

Dash for Cash

Participants in the FAM Fund 5-K make a run for the money

WITH RUNNING, as with investing, timing is everything. And the chaos on Wall Street made interesting timing for one race that ties prizes to the stock market.



At the Fenimore Asset Management (FAM) Fund 5-K in Cobleskill, New York, winners earn shares of a fund Fenimore manages, or the cash equivalent. This year's race fell on September 27, as investor hysteria hit a fever pitch and Congress mulled a \$700 billion bailout.

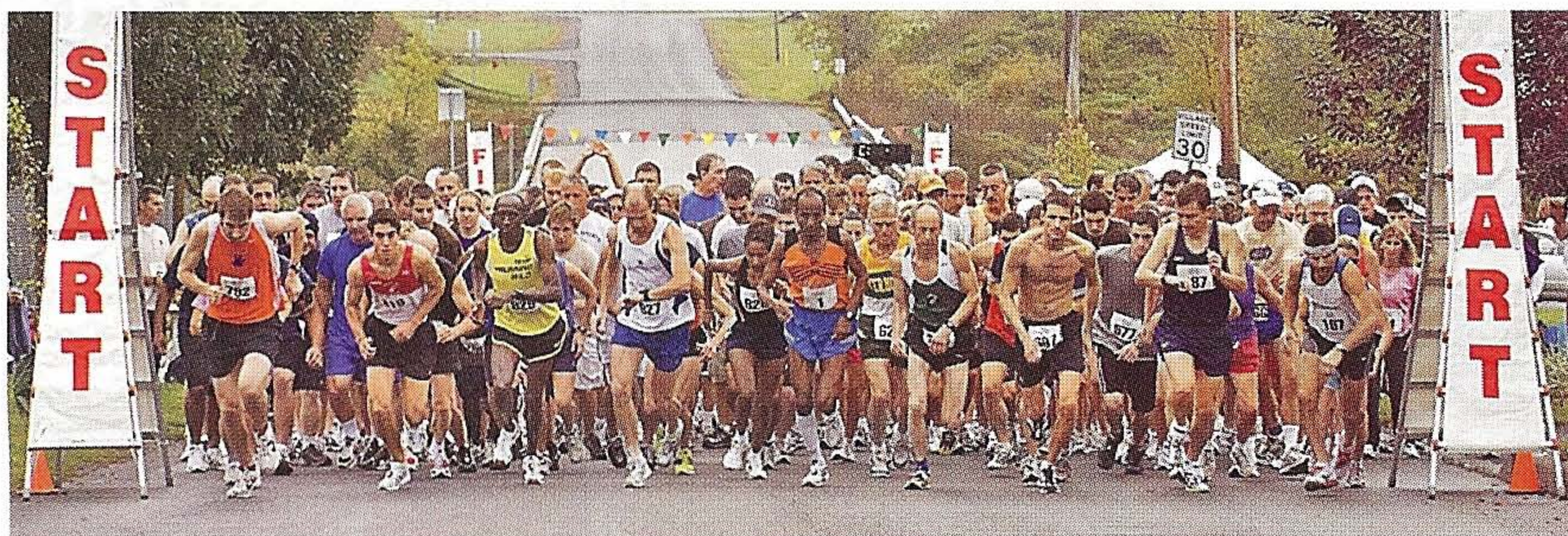
GUNNING FOR A PAYOFF

At the FAM Fund 5-K, runners contend for 34 awards of stock or cash.

Though the prize purse was 20 percent smaller than 2007, a record 859 runners turned out. Both winners chose cash over shares. Alemtsehay Misganaw won

the women's race in 17:13, and got \$397.10. The men's champ, Alene Reta, earned a bonus for a course record of 14:25, and went home with \$794.20.

Not everyone was looking to make a quick buck. Gerald Barney, 76, a nine-time age-group champ, estimates his shares are worth about \$3,000. This time, however, he took second, and like a lot of investors recently, went home empty-handed. —Geoffrey Decker

