

Thursday, July 24, 1980

Festival 'foot race' replaces mini-marathon

By TOM BAER

The mini-marathon, for many years an important part of the Farmington Founders' Festival, is being eliminated this summer in favor of a much shorter "foot race," according to officials of the sponsoring Farmington-Area YMCA.

Two shorter races — 2.5 and five miles, compared to the 10-mile run of past years — will be held beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday near the YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road north of 12 Mile.

In the past, runners followed a long course which meandered through Farmington and Farmington Hills and ended near the festival parade on Grand River. The new course — 2.5 miles — is contained in a subdivision to the east of the YMCA.

"I'm a runner myself and I know there are some risks involved in running in the heat of the summer," said Kevin Bush, the assistant executive director of the Farmington-Area YMCA. "Our committee decided to go with more of a fun-run setup. Hopefully,

we'll hold the 10-mile race in the fall when it's cooler.

"And by having the festival race near the Y, we'll be avoiding the congestion of the parade area in downtown Farmington."

Bush said that 275 runners had pre-registered at \$3.50 each. Late registrations, at \$5 each, will be accepted at the YMCA from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Friday.

Runners may still register on the morning of the race if they show up at

least 15 minutes before the starting times — 9 a.m. for the 2.5 mile race and 9:45 a.m. for the five mile.

THERE WILL BE 12 competitive classifications, six each for men and women. Age groups are: 13 and under, 14-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-50 and 50 and over.

Wooden plaques will be awarded to the winner of each age group. The first 200 to pre-register received T-shirts, and every entrant was given a commemorative patch.

"We want everyone to feel a part of it — and to walk away with something," said Bush, a 26-year-old Allen Park resident who recently began his duties at the Farmington Y.

"We also want to promote fitness and health as a life style. Just because an individual can't run a mile in under six minutes doesn't mean that he or she isn't a winner."

The course begins at Tulipwood and Farmington roads and runs north on Kendallwood, east on Ardwick, north on Glen Arden, east on Wayburn, north

on Chesterbrook to 13 Mile, west on 13 Mile to Farmington, and south to the YMCA.

The course will be repeated for the five-mile race.

An aid station will be set up at the one-mile mark, according to Bush.

"Runners can walk through the course before the race if they wish, and there'll be course markers and people to direct them on race day," he said.

Bush said the 10-mile mini-marathon may be held in late October.



Matt Gerard was a determined 13-year-old on the chinning bar Tuesday evening at the Farmington Youth Fitness Meet. Matt represented

Larkshire Playground. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Fans decide fitness champ

By TOM BAER

The spectators played a key role in the festivities last Tuesday at the sixth-annual Farmington Youth Fitness Olympics at Farmington High School.

For the first time, the fans were allowed to cast ballots to decide the winner of the sportsmanship award, given to the playground team which displays the best sportsmanship, conduct and style during the meet.

The crowd of about 200, which included Farmington Hills Mayor JoAnn Soronen and Farmington Mayor William Hartsock, voted for Larkshire Playground, a 22-member team directed by Krista Peria.

"I think they picked the right group," said Evans Bageris, the playground supervisor for the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, which sponsors the meet.

"Larkshire's kids marched out smartly before the meet, and their behavior during the calisthenics and national anthem was super. They also made a team banner, which was well-received by the fans."

More than 200 youngsters ages 8 through 15 participated in this year's Youth Fitness Olympics. Each of the Farmington area's 10 playgrounds entered a team for the athletic competition, which tests playground skills.

MIDDLEBELT PLAYGROUND, under the direction of Maureen

Knoll, scored 34 points to win the trophy for athletic excellence. Forest and Larkshire tied for second place with 28 points each. Gill Road was next with 21.

Boys and girls competed in the 50-yard dash, triple jump, running broad jump, softball throw, shuttle relay, standing broad jump and chinning.

There were four competitive age classifications — Class A, ages 14-15; Class B, 12-13; Class C, 10-11; and Class D, 9 and under.

"The kids seem to like this program," Bageris said.

The winners in the top three classes will represent Farmington in the 23rd-annual Detroit Youth Fitness Meet July 31 on Detroit's Belle Isle. That meet will attract more than 2,500 youngsters from 64 area cities.

SPORTSMANSHIP and conduct are just as important at the Metro Meet as in the local olympics. The teams will be shooting for the John J. Considine Award, emblematic of good sportsmanship, conduct and appearance.

"Our kids are fired up for that meet," Bageris said. "You hear comments like, 'We're going to be first at the Metro Meet.' The competition is real stiff, but they're looking forward to it."

"Our running broad jump looks pretty good for the Metro Meet. I wouldn't want to predict a victory, though. The competition is just too strong."

Novi is victim

Pitchers pace Legion sweep

Farmington American Legion's pitching strength was showing last Sunday in its double-header sweep of Novi in the 18th District.

Farmington used a two-hitter by Mike Tetreault to win the opening game, 5-3. Tetreault, a righthander with a 6-1 record, struck out 12 and walked three.

