

Speier's Home Run in Eighth Scuttles Phillies

San Francisco 3, Phila. 2
By ED HILT
Press Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — At times this season, the Philadelphia Phillies have been accused of lacking a killer instinct. It seems every streak of good, sharp baseball is followed by a period of bad, dull baseball.

The San Francisco Giants handed the Philadelphia Phillies their third straight loss, 3-2 here Tuesday at Veterans Stadium.

That makes three straight losses after a run of 12 victories in 14 games to put the Phillies, in the eyes of the optimists, back in the National League Eastern Division race.

But on this night, it wasn't so much the Phillies lacking a killer instinct as the instinct to be killed by a noted Phillie killer.

Over the years, they've come in all shapes and sizes. They've been big-money superstars, and, as evidenced Tuesday, they've been low-profile journeymen.

Chris Speier got all of a mistake made by Kevin Gross in the eighth inning, driving it against the foul-pole in left field for a home run to break a 2-2 tie and give the Giants the one-run win.



CLOSE QUARTERS — Bill Howarth, left, and Jim Mason of Ventnor Beach Patrol hold the lead Tuesday morning during the 12th annual North Wildwood Around the Island Row. They placed fifth in the 21-mile race. A half-boat length behind are Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern of Longport. They finished second; Chris McCann and Jim Gibbons of Wildwood were third and Ventnor alumni Dennis Funk and George Miller, right, won the race.

Bill Howarth and Jim Mason of Ventnor Beach Patrol hold the lead Tuesday morning during the 12th annual North Wildwood Around the Island Row. They placed fifth in the 21-mile race. A half-boat length behind are Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern of Longport. They finished second; Chris McCann and Jim Gibbons of Wildwood were third and Ventnor alumni Dennis Funk and George Miller, right, won the race.

Old Hands Funk, Miller Fastest Around Island

By GUY GARGAN
Press Sports Correspondent

NORTH WILDWOOD — Funk and Miller, names that go together like bread and butter, powered to another life-guard rowing victory on Tuesday.

Dennis Funk and George Miller, weren't they the two guys from Ventnor who dominated South Jersey beach patrol doubles rowing in the mid-1970s. Yup, that was them.

Only a shadow could come in second place more often than the standout team of Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern, who did it again Tuesday, finishing behind the winners in 2:58.16.

Funk and Miller won the South Jersey lifeguard two-man boat title in 1974-75, as well as many other titles. Back then, John Dean sat before Congress, not John Foudreux, and Rocky wasn't a boxer, just a flying squirrel.

George and I took up rowing again around 1981, after we had both left the beach (given up lifeguarding), Funk said. "He has a boat docked on the bay. It's very convenient. We row at about 8 a.m. We take the boat on the beach about a dozen times a year."

Eagles' Byars To Practice in Week

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — Running back Keith Byars, who underwent foot surgery last May, received good marks from his doctor Tuesday and will be able to begin practicing in a week, the Philadelphia Eagles said.

Byars, the Eagles' No. 1 pick in 1986, underwent a bone graft operation in his left foot May 5. He underwent the same operation on his right foot last year.

Byars, who was the team's leading rusher with 577 yards last year, has been running on his own since the beginning of training camp Aug. 3.

Keith Byars is the team's leading rusher through the first two preseason games with 60 yards on 18 carries.

Byars, who had filed out, walked and grounded out in his previous three plate appearances, lined Gordon's first pitch in the sixth for a single to right field and got a standing ovation for 1 1/2 minutes. In the eighth, he filed out to finish 1-for-4 as Milwaukee beat Cleveland, 10-9.

Molitor's Streak at 39 Games

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee's Paul Molitor kept his hitting streak alive at 39 games Tuesday night with a sixth-inning single off Cleveland reliever Don Gordon.

Molitor is 68-for-164, a .415 average, during his streak. For the season, Molitor is batting .376 but does not have enough plate appearances to qualify among the leaders.

When I signed my last contract, I considered it hard pay for where we played," he told the New York Daily News. "The (radio) towers, the landfills, the pollution, that's the environment. I don't think it's healthy to spend any more time there than I have to."

Glassboro's Thornton Battles Veteran to Draw

BY DAVE BONTEMPO
Press Sports Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Parity played to form Tuesday night. Few assets separated Tony Thornton and Stacy McSwain on paper and nothing stood between them in the ring.