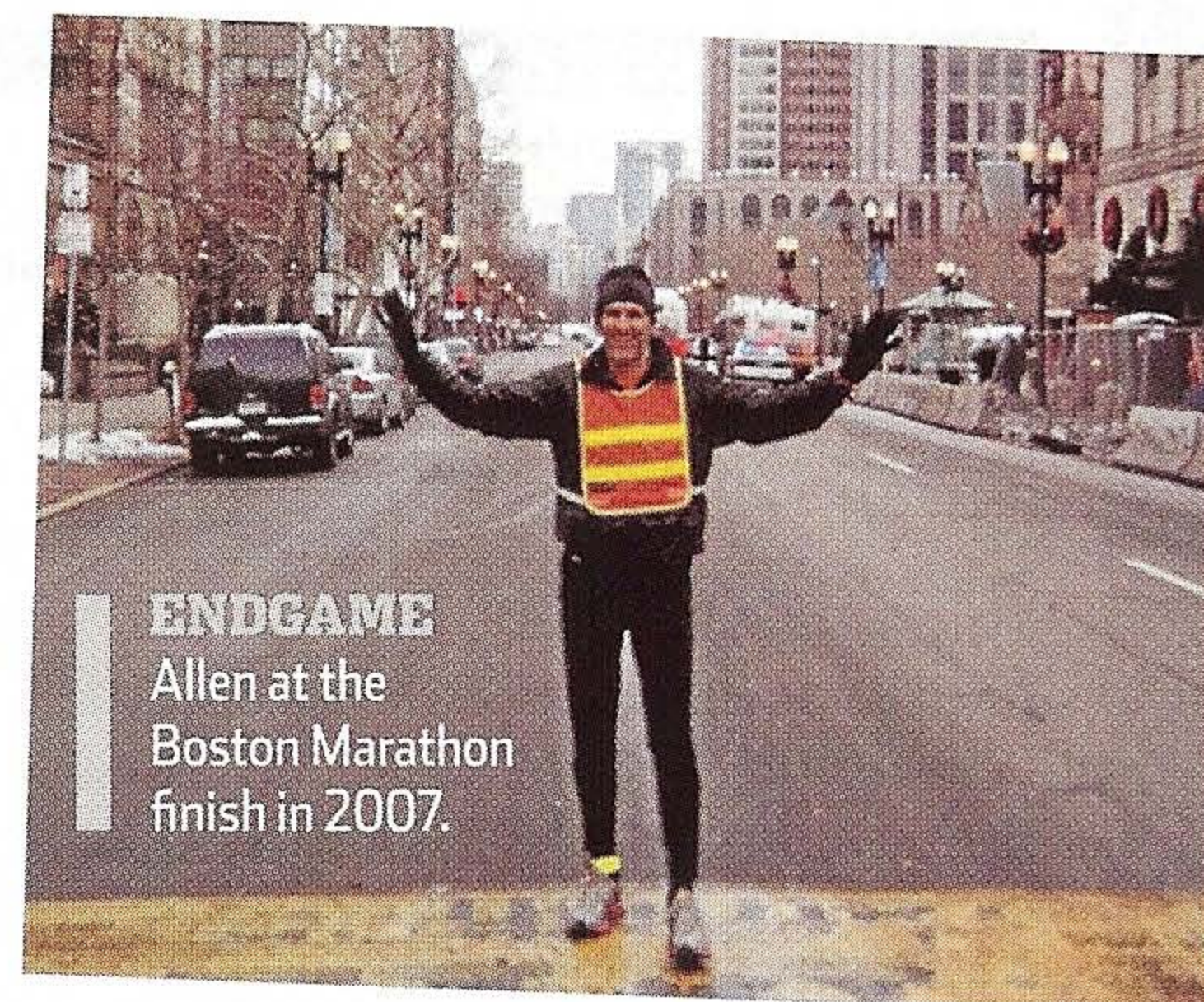


A Race to the Start

THESE DAYS YOU REALLY HAVE TO move fast just to get in to your favorite race. With more events switching to online-only registration, they're often closing in record time. Here are a few races that are filling the quickest. —JON MARCUS

RACE	2007 Closeout	2008 Closeout	2009 Registration Date*
BAA Half-Marathon Boston; October, date to be announced (TBA)	3 weeks	8 days	July, date TBA
Beach to Beacon 10-K Cape Elizabeth, Maine; August 1, 2009	10 days	25 hr.	March 15, 9 a.m.
Cherry Blossom 10-Mile Run Washington, D.C.; April 5, 2009	6 weeks	4 hr.	December 16, 8 a.m.
Covered Bridges Half-Marathon Woodstock, Vermont; June 7, 2009	2.5 hr.	82 min.	December 8, 9 a.m.
Pikes Peak Marathon Manitou Springs, Colorado; August 16, 2009	4 days	50 min.	March, date TBA
William A. Irvin 5-K Duluth, Minnesota; June 19, 2009	22 days	2 days	March 18, 12:01 a.m.

*All times are Eastern Standard time



ENDGAME
Allen at the Boston Marathon finish in 2007.

Running Rituals

A journey across hallowed ground becomes one man's New Year's tradition

IN THE BRISK PREDAWN of New Year's Day, as the last revelers straggle home, a lone runner will be at the blue-and-white starting line in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, preparing to cover the vaunted 26.2 miles of the Boston Marathon route.

"It could be 10 below or a blizzard," says Gary Allen, director of Maine's Mt. Desert Island Marathon. "I will be there." Allen's tradition started five years ago while visiting family nearby. Wanting to go for a long run, he drove to Hopkinton on a whim and took off.

"It all ties in with fresh beginnings," says Allen, 51, who has run the official race 16 times. "I might as well lay claim to being the first person in the calendar year to cover what is arguably the most historic piece of road in running."

Though he's invited friends to come along, so far it's just been Allen on the empty road with a few dollars in his pocket and a disposable camera. There are no screaming coeds in Wellesley or walls of people along the finishing stretch on Boylston Street. That suits Allen just fine. In the stillness, he reflects on the legendary route he's following—where Johnny Kelley slipped to second and gave Heartbreak Hill its name, or where Bill Rodgers stopped to tie his shoe. "It's surreal and quiet," says Allen. "It's like all the ghosts of the greats are there with me."

"And to log 26.2 miles on the first day of the year is a good omen for the rest of it." —JON MARCUS