

Meyer, Benoit top field at '83 Boston Marathon

United Press International
BOSTON — Four years ago they shared the spotlight: Joan Benoit, a Bowdoin College senior and Bill Rodgers, unquestionably the world's greatest long-distance runner.

Both have won the Boston Marathon once since then, Rodgers' in 1980 and Benoit's second triumph Monday, when she completed a 16-month comeback from double Achilles' surgery by shattering the world record by an incredible two minutes, 47 seconds. Her winning time of 2:22:42 was more than 12 minutes faster than her winning time in 1979.

Benoit's triumph overshadowed the inspired effort by men's winner Greg Meyer, who lived up to his press notices and won comfortably in 2:09:00, just 47 seconds off the world record.

This was his second Boston appearance. He finished 11th in 1981 after leading halfway.

On the day Meyer solidified his reputation as one of the world's finest on the roads and Benoit re-established herself as a force in women's racing, Rodgers ran his fifth-best

Boston against a field lacking in long-distance luminaries, an effort which relegated him to the ranks of the also-rans and elicited talk of retirement.

"This is possibly my last marathon," the 35-year-old Rodgers said after finishing a demoralizing 10th in 2:11:58. He had been bothered all weekend by a head cold.

"I thought under 2:12 would be world-class time and that's what you try for. It's frustrating. There's a big gap between me and the world's best marathoners," he said.

To add irony, Meyer, who came east from Michigan five years ago at Rodgers' behest, trains with him and worked in his running store. He even used Rodgers' victory strategy, staying with the leaders over the first half of the race and making his move on the grueling hills of Newton.

"It will probably take three or four more (Boston) wins to get as much respect as Billy," said Meyer, 27, who has won four of the seven marathons he has entered. "Benoit is special. I got to the top of Heartbreak Hill — it sounds silly, I know — but I felt like I wanted to cry."

Benoit simply dominated the women's race, as those in the know had predicted she would, from the start. Since her surgery on Dec. 28, 1981, she has bettered Grete Waitz's woman's mark at the Falmouth Road Race and also set American records in the marathon, the half-marathon, 10 miles and 10 kilometers.

Allison Roe, who had shared the previous world best with Waitz, was in the field but due to Achilles problems of her own had not run a serious marathon since setting the record at New York in 1981. Waitz had equaled it Sunday in London. The other women were not even a threat.

"Deep down, I wanted 2:23 but of course, I did much better," said Benoit, 26, the Boston University women's track coach. "I thought I could break the record, the conditions were right."

The following were the top 25 men's finishers Monday in the 37th running of the Boston Marathon:

3. Benji Durden, Stone Mountain, Ga., 2:09:57
4. Ed Mendoza, Flagstaff, Ariz., 2:10:06
5. Christopher Bunyan, Carbondale, Ill., 2:10:54
6. David Edge, Lancaster, Ontario, 2:11:03
7. Michael Layman, Spokane, Wash., 2:11:24
8. Daniel Schlesinger, Cambridge, Mass., 2:11:36
9. Jeff Wells, Eugene, Ore., 2:11:42
10. Bill Rodgers, Sherborn, Mass., 2:11:58
11. David Hinz, Canton, Mich., 2:12:05
12. John Lodwick, Eugene, Ore., 2:12:49
13. Duncan MacDonald, Menlo Park, Calif., 2:12:49
14. Budd Coates, Emmaus, Pa., 2:13:02
15. Dave Gorden, Eugene, Ore., 2:13:11
16. Harold Schulz, San Anselmo, Calif., 2:13:37
17. Dennis Rinde, Orangevale, Calif., 2:13:48
18. Ric Fayre, Ashland, Ore., 2:13:49
19. Gal Vega, West New York, N.Y., 2:14:01
20. Kevin McCarey, San Diego, Calif., 2:14:09
21. Tom Fleming, Bloomfield, N.J., 2:14:14
22. Carlton Law, Boone, N.C., 2:14:21
23. Dean Matthews, Atlanta, Ga., 2:14:46
24. Poshihiro Shibutani, Japan, 2:15:12
25. David Patterson, Norristown, Pa., 2:15:20

1. Gregory Meyer, Wellesley, Mass., 2:09:00
 2. Ron Tabb, Eugene, Ore., 2:09:31

Detroit GM says defense too generous, fires coach

United Press International
PONTIAC — Jack McCloskey is looking for a new coach to get the Detroit Pistons back in the playoffs — presumably one who knows how to teach defense.

McCloskey fired Scotty Robertson, Monday, and cited the Pistons' lack of defensive prowess.

Although some saw the firing as an effort by McCloskey to take the heat off himself, the dumping of the popular Robertson undoubtedly will focus attention on the general manager if his choice of the 17th Piston coach since 1957 does not produce a playoff team.

the set of circumstances I was operating under."