Thornton, glancing at the ice bag on his wounded left hand, appeared philosophical.

Thornton, who normally beats opponents into submission with body punches, found McSwain surprisingly mobile. Unable to set up punches, Thornton waged a battle of jabs for three rounds.

Thornton failed to cut off the ring in the eighth, allowing McSwain to move and regain his composure.

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Thornton passed a credibility test against his toughest opponent. After a 17-0 start with 16 knockouts against unknown oppo-

ponents, he showed a contender's heart.

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KEITH BYARS Ready to practice



A Deadly Distraction For Giants

The biggest distractions for the New York Giants this season were supposed to be the usual ones that come with winning a Super Bowl.

Complacency, jealousy, banquets, books and media hype were the foes the Giants were going to face in their attempt to become the first NFL team to repeat as champions since the Pittsburgh Steelers did it in the 1979-80 season.

When his team opened training camp at Pace University at Pleasantville, N.Y., on July 25, Giants coach Bill Parcells addressed the situation.

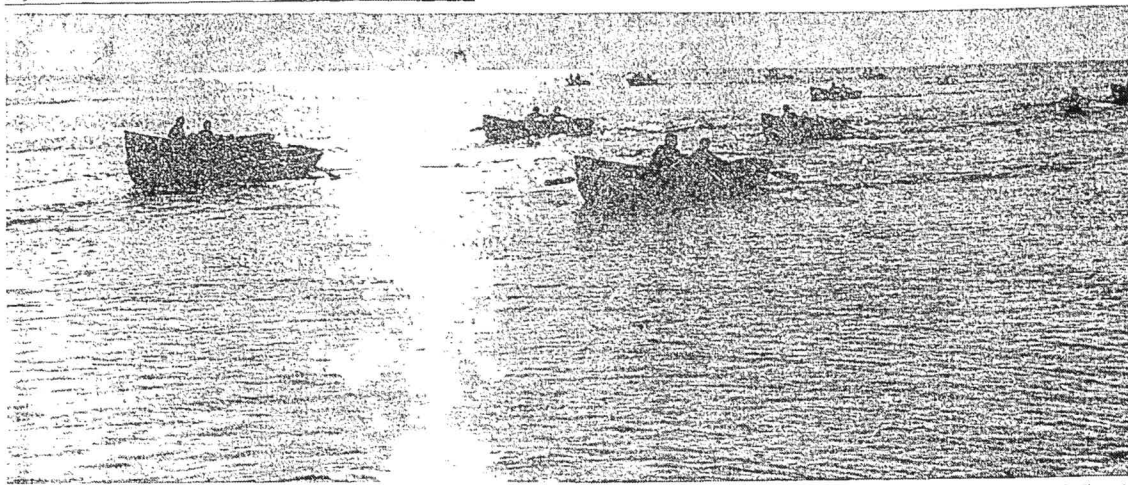
"We'll probably have a few holdouts and there will be some injuries and maybe we will start off playing poorly and everybody will start wondering, 'What's wrong with the Giants?' There will be a 100 things that will happen. But I'm ready for all that."

But the question coming out of Pace University this week is "Can Parcells deal with cancer?"

Giants starting offensive tackle Karl Nelson Saturday was diagnosed as having Hodgkin's disease, a form of lymph cancer.

By Monday the grimacing began, led by the voice of the champions, veteran linebacker Harry Carson.

Since three other Giants had contracted cancer since 1980 — linebacker Dan Lloy and running backs Doug Kotar and John Tuggle — Carson is concerned that Giants Stadium and the Meadowlands sports complex is not just a haven for sports fans, but for carcinogens as well.



Staff photo by Tom Klinehand

Competitors in the 12th annual North Wildwood Around The Island Row Tuesday morning got an early start on their 21-mile trek

A Decade Later, Funk And Miller Still Row in Championship Form

ROW, from Page 61
 forged in the front for good soon after the Grassy Sound Bridge.
 "I felt we would be a top contender today," Funk said. "We felt pretty strong throughout the whole race. There wasn't any weak moment when when we thought we wouldn't be able to finish. We rowed consistently the whole way. We rowed from point to point."

Life After Dark. Life After Dark. South Jersey night spots that feature live entertainment, every Friday in Venture.

