

# Dedicated marathoners plan amazing feat

## On the road again

■ Anthony Lopetrono and his wife, Nancy Broadbridge, are attempting to run marathons in all 50 states and the District of Columbia this year. The Birmingham couple hoped to complete run No. 35 yesterday at the Bismarck Marathon in Bismarck, N.D. The whirlwind trip is scheduled to conclude Sunday, Dec. 21 in Olympia, Wash. Below is the list of races they've completed and those still on the schedule. As of Friday, Lopetrono's best time this year was three hours, five minutes set in Townsend, Tenn., while Broadbridge's time of 4:24 in Columbia, S.C. represented her best mark in 1997.

DATE	MARATHON	CITY/STATE
Jan. 4	Charlotte Observer	Charlotte, N.C.
Jan. 12	Houston Methodist	Houston, Texas
Jan. 18	Mardi Gras	New Orleans, La.
Feb. 1	Tallahassee	Tallahassee, Fla.
Feb. 8	Columbia	Columbia, S.C.
Feb. 16	Desert Classic	Scottsdale, Ariz.
Feb. 22	Smoky Mountain	Townsend, Tenn.
March 1	Trail's End	Seaside, Ore.
March 9	I.R. & Trail	Severna Park, Md.
March 15	Shamrock	Virginia Beach, Va.
March 21	Maui	Kahului, Hawaii
April 6	Hugey	Fayetteville, Ark.
April 13	Glass City	Toledo, Ohio
April 19	Longsight Pass	Brookings, S.D.
April 27	Boston	Boston, Mass.
May 3	Lake County	Zion, Ill.
May 10	Great Potato	Boise, Idaho
May 16	Lake Geneva	Lake Geneva, Wis.
May 18	Sugarbush	Evans, Maine
May 25	Wyoming	Laramie, Wyo.
May 31	High Plains	Goodland, Kan.
June 7	Governor's Cup	Hilton, N.Y.
June 8	Texas	Texas, N.M.
June 14	Honolulu	Fort Wayne, Ind.
June 21	Grandma's	Duluth, Minn.
June 29	Rainbow	Ward's Island Park, N.Y.
July 13	San Francisco	San Francisco, Calif.
July 19	University of Okla.	Pike's Point St. Park, Iowa
July 24	Desert News	Salt Lake City, Utah
July 27	Sky Marathon	Mont Evans, Colo.
Aug. 9	Crystal Lake	Reddick, Mich.
Aug. 17	Hampshire Classic	Anchorage, Alaska
Aug. 23	Silver State	Bravo, Nev.
Sept. 1	Tupelo	Tupelo, Miss.
Sept. 6	Bismarck	Bismarck, N.D.
Sept. 14	Erie	Erie, Pa.
Sept. 28	East Lyme	East Lyme, Conn.
Oct. 4	New Hampshire	Bristol, N.H.
Oct. 12	St. Louis	St. Louis, Mo.
Oct. 18	Green Mountain	South Hero, Vt.
Oct. 19	Atlantic City	Atlantic City, N.J.
Oct. 26	Marine Corps	Washington, D.C.
Nov. 2	Omaha Riverfront	Omaha, Neb.
Nov. 9	Ocean State	Narragansett, R.I.
Nov. 22	Tulsa	Tulsa, Okla.
Nov. 27	Atlanta	Atlanta, Ga.
Nov. 30	Almost Heaven	Charlottesville, Va.
Dec. 4	Kentucky	Louisville, Ky.
Dec. 7	Delaware	Newark, Del.
Dec. 13	Hocket City	Huntsville, Ala.
Dec. 21	Christmas	Olympia, Wash.

BY CHRIS MAYER  
STAFF WRITER

San Francisco. Boston. New Orleans. Houston. Boise. Idaho. Duluth, Minn. Charlotte, N.C. Anchorage, Alaska.

What do these U.S. cities have in common? Well, for one thing, they've all been visited in recent months by dedicated marathoners Anthony Lopetrono and Nancy Broadbridge. The Birmingham couple is in the midst of an inconceivable trek across America, striving to accomplish one incredible goal: complete marathons (26.2 miles) in the 50 states and the District of Columbia in the same year.

Sounds far-fetched, right? Lopetrono, 46, and Broadbridge, 44, certainly don't think so. The durable duo is nearly three-quarters of the way home with 34 of the 51 journeys behind them as of Friday. The pair was expected to run in Bismarck, N.D. yesterday and take part in the Eriesible Marathon next Sunday in Erie, Pa. See chart at left.

"I really didn't expect that we were going to be able to do it. I figured it was a long shot, but we've tried," Lopetrono said. "There were just too many things that could have gone wrong, and several of these marathons we could have missed. The second one was in Houston, Texas, and the weather was so bad because of an icy rain, it was almost canceled. There's a lot of luck involved."

