

At 81, Corbitt still hungry for win

BRONXITE Ted Corbitt, 81, ran and walked 240 miles for an age-group world record in Sri Chinmoy six-day race at Wards Island. Ted, who's considered the father of long-distance running, ran for the U.S. in the 1952 Olympic Marathon in Helsinki in 2:50. He was the first black to represent the U.S. in an Olympic Marathon. And he's still going strong.

His original goal in the six-day race was 301 miles. "But after I did 150 miles the first three days to sur-



RUNNING

BY EDDIE COYLE

vive the cutoff, I set a 240-mile target," he said. Runners had three meals a day and food and drinks were always available. Corbitt, hungry for a world record, devoured the groceries, and gained two pounds in six days.

On day four, due to fatigue, he had

difficulty maintaining posture and balance. He took multiple rest breaks and massage therapy that helped get him back on course.

There were 49 runners from 24 countries.

As Corbitt and the women's six-day world-record holder, Dipali Cunningham of Australia, were relaxing after the race, a baseball from the Ward's Island diamond rolled under their feet. Corbitt scooped it up and rifled a perfect throw to one of the players. Cunningham, half his age, said, "You can still do that! After six days I can't even lean down."