

Marathon Man!

Meyer makes a Southfield pit stop

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

Last Sunday Greg Meyer was practically a nobody. Tuesday morning he was doing live network TV in New York, his face beaming into millions of homes. That's what happens when you win the Boston Marathon.

What also happened to Meyer is that he stands to make maybe an extra \$150,000 in the next year. His phone rings off the hook with people and companies wanting appearances at clinics and in races. Shoe companies send representatives out to greet him and his fans at each stop.

Meyer repaid an old favor Friday, showing up for a four-hour appearance at Charlie Blanchard's Total Runner store at the Franklin Shopping Plaza in Southfield. What greeted him when he stepped from his car promptly at 4:30 p.m. was a witness to his new popularity—lights, cameras and action in the form of Jim Brandstatter from Channel 2, a store full of fans eager to meet him and get an autograph, photographers and representatives from Detroit's daily papers.

Greg Meyer strolling into a store was news.

IT'S NOT AS IF Meyer was an unknown in the world of track. On the contrary. He holds American records over 15 and 20 kilometers, won last year's prestigious Chicago

Marathon and was the favorite going into Monday's 26.2-mile footrace through Boston.

But he certainly wasn't news, or recognizable. Though he was born in Grand Rapids, educated at the University of Michigan (where he was an All-American in track) and a marathon champ for the first time in the Detroit Free Press International of 1980, before Monday he would have ranked well down the list of the state's best-known athletes.

Certainly no one ever worried about whether they'd get him on the 5:45 report.

Two hours and nine minutes Monday morning changed all that forever. "They can never take Boston away from me," said Meyer, smiling the broad smile he's been smiling since his win, in a time that was the 10th fastest ever. Wednesday, he was back home in Grand Rapids, with family and childhood friends. "It's been hectic," said Meyer. "You get all wired. You can't sleep. It starts to catch up to you."

Thursday the phone, more friends, more requests. "It's like Bill Rodgers said of the race," said Meyer of his best friend and former Boston winner. "Enjoy it. Savor the win. Somewhere along the line, you're going to have to say no, now."

Friday, to Southfield, where Brandstatter wants him and Barash wants him. When they are done, while the fans wait patiently, Meyer goes into the back room for 45 min-

utes of interviews.

THESE ARE THE highlights of Meyer's interviews. He was gracious, friendly, engaging, intelligent and self-mocking, altogether a far cry from the often stern, self-important demeanor of world class runners.

● On whether there was any point in his run when he wanted to quit. "Oh, yes. It was at 10 or 12 miles and my legs just weren't feeling well. 'Oh, no,' I thought. 'After all the buildup.' I was only eight-tenths of a mile from my house. I thought I'd ball out and watch it on TV."

● On the crowd of 2,000 runners at the starting line. "There was no room to warm up. We couldn't jog. The first half-mile was all down hill and we were going so fast. I wasn't warm. It sounds funny, but my legs came up flat. I was struggling at five miles. I had a groin cramp early, and my left calf wasn't functioning right."

● On running and money. "I'm not into milking the Boston Marathon for all it's worth. . . You win New York, you get maybe \$10,000, \$15,000 under the table. Boston you get a medal and an olive wreath, and I already gave the olive wreath away."

● On his plans for the immediate future. "I'm going fishing this weekend. The steelhead are running at Manistee. I did that last year after I

won in Chicago. On our pier, they only caught four steelhead all weekend and I caught one of 'em within a half hour of casting in."

● On whether he could have run faster in Boston. "I was cruising. Coasting. There was more left in the tank."

● On the Olympics in '84 in Los Angeles, where he is a prospect for a gold in either the 10,000 meters or the marathon. "I don't want to see it (Olympic gold) up as a goal. You always get politicians who can screw it up."

● On rival Alberto Salazar, the world-record holder who passed up Boston a couple of weeks ago to run in Rotterdam, where he lost his first marathon in five attempts. "It's nice to see he's seen. In a way, I'd liked to have seen him have a bad day in this country so an American could have beat him. On the other hand, it's the old Muhammad Ali syndrome. All used to shoot off his mouth but he always backed it up."

There was only one thing wrong with Meyer's day Friday. He was at a running store as a representative of Brooks shoes. He wore a Brooks shirt. Two representatives of Brooks were there with samples of their wares. Meyer passed out posters of him supplied by Brooks. There were Brooks brochures. If after all that, you were tempted to buy a pair of Brooks, there was bad news: Total Runner didn't have any Brooks in the store.



Boston Marathon winner Greg Meyer answered questions and signed autographs in Southfield Friday afternoon.

Former U-D coach lands OU basketball job

By Jim Hughes
staff writer

Oakland University replaced a winner with a winner last week when the Rochester college announced the appointment of Sue Kruszewski as its new women's basketball coach.

Kruszewski, who comes to OU from the University of Washington by way of the University of Detroit, replaces Dewayne Jones, who was named U-D's new coach in March.

Kruszewski got her start at Dominican High School in Detroit where she

coached the Ravens to two state basketball championships. As coach of the Lady Titans, she compiled a 69-15 mark. At Washington, she had a three-year record of 50-34.

The 1984 U-D graduate said her main reason for returning to her native state was simply because she was ready to come home.

"I JUST WANTED come back home," she said from the Seattle-based campus. "I enjoy the Seattle area. There was just a strong feeling for me to come back."

Oakland finished with a 23-4 record last season, and Kruszewski will attempt to keep the Pioneer program up to that level. But she will find a team that will have lost four starters to graduation. They are All-American Linda Krawford, Teresa Vondrasek, Anne Kish and Kelly Kenny. The Pioneers were selected to compete in the NCAA Division II championship tournament the past two seasons and won Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles during that time.

