

Groves grads top Stony run

By MARTY BUDNER

For Bill Morgan and Doug Bond, Tuesday's cross country encounter with Stony Creek woods was a simple fun run.

Morgan and Bond were the top two finishers in the Open Division of the seventh annual Stony Creek (Metropark) Distance Run. The veteran runners were officially one second apart, but Morgan modestly claimed it was closer than that.

"He (Bond) pushed me across the finish line and let me win—it was that close," said Morgan, who is Bond's track and cross country teammate at Eastern Kentucky University.

Morgan, who now lives in Rochester, and Bond both graduated from Birmingham Groves High School. Bond started at Eastern Kentucky in the fall of 1975, and Morgan followed in his footsteps last year.

Both enjoy competing at the tough Ohio Valley Conference school. Besides running against conference foes Western Kentucky and Eastern Tennessee, they run step for step with premier Division I NCAA schools like Auburn, Alabama and Auburn.

Bond, a 21-year-old Birmingham resident, won the Open Division last year. Bothhe and Morgan enjoy running at Stony Creek.

"It's a good way to get ready for school," said Morgan, who ran a 4:09 mile in the Moorhead Quadrangular last year. "It's fun, but sometimes it gets difficult over the bumps."

"The course was a little different than last year, and that was good," he added. "The event was very well organized, and it's a lot of fun to run in."

MORGAN AND BOND were only two of 233 participants in the annual Distance Run, which is held in July at the metropark's Oakgrove Picnic Area. The youngest winners were 10 years old. (Jim Kremer of Sterling Heights and Steve Zelyez of Rochester), while the oldest was 43 (Brian Harris of Royal Oak).

Competition was held in six different categories: Division I (ages 1-11), Division II (12-16), Division III (17-21), Division IV (22 and over), Division V (women only) and Open Division.

The top five finishers in the Open Division received trophies for their five-mile efforts. Trophies, medals and ribbons were earned by the top runners in each division.

The three top finishers behind Morgan and Bond in the Open Division were Dane Williams of Ann Arbor,

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Harris, and Bruce Johnson of Pontiac. Seventy-seven runners participated in that division—the most in any of the six groups.

In the women's division (2½ miles) Kathleen Elzech Scherer, a 19-year-old Rochester resident, won with a time of 13:12. A former Adams Highlander, Scherer now runs track and cross country at the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

Last year, Scherer, who is a lifeguard at Stony Creek, finished fifth in the same race.

"It was basically the same course, but there were some changes in the woods," said Scherer, who is the fourth runner on the William and Mary cross country team. "It was a little easier to pass in the woods this time."

Bill Washburn, who will be a senior at Rochester High School, finished as

runner-up in that event. She also placed last year.

The first and second place finishers in Division I (one mile) were Michael Zelyez and T.J. Morency—both from brother Steve was fifth.

In Division II, Pat Backus of Sterling Heights was the winner with a time of 11:24 over the 2½ mile course. Rochester's Dan Brown was fifth, Auburn Heights' Rob Sedam was sixth and Troy's Richard Kidder was ninth.

Christopher Titus of Marietta won the 2½-mile Division III run. Rochester's John Canar, Robert Potter and Dave Brown all finished among the top 10.

And, in Division IV (2½ miles), Royal Oak's Randy Presson won with a time of 10:54. Dave Blievertich of Southfield was sixth, and Birmingham's Hank Schmidt was ninth.



Jean Blievertich (right) leads 4-year-old son Chris through the Stony Creek Run. (Photo by Randy Borst)

Special education softball

Winners cheer their opponents

By JOHN BOZZO

Picture a softball game where the winning team is cheering for its opponents.

They cheer wildly when the pitcher snares a hot line drive off the bat of one of their own players.

They shout encouragement, and really mean it, when an opposing infielder barely steps a routine ground ball.

It happened Sunday at Eton Park in Birmingham. A girls softball team from Royal Oak, age 12-14, was playing the Chase Special Education Softball team, age seven through 35.

Don and Mary Lou Chase of Birmingham are the founders and coaches of the Chase team. Along with Al Flynn, also of Birmingham, they began the team in 1974.

"We had two kids in special education," said Chase. "At that time there was no baseball program for special education kids. We started out with 10 kids the first year. Every year we get

three or four more kids. Growth has been by word of mouth.

"WE TAKE KIDS from all around the area," he said. "There are kids with all kinds of handicaps on the team. We teach them all the fundamentals of softball. We play six-inning games."

Until recently the only problem was a lack of players.

"Getting enough kids to show up for a scheduled game was difficult," said Mrs. Chase, "especially when we only had 10 players."

"The new uniforms help," she added, pointing to the bright green and yellow Oakland Athletics style outfits. "G & D Communications of Farmington Hills paid for the uniforms," she said. "The first three years, we were only able to give the kids shirts and hats."

Although his son was at camp, Al Flynn was on hand to help coach the team.

"The important thing is none of these kids would be able to play with other leagues because of their handicaps," Flynn said. "This type of program offers them the opportunity to have a baseball uniform on, which some of them never have."

"Being part of a team is a positive influence on their lives," Flynn said. "That's why I'm here, even when my son is away at camp."

SINCE THERE are no other handicapped teams, the Chase squad plays anyone they can. Both Chase teams played one game prior to Sunday's doubleheader.

Sunday's opponents were the Lawson Sports team of the Royal Oak Girls Softball Association. Ann Forster, Lawson's coach, is a former neighbor of the Chases.

Forster said everyone on her team has three to five years of softball experience. Lawson beat a Chase team comprised of first-year players, 40-1.

In the second game of Sunday's doubleheader, Lawson defeated the more experienced Chase team, 28-10.