"He's pitching beautiful ball," said Farmington manager Wally Christensen, whose team has a 14-9 record. "His best pitch is his fast ball. And he can put it where he wants it."

Farmington, which had 11 hits in the game, scored three runs in the third inning. Barry Williams collected two hits in three trips to the plate for Farmington, and teammate Bruce Morrison

went one for three. Rich Nutter walked three times and scored a run.

Farmington battered Novi 11-1, in the nightcap as righthander Jim Whitworth pitched a four-hitter. The Farmington High baseball standout fanned six and walked two.

"He has this big roundhouse curve and he really keeps the batters off stride with it," Christensen said.

Farmington pounded out 12 hits and had big innings in the fourth (three runs) and the fifth (five). Catcher Rex Baker had three hits and drove in four runs. Nutter and Williams each had two hits.

Infielder Rob King, who played at Walled Lake Western, had an good day

at the plate with a triple, single and a walk. He scored three runs.

IN ANOTHER recent 18th-District game, Farmington edged Watertown Chief Pontiac 4-3.

Winning pitcher Steve Rutkowski went the distance, throwing a three-hitter, striking out five and walking five. Hall went two for three and knocked in two runs, and Nutter went one for three and drove in one run.

Morrison drove in a run on a ground out, but was held hitless for the first time this summer.

In another game, Lake Orion nipped Farmington 6-5. LO's Rick Goinon provided the big blow, a two-run homer in the fifth inning. Winning pitcher Frank

Firestone went the distance, giving up 12 hits, fanning three and walking two.

Nutter was the losing pitcher in relief. Starter Brian Bruce left with shoulder trouble with two out in the third inning.

"We pushed ourselves out of this one," Christensen said. "Our big mistake was trying to stretch base hits. And there were a lot of missed signs — guys not swinging on a hit and run."

Baker had three hits, including a homer, and drove in three runs. Morrison was two for three and drove in a run.

The Farmington Founders' Festival softball tournament has forced the American Legion to shift the site of its Friday game against Auburn Heights. The game begins at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows, 10 Mile and Power roads.

Village sinks Woodbrooke Hills

Beechview tankers stop C-B

Diana Raddatz won two events in the girls' 11-12 age group last week to help Farmington Beechview to a 343-188 win over Livonia C-B in the Northwest Suburban Swimming League.

She won the 50-meter backstroke (41.2 seconds) and the 50 freestyle (34.65).

Beechview, coached by Laurie Dalstrom and Terry Inch, got another double victory from Sandy Schwedt, who won the 100 individual medley (1:20.3) for 13- to 14-year-olds and the 50 butterfly (33.3) in the 15-17 group.

Elizabeth Tucker, swimming in the 7-8 girls' group, won the 50 backstroke (25.55) and the breaststroke (26.06). Teammate Paula King won the 50 fly (33.8) for 13-14 girls and the 100 freestyle (1:08.22) in the 15-17 group.

Beechview's 40-year girls' freestyle relay (Tucker, Mary Wik, Raddatz and King) won with a time of 1:05.1. Maureen Kelly, Katherine Tucker, Amy Allen and Nancy Schwedt combined to

win the 52-year girls' medley relay for Beechview with a time of 2:37.5.

Beechview, now 4-1 in NSSL dual

meets, swims next at home against Farmington Hills Kendallwood Swim Club on Thursday.

IN ANOTHER recent NSSL meet, Beverly Hills Woodside Athletic Club defeated Farmington Glen, 300-272.

Alec Campbell of Farmington Glen shattered two club records in the losing cause. He was timed in 27.46 in the 13-14 freestyle for one standard, and then went 31.85 for a record in the 13-14 backstroke. Jim Vik, swimming in the boys' 9-10 freestyle, set another Glen record with a 33.55 clocking.

Cindy Meli and Kathy Bainbridge accounted for two more Glen records. Meli went 37.01 in the 13-14 50 breast, and Bainbridge went 32.65 in the 15-14 backstroke.

Gretchen Larson was another double winner for Glen. She won the freestyle (38.78) and the 100-meter IM (1:18.39). The Catto sisters, Kathy and Kristine, were double winners for Wood-

side. Kristine won the 50 back (38.83) and the 100 IM (1:22.86) in the 11-12 group. Kathy took the 50 fly (42.0) and the back (45.0) in the 9-10 group.

VILLAGE ATHLETIC Club whipped Woodbrooke Hills of Farmington Hills, 300-269, in another meet.

Cindy Cramer, swimming in the 9-10 group, won the 50 breast (44.0) and the 50 freestyle (34.3, a club record). Groupmate Jason Wolf won the 50 backstroke (41.4) and the 50 freestyle (33.2).

Woodbrooke Hills posted three double winners in the 11-12 age group. Kathy Pierog won the 100 IM (1:19.1) and the 50 fly (34.1). Scott Stinson finished first in the 100 IM (1:16.6) and the 50 backstroke. Pat Dunigan won the 50 fly (35.4) and the 50 breast (41.9).

Colleen Carey, swimming in the 13-14 group, won the 50 back (55.7) and the 50 freestyle (29.5).

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