

# Norwegian Waitz Breaks Women's Marathon Mark

MARATHON, From D1

Staten Island toll plaza of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and winds through diverse neighborhoods in all five of New York's boroughs before finishing amid the splendid autumn foliage in Central Park.

Rodgers pulled away from a spent and fading Bjorklund on the Queensboro Bridge, 15 miles into the race, just as he did last year. He opened a lead of perhaps five city blocks along First Avenue in Manhattan, from the fashionable pub district of the East 60s to 125th Street in Harlem.

Going into the deceptively steep entrance ramp of the Queensboro, which connects Queens and Manhattan, Rodgers had only a 15-foot lead. By the time he left the carpet which was laid over the bridge's open steel grating, he had more than tripled that.

Rodgers stretched his lead to a quarter-mile at 18 miles, a half-mile at 19. From the CB radio in race director Fred Lebow's "pace car" emanated a scratchy message: "He's all alone."

By the time Rodgers got to Central Park, where the maples lining the roadway were turning from green to stunning shades of gold and rust, Rodgers looked relaxed and almost serene despite stiffening calf muscles.

At the finish line in front of the Tavern on the Green at West 67th Street, an Air Force brass band played lively tunes and gaily painted dancing clowns entertained. Waitz walked people on either side of West Field formed a patchwork quilt of fall fashions and colors in the summer-like afternoon. Their applause swelled, and they showered Rodgers

with confetti as he crossed the finish line shortly after 12:42 p.m.

Bjorklund—a 28-year-old Minnesotan who was on the U.S. Olympic team in 1978 as a 10,000-meter man and is determined to win his first major marathon—"died," as distance runners say, at approximately 20 miles. Looking and feeling awful, he struggled guttily at a 77th place finish in 2:29:58.

Ian Thompson, 29, the supposedly over-the-hill Englishman whose 2:09:12 in the 1974 Commonwealth Games ranks as the third fastest marathon ever run, took second place in 2:14:12, 2:01 behind Rodgers.

Surprising Trevor Wright, 32, of Great Britain was third in 2:14:35; Marco Marchei, 24, of Italy, fourth in 2:16:54; and Thomas Antczak, 27, from Wisconsin, fifth in 2:17:12.

Jack Foster, 46, the former bicycle racer who didn't take up running until he was 33 but has represented New Zealand in the last two Olympic marathons, finished sixth in 2:17:29 to take the "masters" (over-40) title.

Waitz, a lanky 5-foot 7 1/2, 110-pound language and physical education teacher from Oslo who holds the women's world record in the 3,000 meters, claimed the Amateur Athletic Union women's national championship in the marathon by topping the approximately 1,000 women in the field estimated at 9,000 total starters, more than any U.S. marathon.

She finished 105th overall. Waitz never had competed at longer than 16 kilometers (about 10 miles)—she won a race of that distance at Stockholm two weeks ago—but decided last week to accept on short notice an invitation to compete in what is rapidly supplanting Boston as America's top marathon.

Because of her late decision, Waitz was given number 1173 and was not even listed in the official program—the startled public address announcer at the finish line said, "No. 1173 has overtaken Martha Cooksey for the women's lead at 20 miles, but I don't know who she is"—but her time bettered by 2:17.7 the previous women's record of 2:34:47.5 set earlier this year by Christa Vahlensieck of West Germany.

Nye finished 63rd overall in 2:28:03; Smith was 66th in 2:28:24. The WRC cumulative time of 7:20:53 placed it behind the Greater Boston Track Club (6:58:31), New York Athletic Club (7:05:57) and New Jersey Athletic Club (7:06:26).

Wayne Roe of the WRC was the only other area finisher in the top 100, taking 90th position with a time of 2:31:31.



Bill Rodgers captures his third consecutive New York City Marathon, covering the 26-mile, 385-yard course in 2:12.12.

the marathon in the Track and Field News.

She was second behind Cooksey, the Avon International women's champ, after 10 miles. "I couldn't see her, but I just decided to run faster," recalled Waitz afterwards, "and at 20 miles I passed her. I don't know how she was feeling. I didn't want to look at her."

Cooksey, looking so ghostly it was ghastly, staggered home second among the women in 2:41:55. Fellow Californian Sue Petersen was third in 2:44:46.

