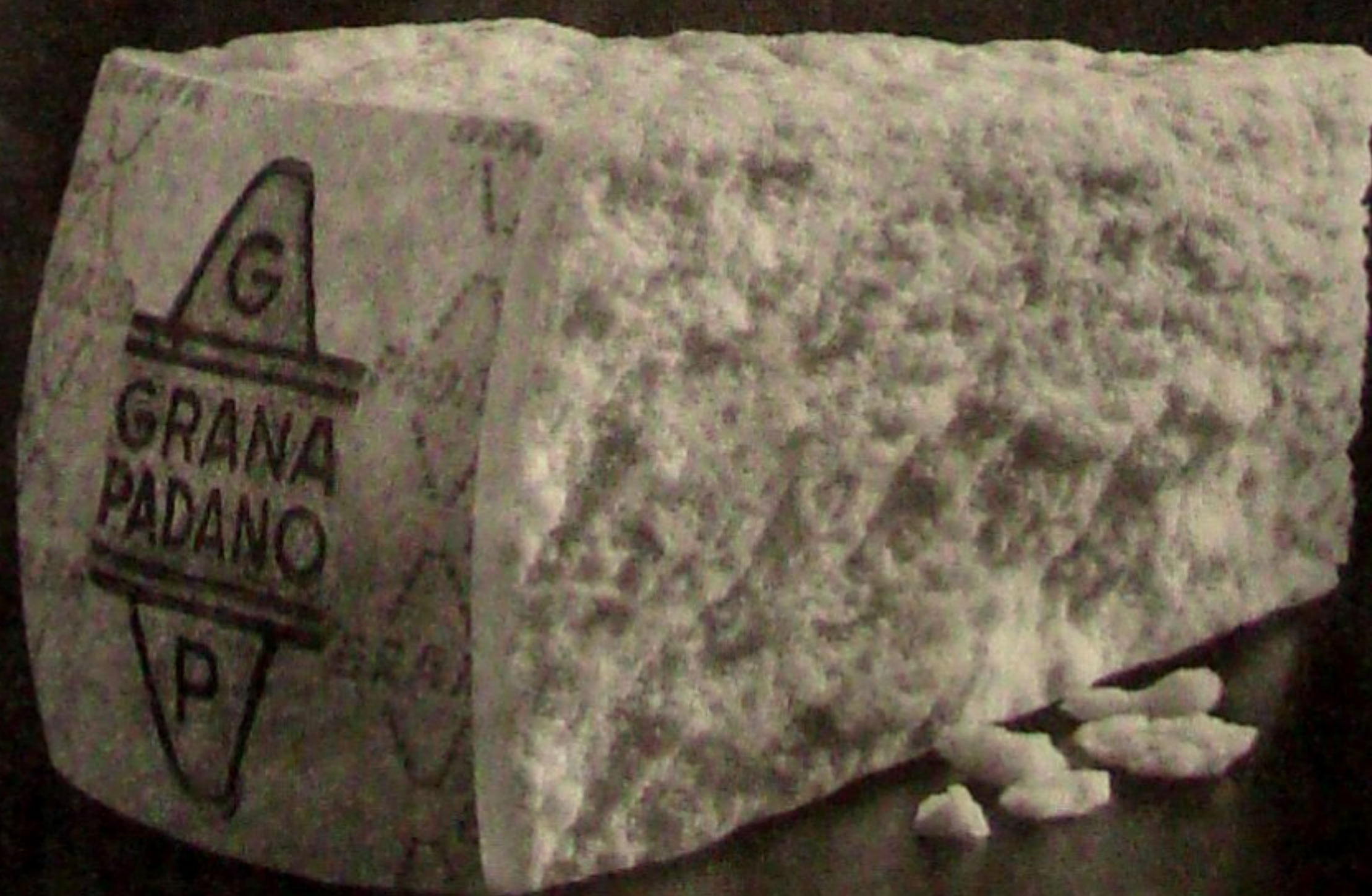
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The Marathon



MICHELLE V. AGINS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Haile Gebrselassie, the marathon world-record holder, was unable to finish his first New York City Marathon because of a problem with his right knee.