"It was a matter of principles," McCloskey said, "and a matter of our coming along all season. It was just not a matter of points allowed. It was percentage of shots. Teams just made too high a percentage of shots against us."

"We did not improve our team defense in any phase of the game," McCloskey said.

Detroit allowed an average of 113.1 points per game while scoring 112.7 this season and opponents made 49.5 percent of their shots.

Last year, the Pistons scored 111.1 points per game and gave up 112.0 while permitting opponents to score on 50.8 percent of their shots.

In the end, what probably doomed Robertson was losing starting forwards Kelly Tripucka and Kent Benson for much of December and January because of injuries.

Guard John Long also saw his season scoring average cut in half due to various ailments and the Pistons' bench seemed unable to counter those losses.

"Basically I feel we need to improve defensively," McCloskey said as his main reason for ending Robertson's three-year tenure as coach of the Pistons, during which time Detroit compiled a 97-149 record and did not make the playoffs.

The Pistons posted 21, 39 and 37-victory seasons for Robertson and finally shed their status as the league doormat.

However, it wasn't enough. McCloskey said, "I would like a coach with NBA experience" and added, his list of candidates included one or two coaches currently under contract to other league teams.

Robertson reported to work Monday and was told in a five-minute meeting with McCloskey, "We're going to make a change."

"He gave me two reasons," Robertson said. "He didn't think the team was progressing as well as it should and he didn't think our defense was as good as it should be."

"I agreed with him on both points but where we had our difference of opinion was over why," Robertson said. "He blamed me but I thought it was

Express stops leading passer

L.A. defense foils Bandits

United Press International
TAMPA, Fla. — A hard-hitting, ball-hawking Los Angeles Express defense took action to the leading passer in the United States Football League on a rainy Monday night and came away with an 18-13 victory over the Tampa Bay Bandits.

Bandits' quarterback John Reaves went into the game leading the league in passes attempted, passes completed and yards gained.

But the Express held him to only 7 completions in 27 attempts for 81 yards, intercepted four of his passes and caused him to fumble the ball on a play that put him out of action indefinitely with a

broken right wrist.

The fourth-quarter fumble, caused by Reaves' broken wrist when he was hit, was recovered by defensive end Dennis Edwards at the Bandits' 18 with Los Angeles leading, 9-6, set up the winning touchdown. John Barnett picked up three yards, and after a holding penalty, quarterback Mike Rae hit tight end Ricky Ellis for 18 yards. Barnett ran for one and then on the next play went up the middle for the final yard and the score. It was the first touchdown the Express has scored on the ground this season.

Vince Abbott had three field goals in the first half for Los Angeles from 24, 35 and 36 yards, and Zenon Andrusyshyn had two in the first half for Tam-

pa from 29 and 40 yards.

Tampa took the kickoff after Barnett's touchdown and reserve quarterback Jimmy Jordan moved the Bandits 73 yards to score their own touchdown, a 23-yard pass to wide receiver Danny Buggs, cutting the Express lead to three points. Tampa had two more chances but was unable to move into field goal range.

The last time the Bandits got the ball, only 27 seconds remained and the ball was on their own 18. Jordan rolled out but was run out of bounds at the Tampa 5 for a loss of 13 and on the next play was sacked by Edwards for a safety and the final two points for Los Angeles.

Tampa lost its top runner early in the game when Greg Boone

injured his foot, but Sam Platt took over, carrying 21 times for 107 yards.

The victory gives Los Angeles a 4-3 record and a tie with Denver for the Pacific Division lead.

Sampson's big shoes fill woman's den in Virginia

United Press International
RICHMOND, Va. — Now Mrs. James Farinholt has a pair of Sampson's sneakers she is quite sure what to do with them.

They set her back \$1,350.

Mrs. Farinholt picked up the university of Virginia basketball player's size-17 sneakers last week at a benefit auction — and they're currently adorning the den of her Richmond home.

"We keep stumbling over them in the middle of the floor,"

she was quoted as saying in today's editions of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

"They're such a super thing to have in the den. People will come in and look at them and I'll say, 'That son of mine keeps eating and eating.'"

Actually, Mrs. Farinholt's sons are 4 and 6. But they're excited about the sneakers, too. The older child took them to school for show-and-tell.

Sampson wore the shoes in two Virginia games. They were

given to a St. Catherine's School auction by Dr. Charles Caravati Jr., a Richmond doctor, the newspaper reported.

Mrs. Farinholt described the scene at last Friday's auction as one where a cheering section developed and "kept raising my arm for me."

Her husband wasn't angered, and the den ended up with a sports curiosity.

"My house is open for Garden Week," she said, "maybe I can put a flower arrangement in them."

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