

Area marathoner overcomes handicaps

By DAVID STOCKMAN

Competing in the recent Detroit Free Press marathon was more than just sweating it out for a full three hours and the complete 26 miles for a 17-year-old Southfield-Lathrup senior.

It was the high point of a metamorphosis from a youngster born with birth defects to a runner who beat three-quarters of the field and further proved to himself that determination and a will to excel are valuable traits in life.

MICHAEL STALLSMITH, the S-L senior, broke the tape at the marathon with a time of three hours and 18 minutes, which was 747th of 3,784 runners who entered the grueling marathon.

Stallsmith's time was good enough to beat two teachers and an assistant principal from Southfield-Lathrup. It was one of the first competitive races for Stallsmith.

In his previous three years of high school, Stallsmith didn't run track or cross country for the Chargers. Instead, he prepared for baseball and intramural sports. But a promotion and entry form for the marathon in the sponsoring newspaper last summer caught Stallsmith's eye as something to do, prepare for, look forward to, compete in and finish.

Cleft palate (a mouth defect), spinal chord and ear operations totaling 28, took up many days and weeks of Stallsmith's first 16 years, as doctors and the Stallsmith family attempted to curb the lingering effects of birth defects.

In addition, Stallsmith was born with another abnormal anatomical characteristic known as webbed hands and

one webbed foot. According to his mother, doctors had given the newborn youngster less than a 10 percent chance of survival. But medical and family perseverance aided Michael in overcoming those 1-in-10 odds.

After young Michael was operated on to correct the severest and most urgent of the spinal chord deficiencies, it was in and out of the hospital for a few more operations, during which time doctors said Stallsmith would never be able to walk or sit up, according to Mrs. Stallsmith.

"They also told us Michael wouldn't live to be 3 years old," she said.

When he wasn't in the hospital or at school, Stallsmith was gradually learning how to perform simple functions, such as sipping through a straw or picking up a penny, which is taken for granted by people with properly formed and performing fingers, hands and mouths.

Although the hospital stays continued, Stallsmith played little league baseball in Southfield when he was 8 years old. He had to grip the bat differently, but he hit the ball with as much consistency as many other 8-year-old boys.

"ANYBODY CAN do anything if they put their minds to it, whether they are handicapped or not," said Stallsmith.

"I don't consider myself handicapped, and, in sports, I want to improve on everything I do. I try my best and also want to serve as an inspiration for people to accomplish things and then keep on going."

Such has been the case in basketball, volleyball, swimming, golf and bowl-

ing, as Stallsmith has attempted the many avenues of sports.

"Michael is an insight to our family and the children in the neighborhood," said Stallsmith's stepfather, Vince Fowler. "When we get down, we look at Michael, see the obstacles he has overcome and observe what he's doing and accomplishing . . . and we get ourselves up."

"Michael has always had a strong will," said Barbara Fowler, Stallsmith's mother.

THE SOUTHFIELD youth's influence has been such that both parents, his sister Gail and brother David, plus many neighborhood children, have run miles nightly with Michael, according to Vince Fowler.

Stallsmith says he practiced seven days a week while averaging 10 miles a day.

While running he also encountered a stray German Shepherd dog and took off in quick retreat from the large, jawed canine.

All the practice paid off the day of the race when Stallsmith passed numerous runners who were too tired to complete the 26-mile run.

His prowess on the ball field has continued for the past nine seasons while performing in city leagues.

Stallsmith has also coached younger little league teams. But missing the cut for the Southfield-Lathrup's baseball team his sophomore and junior years, he turned to distance running as another means of staying active and healthy with a personal striving toward overcoming obstacles.

Since Stallsmith can't breathe through his nose, he has learned to regulate his breathing while running.

Like the other birth deficiencies, Stallsmith indicates he'll go out for the one-mile, two-mile or five-mile distance runs for Southfield-Lathrup's track team next spring.

From there he sees running in college at the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus as a very good possibility.