'Let me stop and do other work after this. Let me do other jobs. Let me give a chance for the youngsters.'

HAILE GEBRSELASSIE, who announced his retirement after the marathon

At Mile 16, Gebrselassie Ends His Race, and Career

By JÉRÉ LONGMAN

Word spread Saturday that the great Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia had a knee problem. Then came a message from his Twitter account Sunday morning that seemed casual and ominous.

"I have some inflammation in my right knee because of the long travel to NY City," Gebrselassie or his agent wrote. "No big problem, just some fluids. Hopefully the knee holds."

It did not.

At 1 hour 19 minutes 40 seconds of the New York City Marathon on Sunday, as the men's lead pack descended the Queensboro Bridge near the Mile 16 marker, Gebrselassie grimaced, slowed and drifted to his right, finally stopping as the leaders ran on.

The man widely considered the greatest distance runner ever reached a premature finish in the New York City Marathon and, if he is to be believed, a stunning finish to an unparalleled career at 37.

Tears in his eyes, a clearly devastated Gebrselassie limped to the podium at a post-race news conference and announced that he was retiring immediately.

"I never think about retiring," he said. "For the first time, this is the day. Let me stop and do other work after this. Let me do other jobs. Let me give a chance for the youngsters."

Perhaps his body had finally betrayed him once too often after nearly two decades as a top runner. If so, Gebrselassie was in no mood for explanation.

"I don't want to complain anymore after this," he said. "Which means it's better to stop here."

Of course, it is possible that his decision was made more from emotion than reason and that Gebrselassie will reconsider. He had planned at the least to run a marathon in Tokyo in February and in the 2012 London Olympics.

"He has to change his plans," said his countryman Gebre Gebremariam, 26, who learned about Gebrselassie in school as a boy and won Sunday's race in 2:08:14. "He is just special for us."

Gebrselassie's right knee began hurting about two weeks ago, as he trained so insistently that he turned off his mobile phone to avoid distractions, said Mary Wittenberg, the race director.

He felt more irritation after a workout Monday, and the knee apparently did not improve during the 4,500-mile flight from Ethiopia to New York on Thursday.

"He knew he had a serious knee problem," Wittenberg said. "He wanted to try to see if it would settle down."

It would not. On Saturday, Gebrselassie had a magnetic resonance imaging test that revealed tendinitis. He also had fluid drained from the knee. He seemed incredulous.

"I thought this was not that serious," he said. "Why this happen?"

In truth, the injury probably could have been rehabilitated for Sunday's race with proper medical care, Wittenberg said, but "it's a different mind-set in Ethiopia."

She added: "In the U.S., professional athletes are treated like serious athletes. In Ethiopia, they just run."

The possibility that Gebrselassie would not be able to start Sunday became "quite high," Wittenberg said. On the bus to the start, he confided to Gebremariam, "If I finish, I'm special."

If Gebrselassie retires now, his elevated place in distance running remains secure as the setter of 27 world records, including the current mark in the marathon at 2 hours 3 minutes 59 seconds. No one has equaled Gebrselassie's breadth of accomplishment — world

championships or world records from the metric mile to 26.2 miles, along with two Olympic gold medals at 10,000 meters.

"From 5K to the marathon, he has nothing to prove," said Meb Keflezighi, the 2009 New York champion and the 2004 Olympic silver medalist from San Diego. "He's the greatest, probably, distance runner ever."

If an asterisk accompanies his career, it is because Gebrselassie's best marathon times came in a kind of laboratory setting, virtual time trials instead of conventional races, carried along by pacesetters on flat courses in Berlin and in Dubai.

