

# New York's First City wide Marathon Draws Some of World's Top Runners: First New York City Marath...

By NEIL AMDUR

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pg. 30

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By NEIL AMDUR

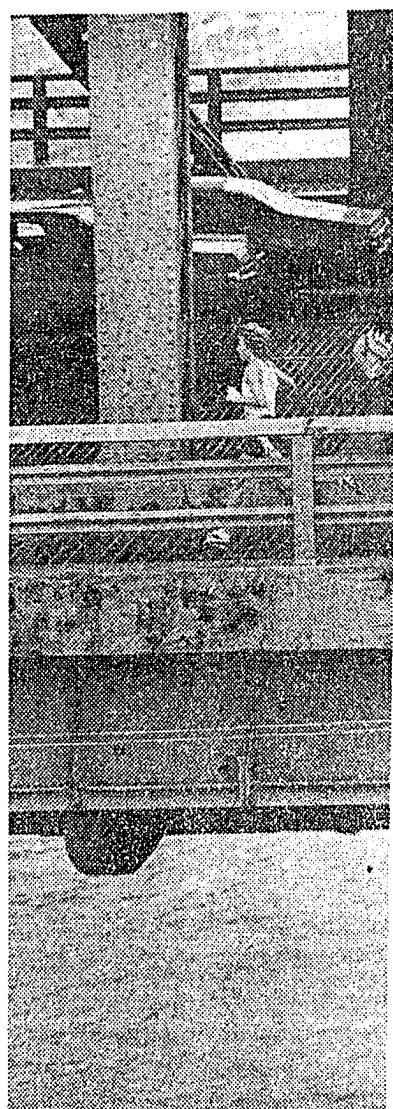
Choir boys cheered outside a church in Brooklyn, just before the 11 A.M. mass. A woman passed out complimentary oranges on East 59th Street. Motorists and taxis gave ground without a grudge.

That was the prevailing mood for yesterday's New York City Marathon, a citywide happening that helped Bill Rodgers, a 29-year-old teacher of special education from Melrose, Mass., run 26 miles 385 yards faster than he had figured.

The race embodied the city's character, good and bad. Spectators cheered all competitors, carried signs and flags for some, snapped pictures and lined much of the route, particularly a six-mile stretch along Fourth Avenue in Brooklyn and the final three miles in Central Park. The police had no official crowd estimates, but as many as 500,000 people could have caught a glimpse of the runners at one time or another during the midday journey. Some spectators watched out of curiosity, unfamiliar with the mystique of long-distance running. Others enjoyed the neighborhood flavor of the race, an event that some skeptics said could not be held outside the controlled confines of Central Park.

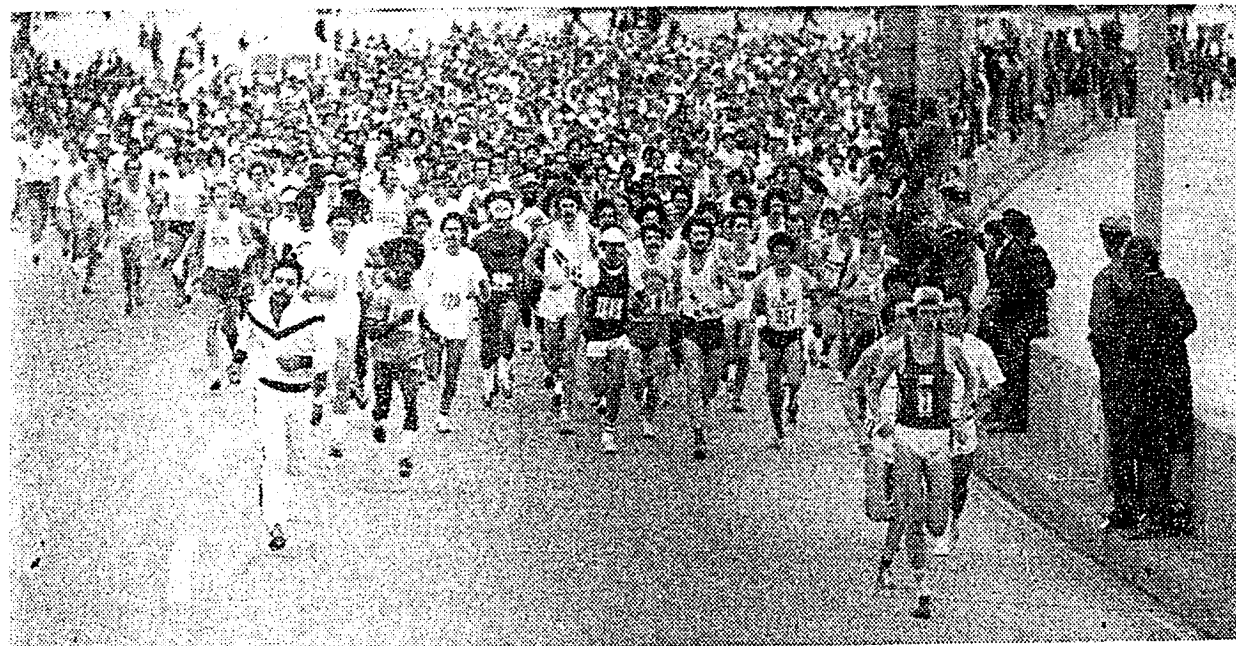
### 2,002 Starters in Race

The lean, lithe Mr. Rodgers had felt he was capable of covering the new five-borough course in 2 hours 11 minutes. His winning time was 2:10:10, almost 3 minutes ahead of a United States Olympic teammate. Frank Shorter, the 1972 gold medalist at Munich and 1976 silver medalist at Montreal, who finished second, in 2:13:12.



