

Marathon run to help charity

The Michigan Marathon Team (MMT), a healthy band of seasoned collegiate and high school distance runners, is planning its fifth annual benefit endurance relay.

This year, they will raise money for Common Ground, Birmingham.

The participants will depart from Pontiac early Thursday, July 14, returning to Pontiac at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 17. When finished with the non-stop "77" marathon, the MMT will have run 616 miles and raised several thousand dollars for Common Ground, a human service agency.

This year's grueling 616 miles is a jaunt in comparison to the bicentennial run last year. One mile was run to commemorate each year of America's independence. The 1,776-mile course covered both the Upper and Lower peninsulas.

Before leaving July 14 on the "77" marathon, the team will run a few miles on the track across from the Pontiac City Hall. The first runner will then depart with an eight-mile jog. This first leg of the relay is repeated by 10 runners.

Eventually the race will cover nearly all of the Lower Peninsula from Gaylord to Traverse City through Cadillac and back to Pontiac. Chuck Stouffer, 20, a chemist at Flint Ink Corp. of Redford, is the MMT team manager. Stouffer has run in all four previous marathons.

"There are two obstacles left to eliminate," explains Stouffer. "One is the need for five more experienced

distance runners. The second is a shortage of motor homes we use as traveling locker rooms.

Another principal figure with the MMT is Tom McKeely. McKeely, 26, is also a runner in his fifth consecutive benefit relay this year. McKeely is a physical therapist at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac.

With this training, he is often called upon to serve as team trainer. His instructions to the runners has always been blunt. "Our biggest problem is blisters. We can't afford to take a guy out of rotation, so we'll emphasize on the spot conditioning."

Other runners in the "77" marathon include Gary Quesada, 19, a University of Michigan sophomore who lives in Troy. This will be Quesada's fourth marathon. Ben Carter, 18, of Troy is the newest member of the MMT. From Avondale High School, Nick De La Cruz, 17, is putting in his third effort for the MMT.

Experienced runners who wish to take part in the "77" marathon can call Andy Bliner at Common Ground at 645-2284. If you're a "marathon man," you can also reach the MMT by calling Chuck Stouffer at 832-3226 after 6 p.m.

The beneficiary of the 1977 Marathon is Common Ground, Birmingham. The youth-oriented agency operates a VD and gynecological medical service, legal consultation, crisis intervention counseling as well as an extensive information and referral service to anyone in need.

In addition, Common Ground sponsors a food co-op, a theater, a bicycle race, shows movies and runs a weekly recycling center. All of its services are free.

"We are tremendously excited about the Michigan Marathon," says Andy Blinder, alternatives coordinator and Common Ground staff member cooperating with the team. Besides the bicentennial "1776" run, other past accomplishments of the MMT include a benefit run in 1973 with 16 members of the Pontiac and Avondale track teams. That year they raised \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society by running a 360-mile route from Grand Haven to Pontiac in 48 hours.

After this first success several of the students organized the Michigan Marathon Team. In 1974 the team raised \$3,500 for New Horizons Inc. by covering 400 miles from Mackinac City to Pontiac. A 1975 run covered 440 miles, and pledges totaling \$2,000 were donated to the Metropolitan Society For Crippled Children and Adults.

Pledges are solicited from the general public, businesses and industry. The pledge is made on a "per hour" or "per mile" basis. This year a dollar pledged "per hour" will constitute a \$77 tax deductible donation. A pledge of five cents per mile will give Common Ground or \$30.80. Pledges in any amount may be phoned to Common Ground, 645-2284.

Besides making pledges, businesses are needed to supply camping supplies and food. This year there is also a shortage of motor homes to escort the runners. Three large models are needed. Any business wishing to provide assistance should contact Blinder at 832-3226.

Upon reaching Gaylord, the halfway point of the "77" run, the marathon team will have a two-hour salute to the city.

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Beverly Hills tournament set

Finals of the Racquet Clubs Junior Invitational Tournament will be played June 5 at Square Lake Racquet Club in Bloomfield Hills.