Rodgers, who has won all five marathons he has entered since suffering in the heat and dropping out at Boston in 1977, seemed more astonished by Waitz's effort than by his own finest outing in the heat (64 degrees at the start, 64 at the finish) and humidity (60 percent) that worried him.

"She may have run a more sane race than the men did," said the 58-year-old Wesleyan University and Boston College School of Education graduate, a former teacher of retarded and emotionally disturbed children who now operates a thriving running boutique in Boston.

"I think we ran the first half much too fast, and then it was a matter of holding on. It was very intense early in the race. Bjorklund, Thompson and (New Zealander Kevin) Ryan set a berserk pace the first seven miles. I thought they were making a mistake... I was thinking ahead to the end of the race and wondering what any of us would have left."

Bjorklund moved ahead of Thompson for the lead in the eighth mile, and Rodgers went with him. "That

was really the start of the race. I thought about holding back but Garry looked so strong I thought I had to stay with him and hope that his inexperience in the heat hurt him," Rodgers continued.

"I had a feeling Garry was going to win today," Rodgers said of the man he outdueled and vanquished down First Avenue, 16-20 miles into the race a year ago. "I was saying to myself, 'No. 2 is pretty good. I'll come back next year.' But at 10 miles, he faltered a little bit. I could sense it."

"We were running together, maybe 50 yards ahead, and he said, 'I'm not feeling too good.' I said, 'Me either. Let's cruise a little while.' At Queensboro Bridge, I made my move. But I don't think I broke him so much as he broke himself by going out so fast."

- TOP 50 FINISHERS
1. Bill Rodgers, Melrose, Mass., 2:12:12
2. Ian Thompson, Great Britain, 2:14:12
3. Trevor Wright, Great Britain, 2:14:35
4. Marco Marchei, Italy, 2:16:54
5. Tom Antczak, Wisconsin, 2:17:12
6. Jack Foster, New Zealand, 2:17:29
7. Christa Vahlensieck, Germany, 2:17:47
8. Bill Haviland, Ohio, 2:18:39
9. Franco Ambrosioni, Italy, 2:19:08
10. William Sieben, New Jersey Athletic Club, 2:19:11
11. Goran Hogberg, Sweden, 2:19:20
12. Frank Shorter, Boulder, Colo., 2:19:32
13. Ko Vanderwellen, Netherlands, 2:19:37
14. Richard Umberg, Switzerland, 2:19:55
15. Richard Marchak, Poland, 2:20:30
16. Ken Norton, Missouri, 2:20:35
17. Edwin Fry, Indiana, Pa. University, 2:20:20
18. Dan Cloeter, University of Chicago Track Club, 2:20:21
19. Owe Hjalmskog, Sweden, 2:20:24
20. Ron Hill, Great Britain, 2:20:29
21. Tom Fleming, Bloomfield, N.J., 2:20:37
22. Richard Marchak, Poland, 2:20:38
23. Alan McGee, Great Britain, 2:20:41
24. Veli Bailli, Turkey, 2:20:55
25. James Raftery, New York Athletic Club, 2:21:25
TOP FIVE WOMEN
1. Grete Waitz, Norway, 2:12:12
2. Martha Cooksey, Orange, Calif., 2:41:55
3. Sue Petersen, California, 2:44:46
4. Doreen Ennis, New Jersey Athletic Association, 2:48:14
5. Leonora Mendonca, Brazil, 2:48:55

## Robinson Top Area Finisher

Special to The Washington Post

NEW YORK—Bruce Robinson of the District was the top Washington-area runner in yesterday's New York City Marathon, finishing 39th in 2 hours 24 minutes 27 seconds. He led Washington Running Club teammates Peter Nye and Martin Smith Jr. to a fourth-place finish in the team standings.

Nye finished 63rd overall in 2:28:03; Smith was 66th in 2:28:24. The WRC cumulative time of 7:20:53 placed it behind the Greater Boston Track Club (6:58:31), New York Athletic Club (7:05:57) and New Jersey Athletic Club (7:06:26).

Wayne Roe of the WRC was the only other area finisher in the top 100, taking 90th position with a time of 2:31:31.

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3 Arrested for 'Diverion' NEW YORK (UPI) — Three people were arrested early yesterday for painting a bogus blue traffic line that would have sent 10,000 runners in the city's annual marathon scampering off in the wrong direction.

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