Life After Dark. Life After Dark.

Things looked interesting in the back bay at Glenwood Avenue. The eventual winners led McGrath and MacEachern by two boatlengths and they in turn topped McCann and Gibbons by

only a boat and a half.

As the battle continued, Funk and Miller began to pull away after the Rio Grande Bridge and won going away. At the Cape May Ocean Drive Bridge, they had 100

yards on Longport and increased the lead once back in the ocean.

"Look at all these young guys here with their girlfriends, and we're here with our kids," Miller said. "I appreciate winning a lot

more now than before. It's harder to win now."

The oarsmen ran into a bit of a contrary wind in the bay but the northbound ocean current could hardly have been better.

"I think we row a little better in the windy, choppy stuff," McGrath said. "We were in the lead for a little while, but we didn't stop for a drink and I think that was a mistake. We were pretty tired at the end."

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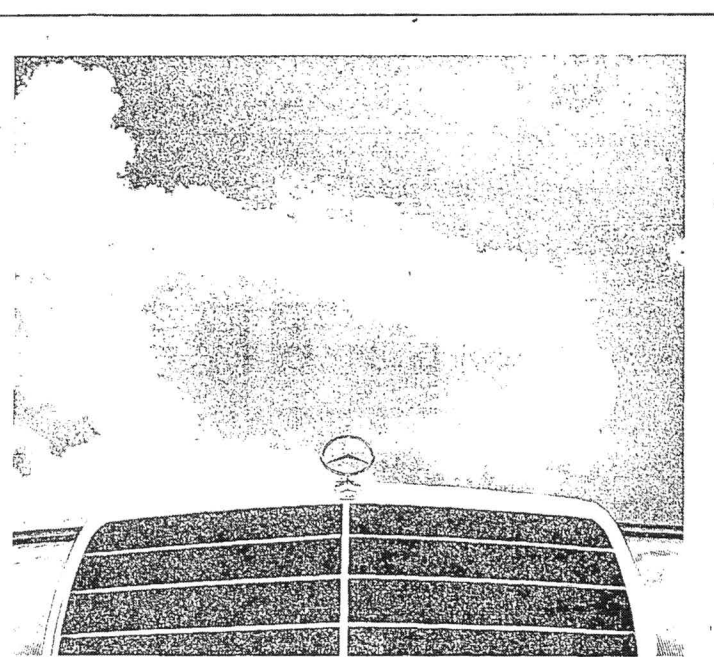
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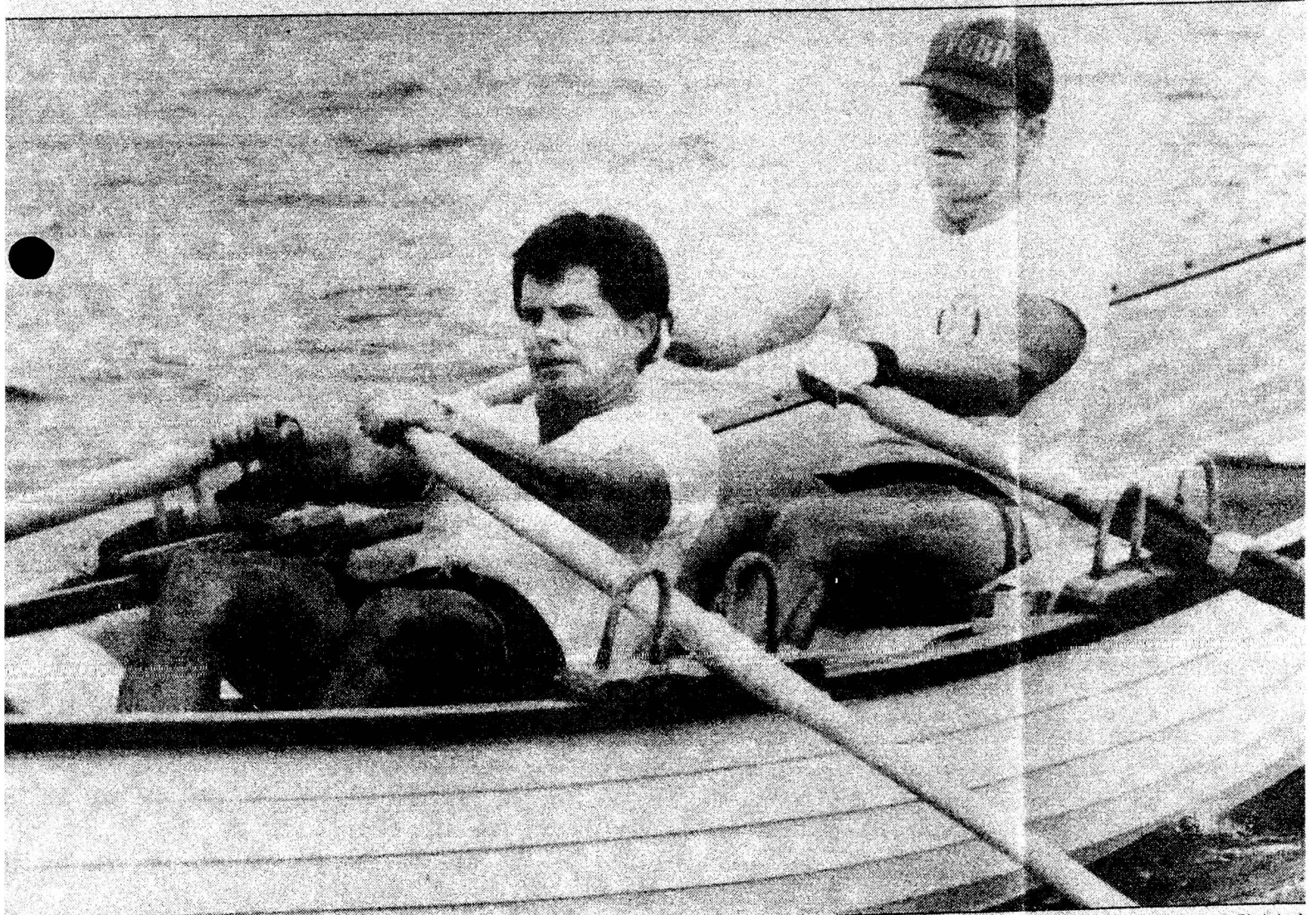


