

The project consists of racing across Italy and later across Europe by a solo cyclist. The first race (across Italy, Brenner Pass to Palermo) will be accomplished with the support of three people in a following vehicle, and the second race (across Europe, Cape North, Norway to Palermo) with six people in two following vehicles. The first race will take the solo racer about 65 hours (no stops), and the second race will take the solo racer about 12 days (19 hours a day).

THE TWO RACE COURSES

The departure for the first race is the Brenner Pass at the Italian-Austrian border, then on to Verona, Bologna, Florence, Roma, Napoli, and Reggio Calabria, ferry across the Messina Strait, back on the bike, to the arrival at Palermo. The departure for the second race is North Cape, Norway, the most northern point of Europe, then the length of Norway, to southern Sweden, across Denmark, continuing across Germany and Austria, climbing the Alps, and repeating the course Brennero to the Palermo finish.

THE MISSION

The aim is to help in the struggle for sportsmanship in sports by not only athletes but also by fans, teams, referees, corporate sponsors, and coaches, and, in particular, children who just now are beginning to learn. Some of these children are now dreaming of being professional athletes later. What type of athletes will these children turn out to be? Will they conduct themselves as do the professional athletes of today? Or can we, even in a limited way, take steps to encourage them to act better, more evolved, more honest? If we are content to have these children act as do the athletes and the team directors of today, then let's do nothing. But if we want something more, then let's take some positive action now, for the benefit of the sports community.

SOME CURRENT ISSUES IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS

- Drugs, in particular in cycling and track and field. The best racers in the world (Tour de France winners, Giro d'Italia winner, time trial world champions) of nearly all countries, including, without limitation, the United States, Italy, Germany, and Spain, and the best track and field sprinters (100m world record holders, Olympic champions, world champions) are all accused of having improved performance with drugs. It was not that long ago, in a Rimini hotel, that an Italian cyclist, champion of the Tour de France and of the Giro d'Italia, died due to a cocaine overdose. In the US, the "national past time", baseball, is played under a cloud of drug use and accusations.
- Game fixing by officials and team managers in soccer in Europe.
- Illegal betting on NBA basketball games by NBA referees.
- Secret payments to tennis players to not compete in certain tournaments.
- Faking contact in soccer games by players, and flopping to fabricate a foul.
- Taunts and insults by soccer players on the field, and violent head butts in response.
- Racial taunting by fans at soccer games in Europe.
- Secret videotaping and stealing of opposing teams' signs in NFL football games.
- Illegal delivery of information of opponent's car details in Formula 1 racing.

OUR ROLE IN THE SOLUTION

These acts by athletes, fans, team managers, and sponsors tend to tear apart the sporting community, not bring us together through sports. These two events can help to move things, however small, in the right direction--that of loyalty in sports. In connection with the two races, a replica of the trophy given out at the soccer World Cup to the team who has shown the best sportsmanship spirit during the competition (frequently won by Brazil) will be displayed before, during, and after the two races.

To compete to win is always the key element for any athlete in every competition. To compete to win is the principal inspiration every athlete must have. But to compete only so as to win is not enough. The athlete competes also to bring not only honor to himself but to us all.

MEDIA

Local and national television, radio, and print media for the first race, and international coverage for the second race.

GENERAL BUDGET OUTLINE

For the first race across Italy, we will have costs of printing jerseys with sponsors' names emblazoned upon them, hotel for a team of four persons and three bikes at Brennero and at Palermo, food for four people for seven days, gas for one vehicle, ferry costs from Reggio to Sicily and back, telephone services to communicate with the press before, during, and after the race, facsimile costs, internet costs, and bike mechanical charges. The total for all of these costs comes to approximately 4,700 euros.

SPORTS IN ITALY TODAY

As reported by Italian media, nearly 40% of Italian youths of age 18 to 22 years do no sport of any kind at all. It is hoped that this project encourages some of them.

