



## Runners, take your mark

By MARK GOEBEL

26.2 miles. It's a long way to walk, let alone run, in a costume. Yet, that's exactly what Scott Piro will be doing on November 2.

Philadelphia-native Piro is running in his eighth New York City Marathon. This year he'll be trucking through the city's five boroughs as Superman, last year, it was Madonna circa her Blonde Ambition Tour. In 2001, he ran in a leather harness.

Piro, who acted for several years after graduating from New York University, readily admits that he gets a charge from the yelling and applause directed his way by many of the one million spectators lining the Marathon's route.

"I have a chronic ankle injury, so I can't improve on my best race," Piro said of his 4:33 minute top time. "So the way for me to keep the Marathon interesting is to come up with outrageous costumes to run in."

Piro says he was mistaken for Britney Spears last year and that the reaction to his S&M outfit ranged from bewilderment to outrage.

"The race in 2001 came shortly after 9/11, so I thought the S&M outfit was a way of celebrating the American spirit and our freedom to act pretty much any way we want as long as it is legal," he explained. A book publicist, Piro knows a thing or two about the limelight. "I've wanted to be in the paper since I started running marathons," he said. "A couple of years ago I started sending pictures of myself in costume to photo editors and newsrooms."

He has yet to appear on the cover of the New York Times, the Post or the Daily News, but last year Piro made a cameo appearance on TV's Channel 11 news the Friday before the big event, and this year he'll be doing the same broadcast's weather report.