Photo by A

RECORD-SETTING ROWERS. George Miller (left) and Dennis Funk home in on their record-setting victory in last Tuesday's Around-the-Island Row. The Ventnor alumni crew

set a course record with a time of two hours, 56 minutes and six seconds.

Island Row hails Miller, Funk kings

By MARK STONE
Sports Editor

NORTH WILDWOOD -- George Miller and Dennis Funk utilized a philosophy from Aesop to conquer this year's Around-the-Island Row-- "Slow and steady wins the race."

"Our philosophy is to keep our stroke consistent throughout the race, to make the first stroke the same as the last," stated Miller. "We have to concentrate on rowing together, since we're not one of the biggest crews around."

Last Tuesday, this alumni crew from Ventnor became the biggest crew in the event's history, winning the 21-mile rowing challenge in a record time of two hours, 56 minutes and six seconds. This broke the previous mark of 2:57.5, set by Ocean City's Ron Kirk and John Herron in 1983.

Yet, setting the course record was far from the pair's mind when they set out with 29 other boats this day in the annual rowing challenge.

"When you begin the race, your goal is just to finish," related Funk, who paired with Miller for the fifth time in the Around-the-Island Row. Their best finish was third during last year's abbreviated race.

Funk and Miller have had previous success as a rowing pair, setting a South Jersey Lifeguard record for consecutive doubles championships (three: 1973-75), which still stands today. Both have since gone on to other careers. Miller is an attorney in Atlantic City and Funk is a builder, yet both still practice rowing together.

"We enjoy rowing. It gives us something to train for," Funk said on the reason that he and Miller have continued to row since their beach patrol days. The pair usually train five or six days a week, often practicing at 5:30 a.m. before they head for their jobs. In addition to the Around-the-Island Row, they are regular competitors in Atlantic City's Boardwalk Row.

This year's Around-the-Island Row was tailor-made for a record-setting performance. The seas were calm, the temperature was mild and the winds were favorable along the

seaboard. Although the rowers faced a headwind along the backbay route, it was not enough to cause any discomfort for the competitors.

