

2nd Annual Running of the Bull

4 Beers, 4 Laps, 1 hot dog

The second annual “Running of the Bull” took place on Saturday under grey and foreboding skies, moderate to heavy winds and an ominous threat of rain. In attendance were the competitors: a) defending champion Scott Stewart together with five challengers Len Forkas, Lance Matthiesen, Mark Welch, George Galloway and Lou Aronson; b) the official timekeeper/photographer/official, Luran Stewart; and c) the Grand Marshall, the Honorable Senator Richard Lugar from the great State of Indiana.

The race added an “X” factor pre-gun when George Galloway channeled his inner Texan and elected to no longer be a witness but saddle up as a participant. George’s decision to enter the fray earned him the unanimous vote as the event MVP. Furthering the demonstration of true boundaries of human determination were Len Forkas who was competing notwithstanding recently receiving 23 stitches in his shin (following an unfortunate incident with a piece of gym equipment) and Scott Stewart who had to wear an ankle brace in order to handle the pain caused by a balky right ankle. Even with boo boos these aging warriors demonstrated true grit.

The race had never been conducted with a Grand Marshall, yet we were all fortunate to have with us at the track Senator Lugar who made the mistake of inquiring why we were present that day with hot dogs and a cooler of Miller Lite. The group responded in unison: “4 beers, 4 laps, one hot dog”. The Senator asked if we were serious and we said yes and proceeded to explain the rules. Once the senator heard the rules: i) chug one beer before each lap; ii) hot dog to be consumed fully (with an empty mouth before running) between laps 2 and 3; and iii) run four laps, he was hooked and laughing. We asked him to serve as the Grand Marshall which we are honored and touched to admit he accepted. Following pre-race photographs and the national anthem we were ready to race.

Following the Grand Marshall’s call of “Gentlemen—on your mark, get set, go” the race was on:

- Predictably, Scott Stewart went out like an irish jaguar consuming the first beer and sprinting out of the box with the usain bolt-like strength befitting the reigning champ
- Aronson surprisingly jumped out of the box 4 seconds behind Stewart only to hear Len F. shout “phucqueing aronson”
- At the 100m mark of the first lap aronson attempted to make a move on Stewart who repelled the advance by kicking a bit. Aronson realizing the sheer folly of such a maneuver saw fit to lay back a couple of strides off the right shoulder and hope for a window of opportunity
- Stewart came into transition with a 5 second lead after clocking a stellar 1:45 first lap.

- No change in the standings at the end of the second lap Stewart, Aronson, Forkas, Matthiesen, Galloway/Welch
- At the end of the second lap the first strategic error of the day was made by Stewart who elected to chug his beer before eating the Oscar Mayer Bold & Spicy 3 oz hot dog with mustard, ketchup and relish. While Stewart powered down the beer with usual aplomb he was sideswiped by the strategy of Forkas and Aronson who elected to eat the dog first. Aronson elected the python method by unhinging his jaw and jamming the entire dog and bun into the mouth at once while attempting to chew/swallow simultaneously. Forkas went with the Nathan's hot dog approach eating the dog then the bun. Both Forkas and Aronson chased the dog with the beer. The flawed Stewart strategy led to a change in the leader board.
- Aronson bolted from transition to Lap 3 in first place with Stewart choking on hot dog paste.
- Stewart came out of transition to lap 3 7 seconds behind Aronson with Forkas on Stewart's tail
- Forkas then made the move at the first turn of the 3rd lap to vault into second place
- Places held to finish:
 - Aronson- 8:38.8
 - **1st Loser**, Forkas- 8:51.7
 - **2nd Loser**, Stewart 9:12.3
 - **4th**-Matthiesen- 10:00.6
 - **5th/6th**, Galloway/Welch 13:17.0
- In the ultimate display of sportsmanship George Galloway and Mark Welch crossed the finish line holding hands (but not skipping)
- Trophies were awarded and post race hot dogs were consumed by Forkas, Welch and Aronson

All the racers wish to acknowledge and thank Lauren Stewart for serving as the race official. On behalf of all the racers we cannot say that any of us took pride in having Lauren there but she did a great job and her efforts are noted. And, we are all honored and appreciative of Sen. Lugar who took time from his day to support the race.

To those whose emails have been bombarded, thanks for listening. For those who participated, a hearty congratulations to you on a job well done. To those who signed up but failed to post you will labor hard to restore your manhood and to any and all who are game, we look forward to the third weekend of October 2010 for the third annual Running of the Bull, it promises to be a hotly contested and well attended affair.

Go big or go home! And, as all said "it seemed like a good idea at the time"

See you next year,

Lou

Ps-this race also witnessed another first with one participant actually losing the hot dog and beers post race!

Grand Marshall



And They Are Off



The Dog
“maybe this wasn’t such a good idea”



The Finish



The Podium
“is you aint first....you are last”