Since her appointment, Kruszewski has been trying to get the Oakland pro-

gram rolling. She will not begin her duties at OU until May 2, but she's already begun the work.

"I've already been on the phone and made a lot of contacts," she said. "I know there's a lot of good athletes who haven't been signed yet. There's just too many talented athletes out there for them all to be gobbled up at this point."

Although graduation will take its toll, Kruszewski has a group of players returning who she calls "a good, solid nucleus" to build toward the future. "They had a solid program under

Dewayne Jones. He made them a national contender. I wish to do the same thing, and hopefully, we'll be able to do so."

"BUT THIS IS going to take some time. We did lose four starters, but we have a good, solid nucleus returning. Gwenn Browner is an exceptional athlete. Having her back at the point (guard) will be helpful."

"I don't like to put a timetable on it. Oakland University has been competitive in the league, state and nation, and I feel it will continue to be competitive."

Oakland University's new athletic director Paul Hartman gave his vote of confidence to Kruszewski.

"We are extremely pleased to have found a coach of Susan's ability. Her career has been an outstanding one in Division I coaching, and her popular stature in the Detroit metro area will be a benefit to our program," he said.

Thursday's announcement of Kruszewski's appointment came one day after Northwood Institute coach Lori Hyman turned down an offer to head the women's program at Oakland.



North netters stop Southfield

North Farmington won all three doubles matches Thursday to beat home-court Southfield, 3-2, in boys' tennis.

Russ Ikonen and Brian Weisman teamed to win the No. 1 doubles, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3; Rob Singer and Chris Senkowski breezed in No. 2, 6-0, 6-0; and Kit Tomkowiak and Pete May won in No. 3 doubles, 6-4, 5-4.

The Blue Jays posted their two wins in No. 1 singles, where Jon Zeppa beat Jim Gaskill, 6-2, 6-0, and in No. 4 singles, where Darrin Kanfer beat Bob Ferrer, 6-3, 6-0.

The Raiders' other wins were by Tom Ferrer over Jim Haver, 7-6, 6-2, and by Chuck Homolka over Ron Nusbaum, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.

SEAHOLM WAS tough on its home courts, rolling to a 8-1 triumph over Southfield-Lathrup in a non-league match Thursday.

Seaholm won three of the four singles matches — with Paul Olmsted beating Steve Kalk, Jamie Michelson whipping Jerry Sovertnasky, and Brad Pierce topping Mark Schechter. Bobby Glenn reversed things a bit for the Chargers in No. 4 singles, posting a 1-6, 6-4 victory over Rick Boss.

But the Maples were even tougher in doubles, winning all three matches. David Pierce and Tom Kemp beat Dan Healy and Dean Singer, 6-1, 6-0; Bill Mathews and David Fishman beat Eric Kovan and Mike Noorily; and Geoff Kasselmann and Bill Dunne beat Rob Grandener and Doug Velick.

COUNTRY DAY romped over Ann Arbor Green Hills, 7-0, losing just one set in seven matches, that in No. 3 doubles.

Chris Jones paced the way in No. 1 singles, breezing to a 6-0, 6-4 win to start off the Yellow Jackets' season in fine style. The opening contest continued in fine style all the way through No. 3 doubles, where David Thomas and Abhishtad eked out a 6-7, 7-6, 7-6 win.

Redford Thurston, 7-0, Friday afternoon.

The Raiders, who dropped just one set the entire match, were led by singles winners Jim Gaskill (No. 1), Tom Ferrer (No. 2), Bob Ferrer (No. 3) and Rob Singer (No. 4). Gaskill, a freshman, won 6-1, 6-1. Bob Ferrer defeated John Kault in three sets, 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

The doubles teams included Russ Ikonen and Brian Weisman at No. 1, and the next two squads of Kit Tomkowiak and Chris Senkowski and Pete May and Scott Baker. Ikonen and Weisman didn't drop a game.

North Farmington, 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the Northwest Suburban League, plays Wednesday at Plymouth Canton.

SOUTHFIELD-LATHRUP evened its record to 1-2 with a 5-3 victory over Livonia Stevenson.

The Chargers singles winners were Steve Kalk in three sets over Stevenson's No. 1 player, Tim Niinomiya, Mark Schechter at the No. 3 slot and Bobby Glen at No. 4.

The second doubles team of Rob Grandener and Mike Noorily and the third squad of Eric Kovan and Doug Velick each won in straight sets. The No. 1 Chargers doubles team of Dan Healy and Dean Singer lost in three sets.

SEAHOLM WON its second match of the season without a loss Friday afternoon, topping Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 7-0. The Knights are 9-2.

At No. 1 singles, Jamie Michelson defeated Dave Lee, 6-1, 6-0. The other singles winners were Jamie Pell over Dave Rivera, Paul Olmsted over Joe Atkins and Brad Pierce over Pat Falge.

The No. 1 doubles team of Tom Kemp and Dave Pierce needed three sets to defeat Sereno Tiemmla and Tim Sehouse, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3. Bill Mathews and Dave Fishman defeated Magnus Stylianiaris and John Biglin at No. 3 doubles and Rick Moss and Bill Dunne defeated Mike Eper and Steve Tuffall at No. 3 doubles.

North Farmington's Jim Gaskill, a freshman, dropped his No. 1 singles match to Southfield's John Zeppa last week.

NORTH FARMINGTON blanked