Funk and Miller began the first leg of the race in tenth place and turned into Hereford Inlet in sixth. By the time they entered the backbays, they were in a five-team battle with Longport (Mike McGrath and Don MacEachern), Wildwood (Chris McCann and Jim Gibbons), an Ocean City alumni boat (Chris Oves and Joe Shefford) and another Ventnor crew (Bill Howarth and Jim Masen) for the lead.

They eventually pulled into the lead around the West Wildwood train trestle and slowly extended it into a 10-boat advantage entering the George Redding Bridge. As Funk and Miller entered Cold Spring Inlet and rounded the Cape May jetty for the home stretch along the Wildwoods beachfront, there was no doubt as to who the victor would be this day. The only question remaining was could they win in record time. They needed to cover the beachfront in under 51 minutes to set the record.

A mile and three-quarters to the 15th Avenue finish line (around Mariners Landing amusement pier), the Ventnor alumni crew knew they needed to cover this distance in under 11 minutes to set the record and decided to go for it, yet still maintain their philosophy of a steady stroke.

"We didn't speed our stroke up, we just rowed harder. The more power you put in an oar, the quicker it moves," related Funk on the home stretch plan. "We figured we had the race own, but setting the record was a nice way to win it."

Funk and Miller led a Ventnor contingent that placed six boats out of the top ten this day. Howarth and Masen took fifth, with Scott Jones and Todd Miller, Cliff Murray and Matt Dye, and Tom Hewitt and Kevin Nagel immediately following in sixth through eighth place. Ed Herd and Ed Howell rounded out this

Please turn to Page 3B
"Row"

extet in 10th place.

"There is a long tradition of rowing in Ventnor that began with the Wagner Brothers, Charlie and Tom, and continued with Bill Money and Ed Keating," stated Miller, who with Funk had added many other rowers to the Ventnor rowing story and to their record-setting time this day.

McGrath and MacEachern followed in second place, two minutes behind the record-setters (2:58.15). The first Cape May County finisher was McCann and Gibbons in third at 2:59.57, an excellent time considering that they did not row together until a few days before the event. The only other Cape May County boat to finish in the top ten was Dave Cox and Mike McFarren of Avalon who finished ninth at 3:04.07.

"My regular rowing partner (Jim Rohlfing) had gone back to law

school and Chris (McCann) asked me to row with him in this race," related Gibbons, who had teamed with Rohlfing for a third place finish in the South Jersey Championships.

In a sport where rhythm is essential, it was surprising that this new crew would have as much success as it did. However, McCann pointed out that things just fell into place for him and his new rowing partner.

"Jim led with a long, low stroke, which is what I row anyway. It was very easy to adjust to him," noted McCann, who with Gibbons had led the pack during the early miles.

After dropping to fourth place in the back bays, the Wildwood crew rallied along the Wildwoods beachfront to pass Howarth and Masen for third place.

"We wanted that third place trophy. That motivated us," admitted McCann on what spurred this

late surge. "we took a power 10 (10 hard strokes) to pass Ventnor."

Howarth and Masen ended up in fifth place, as the Ocean City alumni boat of Oves and Shefford nosed them out at the finish by a mere second. The Ventnor duo had come in too close to the shore and had to angle into the finish area, while the Ocean City alumni came in straight.

All local eyes were on the crew of Joanne Alvarez and Sean Carney in what was affectionately dubbed "The Love Boat." The two North Wildwood lifeguards will be married on Friday, Sept. 4 and had decided in June to participate in this race. Alvarez became only the third female to row in the Around-the-Island Row.

"We just wanted to do something before our wedding and we are going to do it (the row) again next year, only we'll train better," explained Alvarez. The "Love Boat" finished 26th at 3:22.58

Around-the-Island Row sets record

By MARK STONE
Sports Editor

G-2
8/26/87

NORTH WILDWOOD - The day's weather and surf conditions were nearly perfect for rowing and just what for Dennis Funk and George Miller, who completed the 21-mile course in a record time of two hours, 16 minutes and six seconds during Tuesday's 12th Annual Around-the-Island Row.

Funk and Miller, rowing as Ventnor Beach Patrol alumni, used one philosophy in winning this annual rowing challenge and breaking the four-year-old record time of 2:57.5 set in 1983 by Ron Kirk and John Herron of Ocean City - "make the first and last stroke the same."

