The Philfies wound up in third place, two games out of first. Saturday contests to the Mets (in Saturday's game, New York's 9-5 win over New York after losing the Friday and left to play. As the second-place Cardinals won nine of their final two of three from the Yankees, and two of three from Cleveland, who has stopped Boston nine of 14 times this year. The Orioles will sweep Detroit and lose two of three from the Yankees, this season's disappointment. Boston came in last night for a three-day stand, to be the Yankees, an 11.6 mile run. As the second-place Cardinals won nine of their final game lead. My pick is for Boston to clinch on Saturday, as the Sox take two of three from the Yankees, and two of three from Cleveland to the 96-65 at that point. The Orioles will sweep Detroit and four Saturday to New York and Coffin Hunter, putting them at 95-67 and out of it. If the Sox playoffs, if Boston gets in (Red Sox fans are usually very cautious in making assumptions about their team's fortunes). I'll make that prediction next week.

For those of you not familiar with Philadelphia's collapse in 1964, the Phillies led the National League by 6 1/2 games with ten days to go. The Sox did have an eight-game lead September 5, and have seen the bulge shrink to a mere 3 1/2 games going into the Yankee series. The assignment for our first run was to scale the hill from across it, find the trail at the top leading down to the other side, and run home before we were caught out by daylight.

Wrong. If there was a trail descending from the top, we never found it. In fact, only seven of us made it up through the steep, wooded slope with only the trees to slow our descent. Suicide Six's neighbor has been appropriately named: Suicide Seven.

The next morning brought with it the clincher, a 11.6 mile run. The terrain and distance burned me out for the remainder of the trip. The following afternoon's six and subsequent morning's 7 1/2 mile jaunts proved to be anti-climactic. We had slugged thirty miles in 48 hours.

The training camp definitely had its lighter and more enjoyable moments, though, like the illogical conversations around the table of an eight-course, homecooked dinner and an evening game of dictionary that produced some of the most unique and unorthodox definitions imaginable. We laughed until we hurt -- and did hurt. We'll be back to Vermont again next year, and despite our disaffection for these hills of infamy, we'll remember only the good times, and be looking forward to another illustrious encounter.

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