

Marathon winner is instant celeb



DEBORAH BOOKER/Staff photographer

Running is a 'passion' for Dave Olds, who won a 10K race and marathon over a span of eight days.

By Marty Budner
staff writer

David Olds moved from Forest Hills (Pa.) to Bloomfield Hills two months ago. And he's already a local celebrity.

Just one week after winning the sixth annual Birmingham Run for the Blind, Olds made instant fame by charging to victory in the sixth annual Free Press International Marathon. The 10K sprint across the challenging Birmingham course was a mere warm-up for the courageous 26.2-mile effort he exhibited over the weekend through the streets of Windsor and Metropolitan Detroit.

Olds, a 22-year-old English teacher at Cranbrook High School, finished with a satisfying time of 2:16.10. Despite a stiff headwind that took its toll on all runners throughout most of the course, Olds felt comfortable after the race.

"Maybe it was because of the slow, easy pace, but I felt good about the finish," said Olds, who had officially entered in only one other marathon — in Philadelphia — before Sunday's grueling test.

"The Birmingham run showed me that I was in shape to run a full marathon," he said. "It told me I was capable of going out there, putting the hammer down and running hard. That Birmingham run gave me the last-minute confidence I needed."

OLDS FELT even better on Monday when he went back to school. In fact, he even managed a light workout in between plaudits from the school's students and faculty.

Olds, one of 4,150 runners who started the marathon, was taking his newfound celebrity status in stride.

"I don't really live for this kind of attention, but I'm not complaining about it either," he said. "I've never really seen myself on TV before. I got a call from a radio station at 6:30 (a.m. on Monday) and I don't even know what I said to them."

"I put in a regular day on Monday. Everybody in the school congratulated me as if I was an old friend. It's a good way to meet people. The people in my class were really excited."

"I walked into the student commons room and everyone got up and clapped. The headmaster got up and presented me with a Cranbrook shirt."

"At home (in Forest Hills, about seven miles east of Pittsburgh), they know who I am," he said. "And, I guess they're starting to recognize me here too."

Olds started running eight years ago and has never quit.

A youthful-looking individual with dark hair, Olds began his self-confessed passion with running in high school. He continued the sport at Princeton,

people in sports

from where he was graduated this past June.

"RUNNING HAS become pretty important to me," said Olds, an assistant track and cross country coach at Cranbrook. "I run with the kids each day and I put in some running whenever I can find some free time."

"I like the racing aspect of running, but it's also just the aspect of doing it. A long, easy run for me is equivalent to a long, easy walk for most people. It's a great way to see things and it's a great way to chat if you're with someone."

"I run between 100-140 miles per week year around, and there's no way I'd do that if I didn't like it," he said.

By winning the Free Press marathon, Olds receives an all-expense paid trip to Beantown next spring for the prestigious Boston Marathon. Olds says he'll run in that race, but he's more concerned with the Olympic Trials which will be held in late May in Buffalo.

"Making the Olympic trials is a real goal for me, but we're talking about an awfully fast time something around 2:09. One of my main reasons for running is to make the Olympics — if not this year, then in '88."

"The kids (at Cranbrook) we're all asking if I was going to be in the Olympics," he said. "I don't think they realize that only three out of some 200 runners will make the (U.S.) team."

BILL RODGERS, considered one of America's premier marathon runners, was a spectator at Sunday's Free Press event. Olds said some day he'd like his name to be mentioned in the same marathon breath as Rodgers.

"I keep improving and that's what keeps me going," said Olds. "That's how I can justify running as much as I do. Running deserves a big place for me right now."

"I've always looked up towards people like Bill (Rodgers)," he said. "I'm enthusiastic and I would like to be considered at his level at some point in my career."

It took him only two months to be recognized around here. Give Olds another couple years and he could be a household name across the country.

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For more information, call RU swim coach Jim Millen at 535-2000, Ext. 257.

• **COACH WANTED**
Redford Union High School is seeking a girls' volleyball coach for the 1983-84 season. Those interested can contact Bob Atkins, athletic director, at 535-2000.

• **WESTLAND HOOPS**
An organizational meeting for the Westland/Garden City Men's Basketball League will be at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12 at the Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road, Westland.
Team entries are limited to 12. The registration fee is \$250 per team.
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For more information, call 722-7620.

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Susan B. Anthony, Whitney Young, Clara Barton, Thomas Jefferson, Dorothea Dix, Albert Schweitzer, Henry David Thoreau, and Dorothea Dix.

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