It's a remarkable goal when the logistics of scheduling the races, training sessions, and travel plans (the two are Northwest Airlines preferred customers, almost gold) are taken into account. And the cost of such an endeavor need not be explained.

Lopetrono and Broadbridge, seasoned marathoners who have been running together since 1983, started toying with the idea last November when they met members of the 50 States & D.C. Marathon Group (50

& DC) during a marathon in Rhode Island. The 50 & DC club was formed in the spring of 1989 and members strive to run one or more marathons in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Incidentally, Lopetrono and Broadbridge just became club members.

"I asked if anybody has ever (run all 51 marathons) in one year and (the club members) said no," Lopetrono said. "They didn't think anyone could do it in one year, primarily because you couldn't schedule it. We thought we'd give it a try."

The feedback prompted Lopetrono and Broadbridge, who this past July celebrated their wedding anniversary, to see if the challenge could be met or even attempted. Lopetrono tracked down dates and sites of countless 1997 U.S. marathons and created a database of events on his computer, sorting them chronologically, geographically and any other way possible.

Lopetrono says it took a few weeks of "really going crazy" to finalize a schedule that offered optimum convenience and avoided too many burdensome back-to-back runs on the same weekend.

There have been schedule and training modifications along the way — Lopetrono is reluctantly pacing himself more, and other races were discovered that fit better into the schedule — but the project has moved smoothly thus far.

At this point in the game, however, there are few rescheduling options. A cancellation or missed marathon would likely force a double weekend and two of the races are already upcoming — Oct. 18 in Vermont and Oct. 19 in New Jersey, and Dec. 6 in Kentucky and Dec. 7 in Delaware.

"When we have situations like those, we just pace ourselves accordingly and just run slower and do more walking throughout," Broadbridge said. "The first real double we had was in April. There was a race



**Mighty marathoners: Birmingham marathoners Anthony Lopetrono and Nancy Broadbridge are expected to complete their year-long journey in Washington state.**

in Brookings, South Dakota, and two days later was the Boston Marathon. We both wound up doing a personal worst time in Brookings just so we could do well in Boston. And we did."

Through 34 marathons, Lopetrono has clocked an average time of 3 hours, 30 minutes per race; Broadbridge was finishing at a respectable 4:40 clip. But it's not all about time. Broadbridge has been taking pictures along the courses since April.

"Absolutely we wanted to keep it fun," Lopetrono said. "We just wanted to see the country and meet the people. And now just about every weekend we meet friends from all over that we've run with before."

Added Broadbridge: "We feel more confident now that we will complete this."

Lopetrono, a self-employed stock

trader, and Broadbridge, who has worked at Providence Hospital for over 20 years, will have endless stories to tell. The time they were interviewed by a California cable TV station during the San Francisco Marathon, for example.

But what's in store for the couple after the quest is done? They're sure to get some rest, plan for future marathons in the U.S. and maybe Canada, and Lopetrono admitted he will check out the possibility of entry into the renowned Guinness Book of World Records.

"As far as we know, nobody has ever done this," Lopetrono said. "Nobody in the 50 States club knows about it. The only thing that's going to stop us now I feel — well, injury could stop us — is a cancellation or a date change."

## RECREATION Center

### HEARTWALK

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, a group of 15 individually edited twice weekly

newspapers, is exclusive print sponsor of the 1997 HEARTWALK. Organized by the Lathrup Village-based American

Heart Association, the event will be held Saturday, Oct. 4, at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak. The 1997 HEARTWALK is

expected to attract an estimated 7,000 health conscious walkers of all age groups from all over metro Detroit.

This year's event will be the sixth annual noncompetitive 10K walk that serves as a fund-raising and educational event of the American Heart Association.

Additional sponsors for this year's event include Chrysler Fund, Household Life Insurance Co., M.Care, Natural Sport Walking Shoes, William Beaumont Hospital, the Detroit Medical Center, Providence Heart Institute, St. John Health System, Fox 2 TV and WOMC Radio.

For more information on how to get involved, call the American Heart Association at (248) 557-9500.

### ON THE RUN

The Birmingham Lions 20th annual 10,000 Meter Run For The Blind kicks off Sunday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m.

Entry fee is \$14 through Saturday, Sept. 13, \$15 from Sept. 16-20, and \$18 on race day. Race-site registration will last from 8 a.m.-9 a.m.

Consisting of 10- and five-kilometer runs and a one-mile fun walk, the Run For The Blind starts at the corner of Merrill and Pierce streets in downtown Birmingham and covers a protected course through the city's downtown and residential areas. Free parking will also be available at parking structure adjacent to the starting line at Merrill and Pierce.