The New York Times/Paul Hosefros and D. Gorlon

Bill Rodgers, the eventual winner of yesterday's New York City Marathon, leading the field—including Frank Shorter, at rear—near the Queensboro Bridge, 15 miles into the race. The bridge, at right, challenged runners with some of the most difficult terrain of the grueling and often lonely race.



While the beginning of the marathon was far from lonely as 2,002 entrants started from the Staten Island side of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, each runner had to prepare himself in his own way for the 26-mile course.

Miki Gorman, a petite 41-year-old Californian, who did not take up running until the age of 33, was the first finisher among the record field of 88 women starters. The 5-foot, 87-pound Mrs. Gorman reached the Central Park finish line in 2:39:11, the 70th-fastest time over all.

A total of 2,002 competitors from 2,075 entries left the starting line on the Staten Island side of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge for the first such citywide race. Overcast, 40-degree weather created what Mr. Rodgers called "ideal conditions for a marathon."

Many of the top competitors, including Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Shorter and 38-year-old Ron Hill of Britain, were surprised at how efficiently the race had proceeded, in a city synonymous with traffic tieups. The runners were also

stunned by the unexpected — four bridges with fairly steep inclines, cobblestone streets, several sharp turns and, of course, potholes.

"After this, I can do anything," said Tom Fleming of Bloomfield, N.J., who had won this event twice before in Central Park and finished sixth, in 2:16:52.

"The surface was probably the worst I've ever run under," said Ken Moore of Eugene, Ore., a fourth-place finisher at the 1972 Olympics, who was pulled off the course by a policeman in the final 50 yards yesterday because he had no number.

The race attracted entries from 35 states and 10 foreign countries. Politicians, psychiatrists, actors and former professional football players joined the world-class competitors; 312 men and two women finished under 3 hours and



Continued on Page 36, Column 4

# First New York City Marathon Is Termed a Success

Continued From Page 31

1,192 men and 30 women under 4 hours.

Kenneth A. Gibson, the Mayor of Newark, crossed the finish line 4 hours 34 minutes after he had started.

"All I kept thinking about in the closing stages was, please let me finish," said the Mayor, who received a rousing reception.

Robert Earl Jones, the 71-year-old actor and father of James Earle Jones, was determined to finish "if it takes me until 7 o'clock at night."

Mr. Jones, running his first marathon, surprised himself by crossing the finish line at 5:30 P.M.—under seven hours.

"I'm so happy," said the lanky actor, who had played Robert Redford's mentor, Luther, in the Academy Award-winning film, "The Sting." "My head was clear, and I enjoyed it. I just needed another pair of legs."

Pekka Paivarinta, a 27-year-old Finnish Olympian, was the early leader, clicking off brisk 4:45 miles through the first five miles that had race organizers dreaming of a possible world record.

"He did that before in Japan," said the 29-year-old Mr. Shorter, who preferred to run in a 10-man pack with Mr. Rodgers—about four blocks behind Mr. Paivarinta, in Brooklyn. "He died then, and he died today."

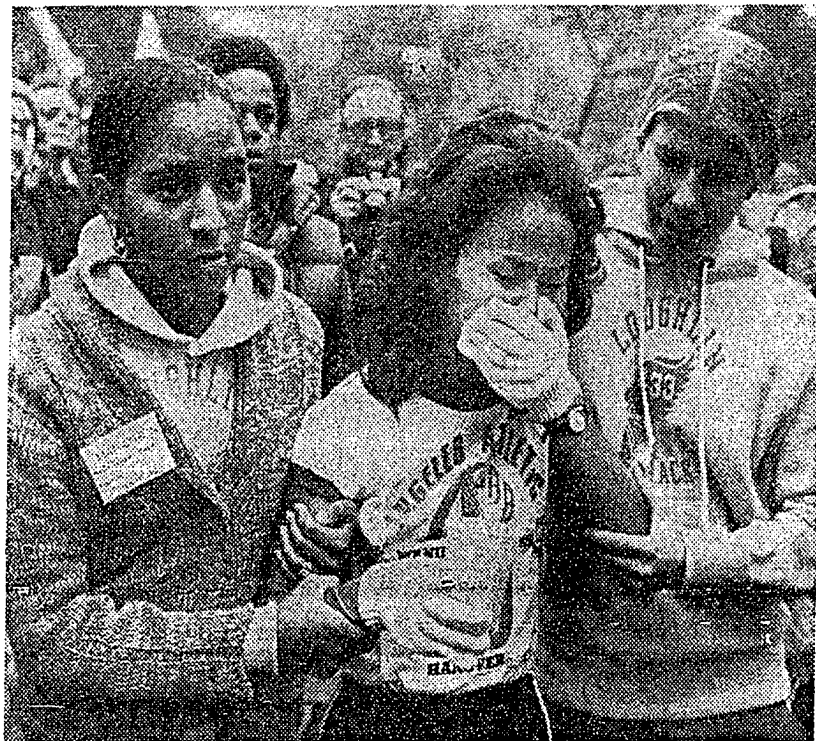
Mr. Shorter, from his Olympic exploits, was the most recognizable figure in the race. Shouts of "attaboy Frank," and handmade signs ("All the Way Frank") offered encouragement. But it was the 5-foot 8-inch, 130-pound Mr. Rodgers and Chris Stewart, a 30-year-old stamp salesman from Britain, who passed Mr. Paivarinta at the 12-mile mark.