Although baseball is his favorite sport, Stallsmith indicates that running, unlike baseball, can last longer so he'll continue to give his legs a daily endurance workout.

And then there's next year's marathon when Stallsmith hopes to go under the three-hour mark.

It may be hard to break that time barrier or overcome that obstacle but, Stallsmith reasons, "If a person is enthusiastic about something, they can keep on getting better at it."

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Smokers may pocket rising health costs

The health costs of cigarette smoking in the U.S. have reached a staggering \$27 billion every year, according to this year's Surgeon General's report, paid for by smokers and nonsmokers.

During the last decade more than three million Americans have died from alleged cigarette-related diseases. Although there is no way to calculate the physical and emotional suffering involved, there are ways to calculate the financial costs.

Attempts have been made to shift some of the financial burden from the shoulders of those who do not smoke. At least 32 American insurance companies now offer significant discounts of up to 20 percent to nonsmokers — for health, accident, fire, and life policies.

Concerned observers are proposing further shifts. Dr. Blake Cady of the Lahey Clinic Foundation in Boston suggests a "health tax" be added to each pack of cigarettes. The monies would

go into a special fund for smoking-related medical expenses.

Insurance companies and Blue Cross/Blue Shield could apply to this fund to cover medical expenses caused by smoking. In turn, insurance companies and Blue Cross would be required to reduce their health insurance premiums for everyone — in proportion to the monies they received from the fund.

Devising ways to lighten the financial burden on nonsmokers of the health costs of smoking poses great complexities. But it is becoming an issue.

One way to eliminate the burden, says the American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan, is to convince smokers to value their own lungs and lives. To help the Lung Association start reversing a national tragedy, answer your Christmas Seal letter today. It's a matter of life and breath.



Michael Stallsmith has overcome many physical disabilities in his lifetime, and strives to continue to enjoy all athletic activities. (Staff photo by Mindy Saunders)

NOTICE

CITY OF FARMINGTON

THE ACTUAL USE REPORT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FOR FEDERAL GENERAL REVENUE SHARING PAYMENTS, FISCAL YEAR 1978-1979, IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC EXAMINATION DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS IN THE TREASURER'S OFFICE, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 23500 LIBERTY.

WINONA WOODS, Treasurer

CITY OF FARMINGTON

CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL will hold a Public Hearing at 8:00 P.M. November 19, 1979, in the Council Chambers, 23600 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan, for the purpose of reviewing a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which would define the height of structures.

A complete copy of the proposed amendment is on file in the office of the City Clerk for public inspection.

All interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views at the above time and place. Any other information regarding the above is available at the office of the City Clerk.

