

Wildwood island row set Thursday

THURSDAY MORNING, AT 9:30, at 15th Street and the beach in North Wildwood a rather interesting event will take place. It will consist of men, in a lifeguard row boat, teaming up to go against 16 other pairs of men in the same type of boats. They will be preparing to start a 21-mile rowing race around the Wildwoods. The event will be labeled the 4th annual Around the Island Row, sponsored and held by the North Wildwood Beach Patrol.

The race was first thought of back in the fall of 1975 when, then a councilman in North Wildwood, Bud Tarbotton teamed up with lifeguard Harry Zander and began training to go around the island. After they made the trip and saw how challenging it was, Tarbotton wondered about one being sponsored the following year by the NWBP.

After checking into it and conferring with the various bosses, Tarbotton and NWBP captain Tony Cavalier decided to give it a go. And in August of 1976 the first Around the Island rowing race was held and now four years later it is getting bigger and going stronger than ever.

The first year the race just included the local beaches — the Wildwoods and Cape May. The second year the same, then the third time as far as Avalon was invited. And now this year the race includes boats from Atlantic City, Ocean City, Sea Isle City and a crew borrowing an ACBP boat consisting of former AC guard John Ferihoffer and former Margate guard Kevin Corcoran.

*buddy
tarbotton*



Inside Stuff

joined forces with Jim Troy to win going away and produced the first-ever Around the Island Row champions. They did it in two hours and 58 minutes, a time that stands as the record.

THEN IN THE SECOND ANNUAL RACE in 1977, Zander and Troy repeated as champions, but not without a fight from Moxie Bilkins and John Greenwood of Wildwood Crest, who took a close second. In 1978 a different tone was set. Zander and Troy weren't rowing, Moxie Bilkins placed third without Greenwood in '76 'ad second with him in '77, so in '78 he hoped to finish his climb up the ladder to No. 1, and along with Greenwood, Bilkins won the third annual row. Mission accomplished.

But now it's 1979 and the fourth annual Island Row is a day away, and favorite Mox Bilkins has a new battery mate — third year Crest guard and Drexel crew star Dave Koper. But Bilkins is still confident on his chances of winning his second in a row. He had this to say: "It's a pretty interesting race and it's the type of race you don't know what's going to happen because of the weather." This will be Bilkins' eighth time around so he is the second most experienced in

The Crest's Tom Feraco pointed out four important points that every rower should try to use. Feraco is rowing with Tom Max. Both have been in the race before but with different partners. Feraco and Rick Greco took a fourth last year and Max went the year before with Joe Freeman. Feraco said: "You should try and get out in front first, then try to shoot the first bridge. Direction is a big key — picking out points helps you to go straight, so you cover less ground."

Bilkins said: "Yes, you're rowing far enough, without going off course and using more energy."

Bilkins' partner, Koper, has never been around the island, but Mox will take care of that. "I'm taking him around in a power boat, so he can take a look. He's the one who steers the boat."

FORMER ATLANTIC CITY GUARD John Ferihoffer said: "We're really looking forward to the race. I'm just getting over the Atlantic City Island swim. I still have dishpan hands," he added with a laugh. Ferihoffer and his partner Corcoran should make the race interesting.

"I love marathons, they're my kind of race," said Ferihoffer. And he added about his partner, Corcoran:

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atrols we couldn't. Now here's our chance." ACBP will be sending Bob Buttt and Charles Lopper and they have as good a shot at winning the race as anyone. Garbutti normally rows with Butch Joseph and if they were

together they may have been picked as favorites, but Joseph isn't rowing for unknown reasons.

The Crest's Max and Feraco are another fine pair. They may have the best endurance of any of the other crews.

Sea Isle City is sending Doug Aitken and Pat Moran. Avalon's countering with Big Sam Downes and Brian Keyser, and the Diamond Beach and Holiday Inn lifeguards are borrowing a Crest boat and entering. They are Doug Ford (Diamond Beach) and the top veteran of the around the island wars, Jim "Oakie" O'Kane (Holiday Inn). Oakie has been around nine times, including all three races. This will mark numbers "10 and 4," giving him a slight edge in experience over Bilkins.

The Crest's Steve Miaocco and Rick Greco really beef up the field. Miaocco has made the trip almost as much as Bilkins and he has been in every race. His partner, Greco, excels in distance rowing and never thinks of quitting, just winning.

