

Best finisher from Michigan

Canton runner 11th at Boston Marathon

By C.J. Rieak
staff writer

Dave Hinz didn't lose his way in his first-ever Boston Marathon Monday. Nope — Hinz stayed right on course. The Canton resident's race course was the same 26-mile, 385-yard event more than 5,000 runners tread. But there was a personal course for Hinz to follow as well if he is to reach his goal — the 1984 Olympic Games.

Along that road, Hinz did better than he hoped, finishing 11th overall at Boston in two hours, 12:05.

"I'M JUST ECSTATIC," the 30-year-old insurance salesman said Tuesday. "I still haven't come down from it. I slept like a log the night before the race but I haven't slept since. I'm on cloud nine."

On the clouds for Hinz's elation are simple his previous best marathon performance was last Oct. 3, when he won the Detroit Free Press event. His time was two hours, 17:41.

Hinz sliced over five minutes off that time on a course he said was "conservatively 1 1/2 to two minutes slower because of the hills."

"I knocked a helluva chunk off my personal best," he said. The strong finish accomplished several things for Hinz. As he explained, "My goals going into Boston were threefold.

"First, I wanted to qualify for the Olympic Trials. There was really no doubt I would do that (qualifying time was 2:19:04) but I wanted to do it impressively.

"My idealistic goal was to finish in the top 10. I nearly did that. I was closing in on (four-time champion Bill) Rodgers in the last miles but I couldn't catch him (Rodgers finished seven seconds ahead of Hinz).

HINZ'S THIRD goal was to lower his time. "At Detroit, I felt I was in shape to go 2:14:00. Here, I wanted to go 2:13:00."

Hot weather disappointed Hinz in the

Free Press Marathon. But Monday at Boston, it was overcast and cool, and Hinz took advantage of it to outrace even his expectations.

"It was nothing like I envisioned," Hinz said of Boston, the most prestigious of marathons. "Everyone told me the first 10 miles was all downhill and the last few were all uphill, so don't go out too hard."

"I wasn't really like that. The first miles were mostly downhill but there were a lot of rolling hills. And it wasn't all uphill leading up to 'Heartbreak Hill.' The final miles weren't nearly as hilly as I thought they would be. In fact, I picked up a lot of places through there."

Hinz called the competition "the strongest American field ever at Boston." Alberto Salazar, the world marathon record holder, was about the only American runner to pass up Boston, mainly because it served as the qualifying event for the U.S. Olympic Trials. Some 74 runners bested the Olympic Trials qualifying cutoff time.

THAT MADE HINZ's performance that much more impressive. The event was won by Greg Meyer in 2:09:00.

The showing boosted Hinz onto the world class marathoner list and, more importantly, put him in the running for a berth on one of several American teams currently being selected.

"If I had my druthers, I'd like to go to Helsinki for the World (Track and Field) Games," Hinz said. "But there were nine Americans who finished ahead of me and no one's going to pass up World Games."

"But I might get selected to the Pan American team. If worse comes to worse, I should be a shoe-in for the Midwest representative for the National Festival in Colorado Springs in June."

The World Games are Aug. 7-14 in Helsinki, Finland. That's where all the world's best marathoners will be. The Pan Am games are in Caracas, Venezuela, Aug. 14-28. Because of the lengthy preparation needed for a marathon, no one will race both events. Meyer has

already announced he will probably forego the marathon at the World Games and concentrate on the 10,000-meter run.

HINZ, WHO MADE the 1980 Olympic Trials in the marathon, is now more confident than ever in his chances to make the American team.

"I've had a thing on my wall ever since the trials in 1980," Hinz said. "It says, 'I will make the Olympic team in 1984.'"

"It did sound farfetched, but after seeing that 2:12:00 it doesn't sound far-fetched anymore."

"I'm progressing well."

Local races are all Hinz has in mind between now and the summer's competition. And he's still waiting to see what national teams he's chosen for.

Until then, it's a matter of continued training (over 100 miles a week) with goals of continued improvement.



