



**NEW YORK
ROAD RUNNERS**

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ATHLETES TO WATCH

NYRR Central Park Challenge
 USA Men's 8K Championship

Alan Webb

Age: 25

Residence: Reston, Virginia

The Complete Package

Webb is almost perfectly suited for this 8K race. His American record in the mile (3:46.91) and last year's #2 world ranking in the 800 meters (1:43.84) prove that he's got the wheels, and his 5000- and 10,000-meter personal bests beat nearly everyone else in the field, showing he shouldn't have any trouble with the race's 4.97-mile distance.

Season Opener

The Central Park Challenge will be Webb's first race since his win at the Continental Airlines Fifth Avenue Mile on September 29, 2007. It may take a few miles to get the rust out of his legs, but once he's rolling, there aren't many who can beat him.

Jorge Torres

Age: 27

Residence: Boulder, Colorado

Rare to the Roads

To date, Torres has only made two appearances on the roads-both in this race. (He won in 2005 and finished seventh in 2007). His smooth stride is well suited to the undulating ups and downs of the Central Park course, and his runner-up finish to Dathan Ritzenhein at the USA Cross Country Championships last month proves that he's in good form.

Learning from the Best

Torres is coached by former marathon world record-holder Steve Jones, who won the 1988 New York City Marathon by more than three minutes and also captured titles in Chicago (twice) and London.

Seeing Double

Jorge's identical twin brother, Eduardo, will also compete in the race. The two will then travel to Edinburgh, Scotland, where they've both qualified to represent the USA at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships on March 30. The brothers were teammates at the University of Colorado.

(over, please)



Ed Moran

Age: 26

Residence: Williamsburg, Virginia

The Whispering Lion

With little noise or fanfare, Moran has established himself as a legitimate threat to make the Olympic team at either 5000 or 10,000 meters, and intelligent racing coupled with huge potential make him one of the most dangerous athletes in this field. Although disappointed he was by his failure to make the World Championships team last summer, his fifth-place finish in the 5000 meters at the USA Championships earned him an invitation to the Pan American Games in Brazil, where he defeated reigning ING New York City Marathon champion Marilson Gomes dos Santos to win the gold medal in a Games record 13:25.60.

Cool as a Cucumber

Moran was all set to take a crack at the 5000-meter Olympic standard at the Mt. SAC Relays last spring when someone walked off with his backpack—containing his racing spikes and singlet—just minutes before the race. Undeterred, Moran ran the race in borrowed spikes and a t-shirt and achieved the “A” standard with his 13:20.35 clocking.

What to Watch For

Moran finished fourth at the recent USA Cross Country Championships, so his fitness is excellent, but he’s a smart racer who won’t get sucked into a pace he can’t handle. If the race is fast, look for him to hang back and roll up the stragglers in the latter stages.