So the race should prove very interesting and fun to watch as NWBP guard Chip Russell put it: "The race is

rated G and can be viewed by the whole family."

If you are interested in following the race, here are some places and what time to expect the rowers:

1. 15th and the beach — 9:30 a.m. (race starts).
2. 2nd and the rocks, North Wildwood — 9:40.
3. Moore's Inlet parking lot — 9:55.
4. Dad's Place below Stone Harbor toll bridge — 10:05.
5. Cunningham Marina below Grassy Sound bridge — 10:10.
6. West Wildwood train tressel — 10:25.
7. Otto's Dock below George Redding Bridge at Rio Grande Ave. — 10:55.
8. Cape May toll bridge or Cape May rocks — 11:40.
9. All along the beach from Diamond Beach to 15th Street — 11:45 to 12:35, estimate of finish.

LIFE LINES — Weather will play major factor according to Bilkins. He feels: "If it's hot and humid, rowers who didn't train will really feel it more than those who did. If it's cool it will help them out."

Beer, soda and sandwiches will be served while awards are being presented at the North Wildwood beach tent, 15th and beach.

F. DRAKE
Avenue
884-2010
HOURS

11:00 TO 4:00
 10:30 TO 6:00
 10:30 TO 12:00
 10:30 TO 6:00
 CLOSED
 2:00 TO 6:00
 11:00 TO 4:00

ER
SPECIAL

ment EXPIRES
 ON AUG. 28, 1979

1 crews sign up for rowing race

1. NORTH WILDWOOD — a complete list of in Thursday morning's Around the Island row, sponsored by the North Wildwood Beach Patrol. The 10th annual row begins and ends at 15th Street in North Wildwood. The row starts at 10 a.m.

ATLANTIC CITY — John Garbutt and Charles Cooper.

2. AVALON — Sam Downes and Brian Keyser.

3. NORTH WILDWOOD — Harry Short and John Livingstone.

Larry Wargo and Jim Fenningham.

Rick Grimaldi and Tom Palmer.

Michael John Reagan and Mike Saksa.

4. SEA ISLE CITY — Doug Aitken and Pat Moran.

5. STONE HARBOR — Chris Veenus and Bob Boyle.

6. WILDWOOD — Lloyd Hayes and Ray Davidson.

Jim Schiller and Dennis Russom.

7. WILDWOOD CREST — Moxie Bilkins and Dave Koper.

Steve Miaocco and Rick Greco.

Tom Feraco and Tom Max.

Bill Shaughnessy and Skip Feraco.

Tom Robertson and Ed Cahill.