NEDRA VIANE, City Clerk

Publish: November 1, 1979

Annual Report for Clarenceville School District

As of June 30, 1978

Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties

GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET		DEBT RETIREMENT FUNDS COMBINED BALANCE SHEET				
	1979	1978				
ASSETS						
Cash on hand	\$ 500	\$ 500	Cash in bank	\$121,074	\$159	
Cash in bank	868,350	200,898	Investments	—	120,500	
Investments	390,000	1,250,000	Taxes receivable	31,903	29,564	
Accounts receivable:			Accrued interest receivable	—	207	
Federal	49,716	42,522	Total assets	<u>\$152,977</u>	<u>\$150,430</u>	
Other	76,494	36,794	FUND EQUITY	<u>\$152,977</u>	<u>\$150,430</u>	
Taxes receivable	210,552	169,031	SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION			
Inventories—At cost	76,629	61,322	Bonds outstanding—	\$4,400,000	\$4,715,000	
Due from other funds	12,803	42,665	Payments payable			
Prepaid expenditures	28,595	20,391	Principal	\$320,000	\$315,000	
Deferred bus costs	82,555	70,645	Interest	178,620	191,755	
Accrued interest receivable	4,343	28,877	Total debt requirements in			
Total assets	<u>\$1,800,536</u>	<u>\$1,923,645</u>	subsequent fiscal year	<u>\$498,620</u>	<u>\$506,755</u>	
LIABILITIES						
Notes payable (Note 2)	\$ 950,000	\$ 900,000	DEBT RETIREMENTS FUNDS			
Accounts payable	24,331	41,384	COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND			
Salaries payable	396,869	375,603	CHANGE IN FUND EQUITY			
Salary withholdings payable	346	89,002		1979	1978	
Accrued expenses	66,098	53,279	REVENUES			
Due to other governmental units	—	165	Current property tax levy	\$470,471	\$494,143	
Reserve for obligations—Federal	5,033	5,973	Interest on:			
Deposits	10,980	10,466	Delinquent taxes	1,005	1,352	
Total liabilities	<u>1,453,157</u>	<u>1,474,872</u>	Investments	22,311	13,422	
DEFERRED REVENUES				State aid	18,218	
Federal programs	\$ 22,403	\$ 12,283	Total revenues	<u>\$12,005</u>	<u>\$24,828</u>	
Summer school	2,140	2,195	EXPENDITURES			
Total deferred revenues	<u>24,543</u>	<u>14,478</u>	Bond principal	315,000	300,000	
FUND EQUITY	<u>322,836</u>	<u>434,295</u>	Bond interest	191,755	204,346	
Total liabilities, deferred			Paying agent fees and other expense	2,703	1,098	
revenues and fund equity	<u>\$1,800,536</u>	<u>\$1,923,645</u>	Total expenditures	<u>\$508,458</u>	<u>\$505,458</u>	
			EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	2,547	19,384	
			FUND EQUITY—Beginning of year	<u>150,430</u>	<u>131,046</u>	
			FUND EQUITY—End of year	<u>\$152,977</u>	<u>\$150,430</u>	
GENERAL FUND				INSTRUMENT INFORMATION		
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND					1978	1979
CHANGE IN FUND EQUITY				State Equalized Valuation	\$84,038,462	\$89,682,609
				SEV per child	29,384	34,446
REVENUES	1979	1978	Value of Equipment/Bldg./Land	19,177,100	21,446,303	
Local sources	\$3,357,081	\$3,217,944	Number of Buildings	8	8	
State sources	1,657,699	1,687,103	Number of Classrooms	182	182	
Federal sources	172,265	231,695	Number of Resident Students	2,858	2,803	
County special education tax	70,287	48,600	Number of Non-Resident Students	—	—	
Sale of school property	9,414	—	Number of Fulltime Pupils	2,860	2,603	
Incomeing transfers	—	612	Number of Fulltime Teachers	140	134	
Total revenues	<u>5,266,726</u>	<u>5,185,954</u>	Pupil Teacher Ratio	21-1	20-1	
EXPENDITURES			Teacher Salary			
Instructional	3,050,258	2,883,575	Minimum 84	10,540	11,278	
Support services	2,123,171	2,037,850	Maximum MA	20,759	22,212	
Community service	—	—	Total Operating Tax Levied	36.90	35.88	
Transfers to School Service Fund	69,336	64,262	Total Debt Levied	5.88	5.25	
General Fund support of Federal projects	4,344	—				
Other nonprogram charges	1,076	478	Superintendent's Statement			
Total expenditures	<u>5,378,185</u>	<u>4,986,172</u>	The 1978-79 financial experience of the Clarencesville School District was somewhat better than I had estimated it would be in last years financial statement. At that time, I estimated that the District's expenditures would			
EXCESS REVENUES (EXPENDITURES)	(111,459)	1,760				
FUND EQUITY—Beginning of year	434,295	234,515				
FUND EQUITY—End of year	<u>\$322,836</u>	<u>\$434,295</u>				

GENERAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGE IN FUND EQUITY

	1979	1978
REVENUES		
Local sources	\$3,357,081	\$3,217,944
State sources	1,657,699	1,687,103
Federal sources	172,265	231,695
County special education tax	70,267	48,600
Sale of school property	9,414	—
Incoming transfers	—	612
Total revenues	<u>5,266,726</u>	<u>5,185,954</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Instructional	3,090,258	2,883,575
Support services	2,213,171	2,037,890
Community service	—	9
Transfers to School Service Fund	69,336	64,262
General Fund support of Federal projects	4,344	—
Other nonprogram charges	1,076	478
Total expenditures	<u>5,378,185</u>	<u>4,985,714</u>
EXCESS REVENUES (EXPENDITURES)	<u>(111,459)</u>	<u>199,780</u>
FUND EQUITY—Beginning of year	<u>434,295</u>	<u>334,535</u>
FUND EQUITY—End of year	<u>\$322,836</u>	<u>\$434,295</u>

BUILDING AND SITE FUND BALANCE SHEET

	1979	1978
ASSETS		
Cash in bank	\$ 10	\$8,410
Investments	8,400	—
Accrued interest receivable	554	176
Total assets	<u>\$9,964</u>	<u>8,586</u>
FUND EQUITY	<u>\$9,964</u>	<u>\$8,586</u>

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGE IN FUND EQUITY

	1979	1978
REVENUES—Interest on Investment	\$ 378	\$ 986
EXPENDITURES—Remodeling and Improvements	—	73,247
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENDITURES)	<u>378</u>	<u>(72,261)</u>
FUND EQUITY—Beginning of year	<u>8,586</u>	<u>80,847</u>
FUND EQUITY—End of year	<u>\$9,964</u>	<u>\$8,586</u>

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INSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION

	1978	1979
State Equalized Valuation	\$84,038,462	\$89,662,609
SEV per child	29,384	34,446
Value of Equipment/Bldg./Land	19,177,100	21,446,303
Number of Buildings	8	8
Number of Classrooms	182	182
Number of Resident Students	2,858	2,603
Number of Non-Resident Students	2	0
Number of Fulltime Pupils	2,860	2,603
Number of Fulltime Teachers	140	134
Pupil Teacher Ratio	21-1	20-1
Teacher Salary		
Minimum B.A.	10,540	11,278
Maximum M.A.	20,759	22,212
Total Operating Tax Levied	36.90	35.88
Total Debt Levied	5.88	5.25

Superintendent's Statement

The 1979-79 financial experience of the Clarenceville School District was somewhat better than I had estimated it would be in last year's financial statement. At that time, I estimated that the District's expenditures would exceed its revenues by \$200,000, thereby reducing the fund equity from \$434,295 to \$234,295. As it turned out the operating deficit was \$111,459, which leaves the District with a fund equity (reserve) of \$322,836 to begin the 1979-80 year.

Due to the fact that school revenues for declining enrollment districts are not increasing equal to the inflating cost, I estimate that the District's expenditures for the 1979-80 year will exceed its revenue by \$300,000. If this proves to be true the District will have very little reserve to start the 1980-81 year and will be forced to balance the budget to current revenue. It goes without saying that to accomplish the above the District must increase its revenue or reduce its expenses or do a combination of both. The enrollment continues to decline. It dropped from 2,603 last year to 2,429 for this year. Since 1967, the high water mark for the District's enrollment, there has been a total loss of 1,590 students with the elementary schools losing 1,239 students of the total figure. As of this date the bonds outstanding are \$4,400,000. The principal and interest for 1979-80 will be \$498,620. The Board has levied 4.25 mills to meet this obligation.

The reader should be aware that the Clarenceville Board of Education, in the face of an inflating economy and declining student population, has provided an excellent educational program without major cutbacks and has done this within the means of the District.

My prediction for next year is that the enrollment will decline by another 180 students and that unless considerable additional revenue is acquired (about \$600,000) the District will be forced to close an elementary school and make other severe cutbacks in order to balance the budget.

David B. McDowell, Superintendent