

An Indian runner 86's the Empire State again

By ROBERT CARROLL

A short, stocky full-blooded American Indian, who trains by chasing wildlife in his native New Mexico, yesterday won the seventh annual midtown madness known officially as the Empire State Building Run Up.

"I want to keep on going until I'm defeated," declared Al Waquie, 32, of the Walatowa tribe, after leading a pack of 26 men and nine women up the 1,575 steps and out into the biting cold on the 86th-floor observation deck.

His time was 11 minutes and 29 seconds, 30 seconds off the men's record.

It was the second Run Up win in a row for Waquie, who has been called the best uphill racer in the world.

His training regimen, he revealed, includes chasing elk and deer back home on the reservation. "They can take me for miles and miles," he said. "So far I never caught one."

The top woman finisher was Isabelle Carmichael, Paris-born marketing executive who set a women's record of 13 minutes, 32 seconds, two seconds better than the old record.

The 1983 winner, Burke Konselik, 30, of East Hampton, L.I., finished third among the women yesterday.

"What a gas," said a tired but jubilant Carmichael, 34, of Manhattan, who came in second last year. "Normally I try to avoid running up steps whenever I can."

AMONG THE racers, all of whom finished the grueling course, were Pat Griskus, 36, of Waterbury, Conn., who lost his leg in a motorcycle accident and wears an artificial limb; Chico Scimone 72, of Taormina, Italy, a musician, and Manhattan attorney Sam Freeman, 63.

"I'm very happy I made it," said Scimone. "It was tougher than I thought, but I could go down and do it again."

"I feel great," said a smiling Freeman. "Maybe in about 20 years I'll win. For now, I have to go back to work. I have a case in Criminal Court today."



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