If any point along the way became New York's Heartbreak Hill, it was the Queensboro Bridge, and not simply because of the view below.

"We were coming off a long, flat stretch onto a fairly steep incline," said Mr. Rodgers, who pulled away from Mr. Stewart going up the bridge. "And the iron gratings probably made it difficult. I sensed he was laboring there."

Once in front, Mr. Rodgers relaxed. At 18 miles, he passed Richard Traum, a 35-year-old competitor who has an artificial leg and who had started at 6:49 A.M., four hours before the others.

"Attaboy Dick," Mr. Rodgers shouted to Mr. Traum, who was to finish his first marathon in 7 hours 51 minutes—9 minutes under his eight-hour goal.



The New York Times

Mikl Gorman being helped by officials after finishing first among women

It was a satisfying victory for Mr. Rodgers, who averages about 140 miles of running a week and says he would run more if he had the time. He won the 1975 Boston Marathon and qualified for the 1976 Olympics, but hobbled home a disappointing 40th.

Of yesterday's race, Mr. Shorter said: "Bill just ran strong all the way through. I tried to maintain the condition I had from Montreal, but I don't think I was that sharp."

Mr. Rodgers paid New York its strongest compliment when he called the course "a little tougher than Boston."

"Boston's basically downhill, although it has those hills," he said. "This course had a few hills and fairly tough terrain. It was like running cross-country."

Race officials were ecstatic over the results and the cooperation from the police, who were conspicuous by their presence and kept competitors from being run over by stray cars and arrogant cyclists.

"I never thought they could organize the traffic and police," said Mr. Hill, the 10th-place finisher, who has run in marathons all over the world. "They did a fantastic job."

## Summaries of New York City Marathon

MEN		MEN	
	Time		Time
1—Bill Rodgers, Greater Boston Track Club.....	2:10:10	13—Charles Burrows, Twin Cities Track Club.....	2:21:40
2—Frank Shorter, Florida Track Club.....	2:13:12	14—Louis Calvano, Millrose Athletic Association.....	2:22:46
3—Chris Stewart, Bournemouth, Britain.....	2:13:21	15—William Braga, New York Athletic Club.....	2:23:19
4—Richard Hughson, Toronto Olympic Club.....	2:16:10	16—Bruce Robinson, Washington Running Club.....	2:23:42
5—Pekka Paivarinta, Finland.....	2:16:17	17—Ryszard Chudecki, Poland.....	2:24:13
6—Tom Fleming, New York Athletic Club.....	2:16:52	18—Phillip Stewart, Washington Running Club.....	2:24:30
7—Carl Hatfield, New Virginia Track Club.....	2:17:26	19—Richard Mabuza, Swaziand.....	2:25:18
8—Daniel McDoyle, Ireland.....	2:17:48	20—Scott Graham, Greater Boston Track Club.....	2:25:18
9—Guenther Mielke, West Germany.....	2:18:16	21—Gary Multicelle, Millrose Athletic Association.....	2:26:26
10—Ron Hill, Britain.....	2:19:43	22—Jan Thomson, Britain.....	2:26:26
11—Akio Usami, Japan.....	2:20:30	23—Paul Raether, Twin Cities Track Club.....	2:26:48
12—Dr. Robert Moore, Toronto Olympic Club.....	2:21:09	24—Brian Armstrong, Toronto Olympic Club.....	2:27:35
		25—Joel Pasternack, Unattached.....	2:27:39

WOMEN		WOMEN	
	Time		Time
1—Mrs. Mikl Gorman, San Fernando Track Club.....	2:39:11	6—Louise Wechsler, Unattached.....	3:19:11
2—Doris Brown, Seattle, Wash.....	2:53:20	7—Nina Kuscsik, Suffolk Athletic Club.....	3:20:50
3—Toshiko O'Neil, Jersey Senior Track Club.....	3:08:17	8—Elizabeth Curtin, Unattached.....	3:22:24
4—Lauri Pedrinan, West Side YMCA.....	3:15:50	9—Dolly Wiedman, Shore Athletic Club.....	3:22:29
5—Cheryl Norton, Columbia Athletic Association.....	3:18:50	10—Jane Killion, West Side YMCA.....	3:25:02