Corbitt Is All Right in the Long Run

42-Year-Old Athlete Races Saturday in 52-Mile Event

The “soft” tag hung on so many Americans does not apply to Ted Corbitt. At age 42, the former Olympic marathon runner is being financed by fellow members of the National Road Runners Club so that he may compete in England’s annual 52-mile Newton Cup race.

Corbitt is America’s top hope in the grueling test from London’s Big Ben to Brighton next Saturday. “Even among established U.S. marathoners few can run the distances Ted is capable of,” said Joe Kleinerman, a Metropolitan Amateur Athletic Union official. Why only last week he ran 100 miles in two days.”

Corbitt, a physical therapist at the Institute of the Grippled and Disabled on 33rd Street, has devoted most of his spare time to training for the race.

The six-foot-nine, 190-pound athlete often runs to work from his apartment in Marble Hill. He thinks nothing of running home again at night or jogging twice around Manhattan. His training routine also includes bypassing elevators.

Except for the countryside he will see while training, there will be no sightseeing on the European trip. “Sightseeing holds no appeal for me,” Corbitt said. “I prefer doing things with a purpose.”

Corbitt has planned a trip to Germany’s Uberlingen Institute of Therapeutic Massage and Constance, where he studied in 1956. Besides catching up on latest techniques used by others, he’ll compare his research findings with those of the leading authorities in the field.

Corbitt won his first race, a 50-yard dash, at age 13 while attending Bloom Junior High School in Cincinnati. In addition to being a member of the 1952 United States Olympic team in Helsinki, Fin-

Colleagues Sending Him to England for Marathon

land, Corbitt won the national marathon championship in 1959, the national 30-kilometer titles in 1956 and 1957 and the Canadian marathon title in 1956. He has also won many lesser crowns.

Corbitt, who has a bachelor’s degree from Cincinnati University and a master’s from New York University, has run in 62 marathons. In all but three of those events, he has run the 26 miles 385 yards in less than three hours. His slowest time was 3:01-14 at Baltimore in 1952. He has run a 50-mile marathon in 3 hours 3 minutes.

Although he is described as a top physical specimen by leading medical authorities, Corbitt has failed to pass the physical examination before a race several times. Pre-race jitters still haunt him.

Some years ago, doctors ruled Corbitt out of the Boston Marathon. He ran anyway and finished an unofficial sixth.

In the New York Marathon, Corbitt’s best efforts have been one victory and four thirds. At Boston, he has finished sixth three times.

Corbitt is listed as having not finished the Pan American Games marathon at Mexico City in 1955. “I never competed in the event,” Corbitt said. “I was among those cut out from the team because of lack of funds. I never made the trip, but newspaper accounts and even the official records carried me as a non-finisher.”