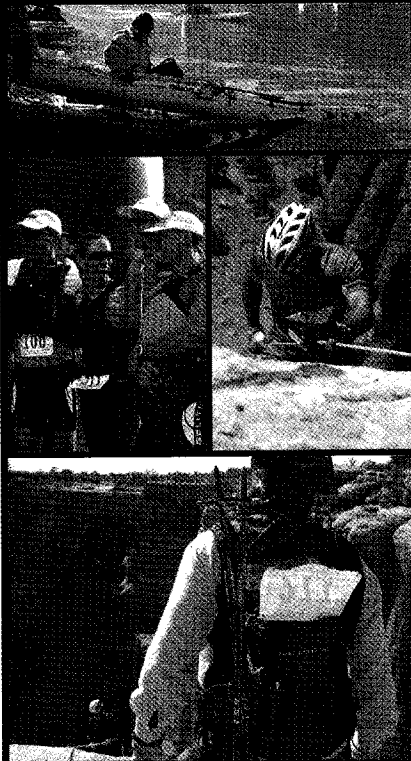


Adventure stream



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IN THE MOST SPECTACULAR VENUES
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race reports

Bourbon Street Blow-Out

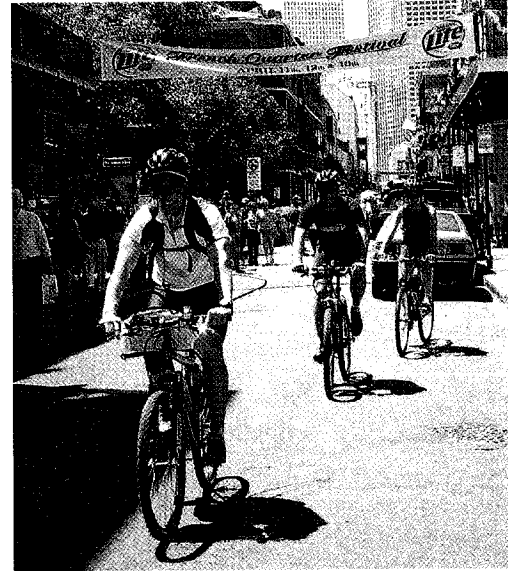
URBAN RACERS TAKE ON NEW ORLEANS

TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY adventure racers gathered in downtown New Orleans on Saturday, April 12 to participate in the second annual New Orleans Urban Adventure Challenge. The course was a closely guarded secret — the only thing the racers could count on was that navigating the labyrinthine streets and waterways of New Orleans would not be easy.

Competitors could choose between two divisions: a four-hour course for beginner and intermediate teams, and a tough 12-hour course for more ambitious racers. "We knew that taking a sport like adventure racing and wrapping it around a city like New Orleans would create an exciting combination", said race director David Poletto. "The real challenge was in limiting ourselves ... we could put on this race five times and never go to the same location twice."

Both courses began with a bike leg along the lakefront of Lake Pontchartrain, continuing on trails through City Park to manned and unmanned checkpoints. Teams then canoed along Bayou St. John, completing an obstacle course around buoys and portaging their boats for a quarter of a mile. They also faced a cable crossing, a teammate carry and scaling an 8-foot wall.

The four-hour course then returned along the lakefront to the finish line, while the 12-hour competitors continued to the city's historic French Quarter. Now on foot, the teams rode a ferry across the Mississippi River to Mardi Gras World,



where they received instructions to the New Orleans Arena. Racers made their way onto the basketball court of the New Orleans Hornets, where they had to hit a free throw, then find the correct section, row and seat number to punch their team passports.

Back on their bikes, teams located a checkpoint in the Audubon Zoo and pedaled to the Elmwood Fitness Center for a rock-climbing challenge; after each team member climbed the artificial wall, they headed west for a final paddle leg in the LaBranche wetlands. Spectators in the cypress-tree swamp included alligators, pelicans and nutria. Racers then located two unmanned checkpoints, re-mounted their bikes and raced for the finish line.

Some of the proceeds from the race were donated to the Kids Adventure Challenge (held April 5). Over 120 children, ages five to 12, biked, paddled, climbed and completed team challenges in an effort to promote teamwork and self-esteem.

NEW ORLEANS ADVENTURE CHALLENGE, APRIL 12, NEW ORLEANS, LA

12-HOUR RACE RESULTS 1. **THE E TEAM** (3-PERSON COED: LAWRENCE COHEN, JULIE STANDING, BRIAN HUDSON) 9 HOURS, 15 MINUTES, 14 SECONDS; 2. **RACE RATS** (COED) 10:15:38; 3. **TEAM VIGNETTE** (COED) 10:52:01; 4. **TEAM ENGINE** 11:11:37; 5. **LEEVEE BREAKS** (COED) 11:14:33

ALL-MALE BACKTOOTH RACING 9 HOURS, 52 MINUTES, 02 SECONDS

4-HOUR RACE RESULTS 1. **TEAM ELMWOOD FITNESS** (3-PERSON COED: J. MORGAN, EDDIE SCHOTT, CHERISH LOTT) 3 HOURS, 0 MINUTES, 50 SECONDS; 2. **URBAN COWBOYS** (3:04:05); 3. **TOMMY & THE SPEEDSISTERS** (3:12:34); 4. **SLOW & STEADY** (3:13:22); 5. **BAYOU EAUX'S** (3:16:39)

ALL-MALE 1. URBAN ACES 3 HOURS, 03 MINUTES, 15 SECONDS