That was the big question about New York. Could Gebrselassie win a marathon on an undulating course in a race that involved a deep field and a pace that surged and slowed like turnpike traffic? His history now says that no, he cannot.

"This is an important race for Haile," George Hirsch, the chairman of the New York Road Runners, which operates the marathon, had said Friday. "If he wins, the word 'arguably' would be removed from his title as the greatest distance runner."

The only challenger to that mythical title, in Hirsch's view, is Emil Zatopek, the Czech star who won the 5,000 and 10,000 meters and the marathon at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, in the days before the explosion of East African runners.

But Gebrselassie did not finish Sunday, and "arguably" sticks to his reputation like gum on the bottom of a shoe. If he reconsiders, he could find inspiration in the knowledge that Carlos Lopes of Portugal won the 1984 Olympic marathon at 37. But, whether he continues or retires, time is closing in.

For the second time this year, Gebrselassie could not finish a race in New York. In March, he dropped out of a half-marathon here, complaining of breathing difficulties. That problem was said to have been resolved with spray to soothe his irritated nasal passages.

Just before Sunday's race, in a television interview, Gebrselassie kept a brave front about a "small problem" in his knee. "I don't think it will interrupt me," he added. But he did not seem totally convinced.

"I want to watch" the others, he said. "I want to stay behind."

Gebrselassie is a gregarious man who transcended the sport of distance running at a time when Kenyans and Ethiopians are so successful that they have become anonymous in their dominance. His life has broadened far beyond running.

In recent years, Gebrselassie essentially split his time between sport and business, having built two schools, a gym and a hotel and opened an automobile dealership. He employed at least 600 people directly and perhaps 400 indirectly in one of the world's poorest countries.

He spoke Friday of his dual responsibilities, about running, but also about insurance and health care for his employees and how "if the businesses fail, it's the failure of the life of the people."

Laughing, he recounted how his father, a subsistence farmer, did not want him to become an athlete. And how he changed his mind when Gebrselassie was awarded a Mercedes-Benz for winning the 10,000 at the 1993 world track and field championships — the first of many international titles.



STEPHEN CHERNIN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gebrselassie was forced to withdraw on the descent of the Queensboro Bridge.



AVI GERVER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Meb Keflezighi, left, last year's champion, with the winner, Gebre Gebremariam.

"His sheer endurance in an endurance sport is unbelievable," Hirsch said.

Wearing gloves to shield the 40-degree chill and a 13-mile-per-hour north wind, Gebrselassie ran Sunday with his left arm familiarly wide, a result of carrying his books back and forth to school as a boy. But instead of running fully upright, Gebrselassie frequently kept his head down against the wind and perhaps against the pain in his knee. Finally, at Mile 16, on the downhill portion of the Queensboro Bridge, he just stopped.

"He said downhill was his problem," Keflezighi said. "Uphills were fine."

Later, Gebrselassie said he would not run again. "Will I miss the race?" he said. "It's hard to me, hard because..."

He did not finish the thought. He thanked the reporters in attendance. And then limped away. "It's better not to complain anymore," he said.

His retirement would not be accepted, Wittenberg said later. She advised Gebrselassie to reconsider. But she knew the decision would be up to him.

"This is the kind of athlete that when you've performed to the highest of highs, he may very well decide that it's enough," Wittenberg said. "A knee injury with two weeks to go happens to mere mortals, you know."

A Winning First In New York Is Bittersweet

From Page F1

Werknesh Kidane. Also an elite long-distance runner, she was supposed to make her marathon debut in New York but pulled out with a calf injury last week. She stayed at home in Ethiopia with their two small sons and told her husband to win for the both of them.

"Maybe next year," Gebremariam said, "she'll come in and she'll win, too."

He became the first Ethiopian man to win in New York since Tesfaye Jifar in 2001, but he did not beat Jifar's course record, 2:07:43. He still won by more than one minute over Mutai, who finished in 2:09:18. Moses Kigen Kipkosgei of Kenya was third in 2:10:39.