"We're not one of the biggest crews, so we have to concentrate on rowing together," stated Miller, who teamed with Funk for the fifth time in the Around-the-Island Row. The team's best finish came in last year's abbreviated race with a third place honor.

Mike McGrath and Don

MacEachern of Longport followed in second place at 2:58.15. Chris McCann and Jim Gibbons of the Wildwood Beach Patrol were the first Cape May County finishers with a third place time of 2:59.57.

Ocean City alumni Chris Oves and Joe Shefford took fourth place at 3:01.26, just nosing out Bill Howarth and Jim Masen of Ventnor by a lone second.

Ventnor ended the race taking six of the top 10 places. Scott Jones and Todd Miller (3:01.56), Cliff Murray and Matt Dye (3:02.43) and Tom Hewitt and Kevin Nagel (3:03.13) followed in sixth through eighth place. Ed Herd and Ed Howell came in tenth.

Rounding out the top ten finishers this day was Dave Cox and Mike McFarren of Avalon, who took a ninth place finish with a time of 3:04.07.

A complete report on the 12th Annual Around-the-Island Row can be found in next week's Gazette-Leader.



Photo by A

Joanne Alvarez (left) and Sean Carney set sail in the Around-the-Island Row to their Friday, Sept. 4 wedding date.



CITY of NORTH WILDWOOD

CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

BEACH PATROL

12TH Annual Row Around The Island Race - 8/25/87

ORDER OF FINISH

PLACE	BEACH PATROL	TIME	CREW
1	Ventnor	2-56.06	DENNIS GEORGE FUNK-MILLER
2	Longport	2-58.15	MIKE McBreath-McGEECHERN
3	Wildwood	2-59.57	CHRIS McCann-JIM GIBBONS
4	Ocean City	3-01.26	CHRIS Oaves-JOE SHEFFOLD
5	Ventnor	3-01.27	BILL Howarth-JIM MASAN
6	Ventnor	3-01.56	SCOTT Lives-TODD MILLER
7	Ventnor	3-02.43	CLIFF MURRAY-DODD MATT DYE
8	Ventnor	3-03.13	TOM Hewitt-KEVIN NAGEL
9	Avalon	3-04.07	DAVE Cox-MIKE McFARREN
10	Margate VENTNOR	3-05.08	EP Heard-EP HAROLD
11	Cape May	3-06.10	MARTY FRANKO-SAM DOWNS
12	Margate	3-07.16	BILL Noney-KEVIN COCHRANE
13	Wildwood	3-10.50	KEVIN MURPHY-ROB PIERCE
14	Atlantic City	3-11.21	BUTCH Joseph-GEORGE NAMEE
15	Wildwood	3-11.42	JEFF KOWLEY-STEVE SASSMAN
16	Brigantine	3-13.56	FRANK Masino-BILL BALDWIN
17	N. Wildwood	3-14.23	JOE DURKIN-DAVE GUMALDI
18	Wildwood	3-16.02	STEVE Stocks-JAY STERN
19	Crest	3-17.42	MATT Donahue-DAVE LINDSAY
20	Avalon	3-18.23	MARK BENDER-JOE DOUGHERTY
21	Cape May	3-18.59	RAVAN Atwell-STEVE McCall
22	Crest	3-20.00	DAVE Johnson-JACK WISCO
23	Ship Bottom	3-21.40	DAVE FRANK FALCONER
24	N. Wildwood	3-22.01	DAVE oper-JACK BRADY
25	Long Beach	3-22.09	RICK Graco-JOHN COPIERO



ORDER OF FINISH
CITY of NORTH WILDWOOD
 CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

<u>PLACE</u>	<u>BEACH PATROL</u>	<u>BEACH TIME</u>	<u>PATROL CREW</u>
26	N. Wildwood	3-22.58	SEAN Carvey - JOANNE Alvarez
27	Wildwood	3-27.10	PAT Moran - LARRY Kozakowski
28	N. Wildwood	3-35.27	DENNIS Regan - TIM Regan
29	Long Beach	3-40.31	MATT McGinn - HAROLD Duda
30	Long Beach	3-47.34	CHRIS KOERNER - MIKE ONDIK
31	Long Beach		
32	Long Beach		
33	Long Beach		
34	Long Beach		
35	Long Beach		