Pre-registration can be done by mail at Total Runner in Southfield (29207 Northwestern Highway) now through Sept. 13. Entry blanks can be obtained at Total Runner, the Birmingham Community House, and the Birmingham Family YMCA. Call (248) 354-1177 for more information.

■ There's still time to register for next Saturday's Eighth Annual Beat The Streets Benefit Run/Walk at Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester.

Entry fee is \$13 prior to race day (Sept. 13) or \$16 the day of the event. Runners are also encouraged to collect pledges to help the cause. Proceeds will benefit Hospice of Southeastern Michigan, a non-profit organization that provides comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families. The event is held in memory of Andy Chochol, a respected distance runner who died of cancer in 1990. Participants can challenge themselves with a 10K trail run

(10:30 a.m.), 5K trail run/walk (10:30 a.m.) or one-mile fun run/walk (10 a.m.). An auction and raffle, awards ceremony and free refreshments add to the festivities. For additional information or to donate an auction item, call (248) 443-7639.

### TEE TIME

■ The Women's Metropolitan Golf Association recently made stops at Hartland Glen and Bruce Hills golf courses. Results follow below.

(Aug. 27 at Hartland Glen)

**Championship Flight**  
Low Gross — Sam Greaves (Waterford), 38-42-80 and Carol Elias (Rochester Hills), 42-38-80; Second — Bernadette Biltz (Mount Clemens), 38-43-81; Low Net — Jan Bowermann (Southfield), 84-11-73.

**1st Flight**  
Low Gross — Adah Damico (Rochester), 43-47-90; Second — Sandy O'Malley (Troy), 50-45-95; Low Net — Shirley Estabrooks (Milford), 96-16-80.

**2nd Flight**  
Low Gross — Sandy Gadzinski (Warren), 44-45-89; Second — Dolly Vettese (Northville), 44-50-94; Low Net — Marion Wilkowski (Cascos), 96-20-76.

**3rd Flight**  
Low Gross — Marg Fowler (Clinton Township), 54-47-101; Second — Vicky VanBeecelner (Clinton Township), 54-49-103; Low Net — Pauline Cody (Detroit), 106-28-78.

(Sept. 3 at Bruce Hills)

**Championship Flight**  
Low Gross — Deb Robert (New Baltimore), 40-40-80; Second — Carol Elias (Rochester Hills), 42-43-85 and Sophia King (West Bloomfield), 42-43-85; Low Net — Bernadette Biltz (Mount Clemens), 86-13-73.

**1st Flight**  
Low Gross — Delores Hartwick (Madison Heights), 46-46-91; Second — Adah Damico (Rochester), 46-46-92; Low Net — Pat Meyers (Birmingham), 93-17-76.

**2nd Flight**  
Low Gross — Doris Rudd (Clinton Township), 47-46-93; Second — Ellen Pravato (Romeo), 47-49-96; Low Net — Josephine Panhek (Madison Heights), 57-21-76.

**3rd Flight**  
Low Gross — Jo Churan (Warren), 49-51-100; Second — Vicki VanBeecelner (Clinton Township), 55-50-105; Low Net — Toni Saltarelli (Clinton Township), 106-30-76.

**HIGH ROLLERS**  
The High Rollers men's in-line hockey team (men's 20-24) reached the second round of the USA Hockey In-Line Silver

League playoffs. But that's where the tournament run ended.

Despite a pair of goals from Phil Stewart, High Rollers dropped an 8-3 decision last week to The Arsenal at U.S. Blades in West Bloomfield. The setback left High Rollers with a season-ending 3-4-1 overall record.

Robert Hake added his fourth goal of the season for High Rollers, which trailed 5-1 at halftime. High Rollers opened the playoffs with an 8-4 triumph over The Rangers. Stewart led the way with three goals and two assists. Hake chipped in two goals and an assist. Mike Havlin had a goal and two assists. Andy Madvin added a goal and an assist and Craig Turnbull collected two assists. Dan Havlin, who led the team in scoring during the season with 10 goals, had one assist despite playing with a broken thumb, and Mike Flaherty played outstanding in goal.

■ The Observer & Eccentric publishes the "Recreation Center" every Sunday in Sports in our Birmingham-Bloomfield, Farmington Southfield-Lathrup, West Bloomfield, Lakes, Troy and Rochester editions.

■ This page focuses on non-school-related adult activities in hopes of providing our readers with an active, upbeat look at the community recreation and fitness scene.

■ To submit results of competition, items for the Rac Roundup or local story ideas, call staff writer Chris Mayer at (248) 501-2599, fax him material at (248) 644-1314 or write him at The Observer & Eccentric Sports Department, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, 48009.

■ Photos, with complete identifications including addresses and phone numbers of those pictured are encouraged. Only the towns of residence will be published.

■ Please participate in this Recreation Center and let us know what you think of what's presented. We welcome your suggestions on content.

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