Meb Keflezighi, the defending champion, finished sixth in 2:11:38, picking off flagging runners one by one but running out of time and course. Dathan Ritzenhein of the United States finished eighth in 2:12:33.

It was a bittersweet day for Ethiopian running, the extreme emotions of this sport visible in Gebrselassie's heavy tears and Gebremariam's dancing eyes beneath the laurel wreath he wore hours after his victory. But even he was sad, recognizing his career achievement would forever be entwined in Gebrselassie's career-ending announcement.

"In Ethiopia, everybody waits for Haile for winning, but he can't, so nobody's going to be excited about that," Gebremariam said.

From start to early finish, Gebrselassie shaped this race. On Saturday night, news that Gebrselassie was hurting buzzed about the athletes' hotel. He had a magnetic resonance imaging test, which showed severe tendinitis and fluid in the knee.

Organizers were not even sure he would start, but he was on the early-morning bus to Staten Island. There, Gebrselassie sat next to Gebremariam and quietly confessed to him. "He told me, 'Gebre, if I finish this race, I'm special,'" Gebremariam said.

Gebremariam believed in him, and still did, even after the race. "Haile is very king," he said.

But it was clear early that this was not the same Gebrselassie who owns the world record, 2:03:59, which he set on a flat course in Berlin in 2008. He came off the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge into a 13-mile-per-hour headwind tucked into the lead pack, having run a languid opening mile in 5:56. The leaders ran 65:19 through the halfway mark.

The pace was too slow for everyone, and several runners tried to surge without success. "I don't know if we are, all of us, were afraid for Haile," Kipkosgei said. "But after Haile dropped out, these guys set the pace fine."

When Gebrselassie dropped out on the Manhattan side of the Queensboro Bridge before the 16-mile mark, Gebremariam moved within a step of the leaders. When the 10 lead runners curled off the bridge onto the delirious downhill stretch of First Avenue, Gebremariam sensed his chance.

Ever a student of the sport, he had asked Keflezighi for advice before the start. Keflezighi, 35, running New York for the sixth time, told him to be patient on First Avenue.

But Gebremariam did not listen. He stormed into the lead with three others, but not before shouting, "Come on!" to Keflezighi, who could not keep pace.

Heading north into Upper Manhattan near Mile 19, Gebremariam ran with Mutai, James Kwambai of Kenya and Morocco's Abderrahime Bouramdane, feeling so strong that he knew he was going to win. By Mile 23, the leaders were down to two: Gebremariam and Mutai.

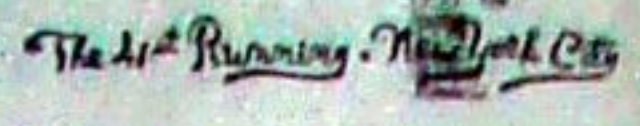
The rolling hills of Central Park were no problem for him, having trained in the mountains around Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. And then Gebremariam recalled how he crossed the same finish line to win the Healthy Kidney 10K race this past May. He smiled all the way to the finish.

Over the past two years, Gebremariam has steadily found success at every distance and type of course. He won the 2009 world cross-country championship and the Ethiopian national championship in the 10,000 meters that year. This year, he has won five of the six road races he has entered in the United States.

But he knows that these are small notches in the books, compared with Gebrselassie's 27 world records.

"No," Gebremariam said, shaking his head. "I cannot reach him. I can just do what I can."

Perhaps one day, schoolchildren in Ethiopia will be reading about him.



Main alphabetical listing of names and numbers, organized in columns. Includes names like 1001, 1002, 1003, etc., and numbers like 1001, 1002, 1003, etc.

3:48

3:50

Section of names and numbers, including entries like 1211 Jacyzinski, B. 32M, 1212 Skow, B. 34M, etc.

Section of names and numbers, including entries like 1213 Orrico, S. 49M, 1214 Cumper, S. 49M, etc.