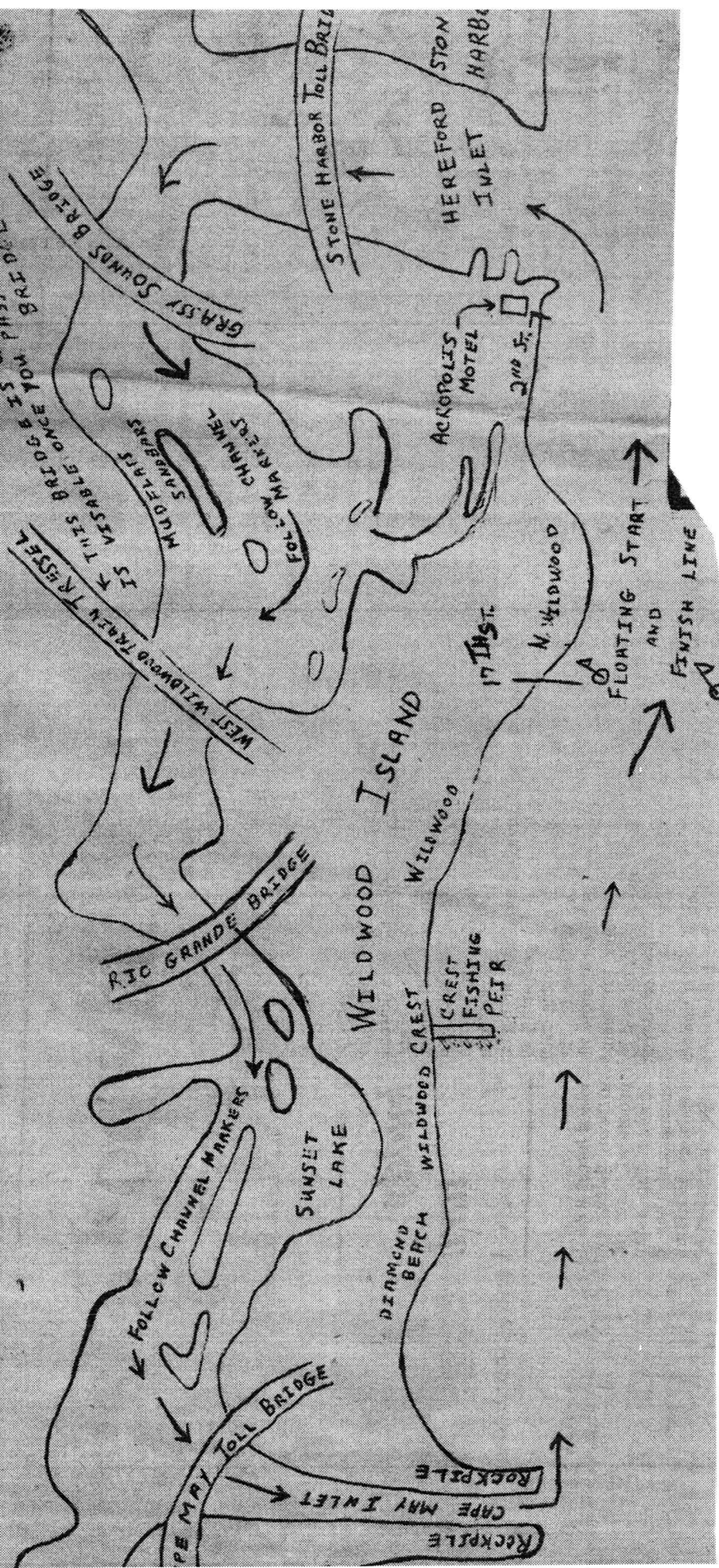
8. INDEPENDANTS — Jim O'Kane and Doug Ford.

John Freihoffer and Kevin Corcoran.

Ocean City Beach Patrol is expected to enter a boat. Wildwood Beach Patrol is expected to enter a third boat.

Around the Island Kow Nee map

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Cape May County

Sports



Gazette — Leader

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August 24-25, 1979

Crest's Bilkins-Koper capture the Around the Island Row race

A large crowd of spectators gathered on the beaches of Wildwood Thursday morning to watch the fourth annual Around The Island Row Contest. The race was won by Moxie Bilkins and Dave Koper of the Wildwood Crest lifeguards.



16 of the 17 boats

finish race

buddy tarbotton

Inside Stuff



NORTH WILDWOOD — Moxie Bilkins and Dave Koper of the Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol won the Fourth annual Around the Island Row Thursday morning in a time of three hours, 25 minutes. The time was 27 minutes off the record by Harry Zander and Jim Troy in 1976.

Bilkins and Koper blew away the rest of the field which surprised a few people. They were behind the first seven miles, of the 21-mile course, and then Bilkins' experience took over.

Bilkins has been around the Wildwood Island eight times and in the race all four years. And going through the Grassy Sound Bridge they were a close second to the Lederer brothers, Myles and Gerry, of Sea Isle City Beach Patrol. Then the Lederers, being unfamiliar with the back bay waters, went astray. Bilkins and Koper grabbed a huge lead that they never were in jeopardy of relinquishing.

BILKINS AND KOPER hit the West Wildwood Train Tressel in one hour and six minutes. Second were the Lederer brothers in one minute and 10 seconds and third was the other SICBP

crew, Doug Aitken and Pat Moran, just 10 seconds behind.

As the boats hit the Cape May Toll Bridge, Bilkins and Koper had opened up a lead of over two minutes and Aitken and Moran grabbed second, with Tom Max and Tom Feraco of Wildwood Crest moving into third.

A real battle was being staged for second place going up the Cape May Rock Pile, as Aitken-Moran, Max-Feraco, John Freihoffer-Kevin Corcoran (independant), Sam Downes and Brian Kayser (Avalon) and Bob Garbutt-Charles Draper (Atlantic City) were all a boat apart. Then rounding the rocks, Max and Feraco were about to take control of second when the rough water and quick pace got the best of Feraco. Max and Feraco had to drop out and Draper and Garbutt and Downes and Kayser pulled away from the tiring crews of Aitken-Moran and Freihoffer-Corcoran.

