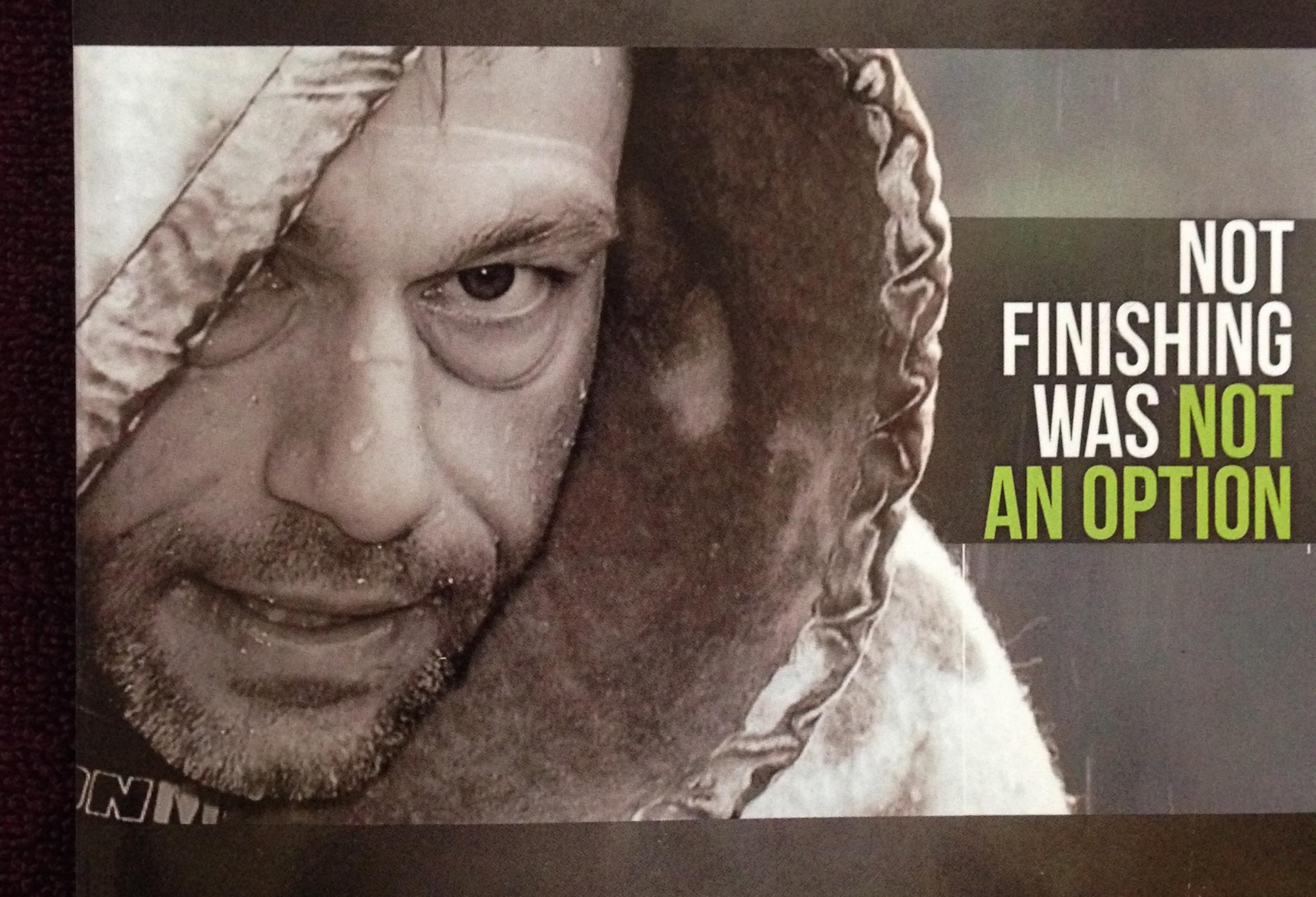
STRUNGER THAN RON



BY WAYNE KURTZ-STEFAN ZETTERSTRÖM

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is a great time to mention five special athletes' accomplishments during the race, great friends and competitors:

Daniel Meier from Switzerland was the only one competing in the Double DECA (1 x 20), which would be a record as well (never been finished in an official competition). Daniel raced well and very consistently while dealing with some leg injuries later in the event. Because of work responsibilities, Daniel had to be back in Switzerland, but all eight of the Triple DECA athletes still competing through day 20 convinced Daniel to do one more day as he would have time to drive back to Switzerland Sunday and be ready for work Monday. Daniel motivated himself through severe pain the final day to finish 21, and there is no question in every athlete's mind that he would have finished 30 days if not for his work commitments.