Chase and two other coaches went in the field to help his players in the third inning. Lawson has scored 10 runs in each of the first two innings and then allowed the Chase team to bat even though there weren't three outs.

"Most of the kids can bat when they start," Chase said. "By the time the season ends they can catch fly balls and routine grounders."

Teaching handicapped players how to play is the same as teaching any beginner softball skills, Chase explained.

He said he would like to see his teams expand to two leagues and eventually play a Handicapped World Series.

Even if that doesn't happen and the scores remain the same, the players are all winners.

"It's a thrill for those kids to be out there," Flynn said.



Coach Donald Chase (right) gives encouragement to short stop Hank Campbell. (Photo by Cynthia Abatti)

Lopez: Gracious golfer

By DOUG FUNKE

Nancy Lopez, the 21-year-old darling of the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour this season, seems like someone who would be just as comfortable playing with a group of duffers as she would be competing in a major tournament.

Lopez appeared at the Dearborn Country Club Monday to help promote the \$150,000 Lady Stroh's Open. The tourney will be contested at the club, on Military between Cherry Hill and Ford roads, Aug. 17-20.

Lopez, still managing to be gracious after weeks of publicity surrounding her torrid winning streak this summer, knows all the right things to say.

During a time when it's popular to be cynical and always on the lookout for number one, Lopez appears to be a refreshing change.

There still seem to be places for family, fellow professionals and others in Lopez' life.

She appears to be sincere and in command of her situation, which is all the more striking for a rookie in such a highly competitive, individual sport as golf.

"I never really thought about turning pro until my first year in college. I wanted to go to college and have a good time," she said. "Dad had supported me a long time and I thought it was time to go out and earn my own money."

"My father never forced me out there," Lopez continued. "Mentally and physically, I felt ready to go on the tour."

"I've enjoyed the traveling. I've been able to take my father with me. It's kind of nice to do something for dad I couldn't do before."

"My parents are really great about everything. They didn't force me to do anything and they really seem to understand," she said.

Lopez added that since her mother died, a sister has become almost like a mother to her.

LOPEZ SAID there doesn't seem to be too many jealousies on the tour with her winning so much.

She said she recognizes and respects the abilities of her peers.

"I haven't felt any resentment at all from the girls," said Lopez. "I don't feel that I am golf. Everyone who has played golf has done a lot for the LPGA."

"You can see everyone wanting to win. When I played amateur golf, you didn't see it as much."

After naming many players who have done well recently on the tour, especially Jane Blalock, Jan Stephenson and Hollis Stacy, Lopez added with a laugh, "I hope I didn't miss anybody."

Lopez also acknowledged Rochester's Leader Dog School for the Blind, which stands to receive at least \$10,000 from the proceeds of the tournament.

"I think it's very important what we're doing to help a charity like this," she said.

LOPEZ RECOGNIZES that she has experienced a super year to date by winning nearly \$135,000—best on the women's tour. However, like a true champion, she also recognizes her limitations.

"I want to slow down because I don't want to wear myself out," she said. "I have to pace myself because I want to play well for a long time, not just this year. It's tough to psych up."

"I'm not getting tired," she said of the hectic schedule. "I wish I could stay in one place longer so I could get better organized."

A VARIETY of tournament ticket plans are available. Tickets are being sold at most public and private golf courses in the metro area.

5,000 ducats reportedly have been sold for the week-end tourney.

Daily tickets are priced at \$3 Aug. 15 for the professionals' practice round; \$5 daily Aug. 16-18 for the pro-am and the first two rounds of the tournament; \$8 for the third round and \$9 for the final round.

Clubhouse privileges may be purchased at a cost of \$2.50 per day and parking will be \$3 per day.

Leone Pausani and John Sauchak, Dearborn, blasted Rod and Ken Carpenter, Livonia, in the boys' doubles category. The Dearborn pair won in straight sets, 6-2 and 6-3.

The mixed doubles team of Crystal Glossop, Dearborn, and Pausani edged Pete Maraveas and Jane Read, Dearborn, in three sets 6-5, 2-6 and 6-3.

Glossop was also a part of the girls' doubles winning team. Nancy Guido, Dearborn, was the other member of the pair which defeated Anna and Mariel Lladoc of Taylor, for the title. The scores were 6-4 and 7-5.

Mark Mendola, a Garden City resident, defeated Tommy Spade in the finals of the boys' 14 and under class. Mendola beat the Northville resident in straight sets, 6-1 and 6-2.

The boys' 18-and-under class was captured by Mike McClure of Saline. McClure defeated Livonian Rod Carpenter in straight sets, 6-1 and 6-2.

Kathy Horton was the girls' 18 and under winner. Horton, from Plymouth, defeated Diane Gilroy, of Westland, 6-3 and 6-0.

The winners received trophies for their efforts.

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Area women top tourney

Eleven champions were crowned last weekend in the Westland Open Tennis Tournament. More than 200 tennis players contended for the titles.

Mike Anderson, of Westland, was the winner of the men's single competition. He defeated Tom Sheridan of Dearborn in straight sets, 6-1 and 6-0.

Sylvia Kazaleh was the women's single winner. She defeated Ceci Warrick, of Plymouth, 1-6, 6-0, and 6-2.

The doubles competition was unusual in that the winning teams all won by default.

Dave Leitch, Wayne, and Jane Spear, Farmington, won the mixed doubles by default over Bill Nelson and Kathy Horton, both of Plymouth.

The women's doubles title was captured by Pat Piel, Farmington, and Fran Denawiet, West Bloomfield. Barb Wroblewski, Melvindale, and Alicia Gabrys, Westland, defaulted.

A Livonia twosome won the men's doubles. Bob Hinson and Bob Mazzola took the title by default over Pete Lucas and Len Bazilek, of Westland.

The juniors competition was as heated as the adult rounds.