Meanwhile, Steve Miaocco and Rick Greco of the Crest came all the way up from 12th to snatch fourth place

Bilkins and Koper cruised in three hours and 25 minutes with Avalon's Downer

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Bilkins-Koper

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Kayser finishing second in 3:30. Garbutt-Draper placed third in 3:31. Fourth went to Miaocco-Greco in 3:35. North Wildwood's crew of John Livingstone and Harry Short rounded out the top

BENCHWARMER
SPORTS TRIVIA

What pitcher appeared in most games during his career?



BY BOB ALEXANDER

ANSWER:
Pitching for 9 teams in his 21 year career, Hoyt Wilhelm was in 1,070 games.

five in a time of 3:37.

ON WHY Bilkins and Koper finally took over in the back bay, Bilkins had this to say: "We were a little stronger than everyone else. And the wind was very strong. We really picked out good points to row and we followed them good."

"Dave really rowed a good race. He navigated well and when he had a question he asked me."

Koper commented on his first island row: "It was nice. I feel fine. Getting the lead made the big difference."

Myles Lederer finished the race by himself, for his brother cramped up in the Crest and he had to be rowed in. But Myles was determined to finish because he felt he owed his brother one. "A few weeks ago I got hit by a car and he really took care of me. I owed him one." Plus he said: "Our father came down to see us row, and want to disappoint him."

So Mox Bilkins joins Harry Zander and Jim Troy as the winningest rowers in the Around the Island races. They have each won three. Bilkins made it his second straight, but with two different partners: last year John Greenwood and Koper this year. Mox also said: "Of the four races, this one I hurt the least after. I really feel good."

LIFE LINES — Bob Hall of the North Wildwood Beach Patrol would like to thank the following for their financial and moral support:

The North Wildwood Republican Club, Morey's Pier, Ramagosa's Sportland Pier, Rudy Elia, Elks, Pat Kennedy, Sylvia's Restaurant, Sands Motel and Windrift Motel, North Wildwood Beverage Association, Mayor Catanoso and Councilman Tim O'Leary.

Sixteen of the 17 boats finished (Max-Feraco did not). 1. Bilkins-Koper — 3:25.40.

2. Downes-Kayser, Avalon — 3:30.30.

3. Draper-Garbutt, Atlantic City — 3:31.55.

4. Miaocco-Greco, Wildwood Crest — 3:35.15.

5. Livingstone-Short, North Wildwood — 3:37.30.

6. Jim Fenningham-Larry Wargo, NWBP — 3:39.25.

7. Aitken-Moran, Sea Isle — 3:42.35.

8. Mike Saks-Michael John Reagan, NBWP — 3:44.45.

9. Ed Cahill-Tom Robertson, Crest — 3:46.07.

10. Jim Schiller-Dennis Russom, Wildwood — 3:49.45.

11. Tom Palmer-Rick Grimaldi, NWBP — 3:52.

12. John Freihoffer-Kevin Corcoran, Independant — 3:57.00.

13. Lloyd Hayes-Ray Davidson, Wildwood — 4:02.45.

14. Myles and Gerry Lederer, SIC — 4:15.00.

15. Skip Feraco-Bill Shaughnessy, Crest — 4:22.31.

16. Jim "Oakie" O'Kane-Doug Ford, Diamond Beach — 4:58.00.

BOROUGH OF WILDWOOD CREST

6101 PACIFIC AVENUE WILDWOOD CREST, N.J. 08260



Commissioners

CHARLES GUHR
MAYOR - FINANCE

JOHN J. PANTALONE
PUBLIC SAFETY

LOUIS A. DEL CONTE
PUBLIC WORKS

August 24, 1979

Mr. Moxie Bilkins
c/o Wildwood Crest Beach Patrol
Wildwood Crest, New Jersey 08260

Dear Mr. Bilkins:

Congratulations to you and your partner for winning the coveted "Round the Island Rowing Competition" yesterday.

We were both astounded when the Channel 6 News had the Borough's boat in its news coverage and the details of the contest. It was a good publicity item for the Borough.

Your accomplishment makes us proud of the caliber of the men which Wildwood Crest has for its guards and the competition just exemplified the fact.

We are pleased that our guards put forth such diligent efforts on behalf of the visitors and the local citizens using our beaches and still have the desire to enter into such competitions.

Sincerely,

Charles Guhr, Mayor

John J. Pantalone, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

CH/JJP:eaf