The Racquet Clubs are calling this event "the outstanding tournament of the season for Southeastern Michigan." They have assembled a field of players from seven states and Canada.

Top seeded in the boys' 12-year-old division is Eric Amend of Chicago. Amend is nationally ranked. Eric Horley of Bloomfield Hills is seeded third. Meghan McMahon of Grosse Pointe is top seeded in girls' 12-year-old division. She won the Western Indoor Closed Championships. Amy Walsh of Birmingham is seeded second and Ann Kaiser of Bloomfield Hills is seeded fifth.

In boys' 14, Chip Bagley of Bloomfield Hills is the top seed. Craig Hammond of Bloomfield Hills is seeded sixth.

Clare Kuhlman of Fort Mitchell, Ky., is top seeded in girls' 14. Jane Neville of Franklin is seeded second.

Top seed in the girls' 16 division is Susan Mascarin of Grosse Pointe. She was national champion in the 12-and-under group last year. Robbie Risdon and Meg Meurer, both of Bloomfield Hills, are also seeded in that age group.

Semifinals are 10:15 a.m. Sunday June 5 and finals for the girls' 16 and 12 groups. Finals for the girls' 14 division is 10:15 a.m. June 5. Finals for the girls' 16 and 12 divisions and the boys' 14 and 12 groups are 2 p.m. June 5.

Tournament director is Steven J. Willinger.

The Beverly Hills Racquet Club sponsor its First Annual Pro-Am Women's Tennis Tournament, 10 a.m., Thursday.

Sixteen of the top local women players have been invited to play with 16 members.

The one-day tournament is open to the public. For more information call Joell Fichtner at 642-8500.

Some of the participants include Carmen Charpentier, pro at Court House Racquet Club in West Bloomfield, Audrey Cox, Birmingham Groves tennis coach, Jean Blievenicht, Court House Tennis Club, pro, and Meg Meurer, a high school tennis player from Kingswood.

IN OTHER ACTION, the Beverly Hills Racquet Club women's team No. 1 completed its regular season with a 4-2 victory over the Rochester Racquet Club, May 23.

Winning Beverly Hills teams were: Vicki Sotiroff-Dianne Abel, Judy Knowles-Esther Kelter, Rose Adams-Cheryl Herman, Karen Smith-Elsie Beck. The other Beverly Hills teams were Marilyn Spicer-Betty Ladewig and Ann Davis-Phyllis Horvitz.

It's Ray's day on local course

Ray Mitchell of Farmington Hills made short work of the No. 5 hole at Southfield's Evergreen Hills Golf Course during a round of golf on May 25. Mitchell used a four wood to score a hole in one on the 200-yard, par three link. Evergreen Hills is located in the Southfield Civic Center complex, 28000 Evergreen Road.

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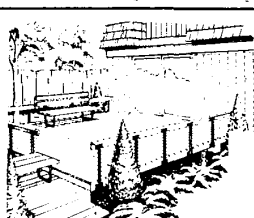
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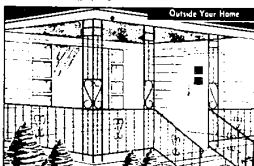
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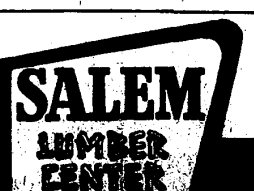
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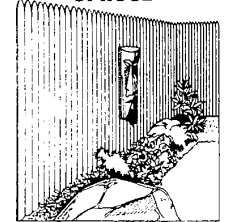


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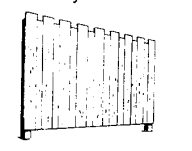
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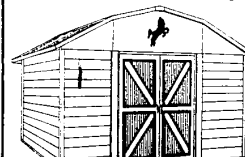
	1x3	1x4	1x6	1x8
4'	.52	.60	.88	1.20
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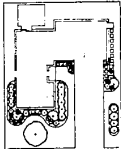
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