Dave Hinz
Boston standout

Live Y'er contingent in Florida

A 25-person contingent from the Oakland Live Y'ers is competing this week in Ft. Lauderdale in the national YMCA swimming meet, the largest swim meet in the world with more than 1,000 swimmers and 150 teams entered.

The Live Y'ers, co-sponsored by Oakland University and the Rochester YMCA, finished fourth in the meet last

year and had hopes for first this year upon their departure.

"Our strength lies in our four relays," said coach Mark Johnston. "We've made a big improvement. The addition of the Barnicoats gives us the opportunity to move up in the ranks, both overall and in the girls competition."

The Barnicoats he referred to are sisters Karen and Sheryl of Bloomfield

Hills. In the state meet, Karen was second in the 100-meter backstroke and Sheryl was third for Andover High.

Other standout local swimmers who made the trip include Bruce Verburg from Rochester, the state champ in the 100 and 200 freestyle who was the Y swimmer of the year in the state; Jim Bruzese of Rochester, who was second in the state in the 100 butterfly and the

100 freestyle; Dan Wery of Rochester, who was first in the state in the 100 breaststroke; Kris Amir of Rochester, who was the 200 individual medley state champ; and Kelly Wilkas of Rochester who was second in the 200 IM.

The competition is for swimmers aged 6-18. The meet ends this weekend.

sport shorts

● HARK, RUNNERS

Saturday, June 12 — The City of Southfield is looking for runners for a 10-kilometer race it is hosting in conjunction with its 25th anniversary.

The race, known as the 2001 Run, will begin at 8:30 a.m. and run for the most part along US-10. Southfield is expecting big things from this race (including 2,000 runners). It has hired a public relations firm to promote it and already sponsors include WDIV.

TV (channel 4), PR Associates, Macabees Mutual Life Insurance Co., Northland Center and Providence.

The entry fee is \$6 for early registration and \$9 for late. It will, surprise of surprises, not include the normally ubiquitous T-shirt, but will include a visor and other goodies not yet decided upon. For information on obtaining an entry form, call 354-3603, Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

LIT offers 10K Fun Run for cash

If Sunday's West Bloomfield Half-Marathon is a little long for you, don't worry, we've got just the run for you.

There will be a 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) fun run Saturday at Lawrence Institute of Technology, sponsored by the student chapter of the American Insti-

tute of Architects. Registration is \$6 and includes a nifty T-shirt designed by the winner of a student designing contest.

In the likely event that you don't have an entry coupon lying around the house, you can register 9-10 a.m. Saturday at the Architecture Building on the

LIT campus, or you can call 356-0200 during business hours for information on receiving an entry form. The race begins at 10:30 a.m.

One unusual wrinkle to the run is that a cash award of \$25 is being offered to both the top male and top

female finisher. Plaques and medals also will be given to various age-group winners.

The organizers bill this as a fun run, and they want the fun part emphasized. Competitors in years past have ranged in age from 13 to 58 and their times from 30.5 minutes to 90 minutes.

CYO holds fitness meet at St. Hugo's

The Catholic Youth Organization held a physical fitness competition Saturday at St. Hugo Elementary School in Bloomfield Hills, and when the six-event program was finished, the kids from St. Hugo's held their heads high.

Eleven Catholic grade schools and 350 youngsters competed in the program, with competition broken down by sex, proficiency (athletes and non-athletes) and grade (6, 7 and 8).

Individual winners for St. Hugo's

were: Sit-ups — Mike McMannon, Mike Ryan, Scott DeMeulemeester and Colleen Healy; Pull-ups — Tom White and Mark Majjar; Flexed-arm hang — Melinda Smilgetski, Julie Ruprecht and Terry Soave; Shuttle run — Jenny Ray-

mond and Brendon Murphy; Agility run — Jenny Raymond, John Ma and Sean McMannon; 600-yard dash — Molly Brenner, Melinda Smilgetski, Tom White, Mark Majjar and Sean McMannon.

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