

Boyd races for brother, MS

By Chris McCosky
staff writer

First, younger brother Jimbo was paralyzed from the neck down following a diving accident.

Then, baby sister Kathy came down with a mysterious illness that doctors initially diagnosed as multiple sclerosis.

Now Boyd found out in a painful burry about the fragile nature of human existence.

"I just felt like why does it have to be her," Boyd said reminiscing about the past traumas of his Farmington Hills family. "I mean, first my brother Jimbo, then her. It seemed like everything was coming down on us. She's such a vibrant person, both of them are."

FORTUNATELY, the symptoms that doctors feared were linked to MS gradually went away and Kathy Boyd is a healthy 25-year-old.

Jimbo Boyd, now 27, is currently one of the world's premier wheelchair road racers in his class, having competed in 17 marathons.

But, the impact of his brother's accident and his sister's near-tragedy has left its mark on Ron Boyd. He knows too well that his status as an able-bodied human being could change in an instant.

"It's been 11 years since Jimbo's accident," Boyd said. "Before that, you know, I was pretty self-centered. It goes against my grain a little to get involved in causes for the masses. But when you stop

WHAT: Eighth annual Detroit Free Press International Marathon. **WHERE:** Duncin, Oct. 18 beginning at 7 a.m. **WHEN:** Twenty-mile, 300-yard course begins at Jackson Park in Windsor and ends at Belle Isle in Detroit. **WHO:** More than 4,000 runners and some 80 wheelchair racers from Canada, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and 30 other states across the country will compete. **WHAT ELSE:** The race is the ninth-largest marathon and the 57th largest race in the country. Runners will be taking pledges to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

and realize how precious life is and how seriously it can be taken away.

Ron Boyd is now involved in a serious cause: multiple sclerosis.

On Sunday, Oct. 13, Boyd, an able-bodied 30-year-old, will compete in the Detroit Free Press Marathon as a wheelchair.

He'll do so for two reasons: to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and to take an injured Jimbo Boyd's place in the race.

Jimbo, meanwhile, is directing the wheelchair division of the race. More than 60 wheelchair road racers are expected to compete, making it the largest wheelchair marathon in the country.

"This all started when Jimbo hurt his elbow and couldn't race," Boyd said. "We've always kicked around the idea of racing together. When he couldn't race, it was kind of natural for me step in for him."

BOYD WAS worried at first about his efforts being perceived negatively by other wheelchair competitors.

"I expect a warm response on Sunday," he said. "I may get some glances across the way from people who don't know me or know what I'm about. They may perceive me as a threat competitively."

"But anyone in the race that knows me knows I'm in it to raise awareness and money for MS and that I'm doing this because Jimbo can't. I'm running for MS for a lot of young adults stricken with MS and all others who for whatever reason can't run themselves."

The Free Press Marathon is giving all competitors the opportunity to raise money for the fight against multiple sclerosis. Boyd and others are recruiting sponsors to pledge money for every mile they compete.

"I want to be the one person that raises the most money for MS, but I have a long way to go," Boyd said.

Anyone interested in pledging can call 967-2211. "I have confidence that I can finish," said Boyd who has been training with Jimbo for two months. "I finished a 20-mile race in 3:07 with Jimbo. The emotion, the strength and knowing that Jimbo will be there waiting at the finish line will push me across."

the week ahead

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Oct. 8
Farmington at Liv. Church, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Franklin at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Stevenson at W.L. Central, 7:30 p.m.
Ply. Canton at N. Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
Ply. Canton at N. Farmington, 7:30 p.m.
Clemensville at Lutheran North, 8:45 p.m.
E. Grace Anderson at Red. Thornton, 7:30 p.m.
Deer. Edsel Ford at Redford Union, 7:30 p.m.
Wyandotte at Wayne Memorial, 7:30 p.m.
Bishop Borgese at Bishop Gallagher, 7:30 p.m.
Farm. Mary at Harper Woods, 7:30 p.m.
Liv. Ladywood at Birm. Marian, 7:30 p.m.
Alden. Cabott at St. Agathe, 7:30 p.m.

BOYS BOCCER

Monday, Oct. 7
Liv. Church at Farm. Harrison, 4 p.m.
Liv. Franklin at Northville, 7 p.m.
Liv. Stevenson at Ply. Salem, 7 p.m.
Ply. Canton at N. Farmington, 4 p.m.
Royal Oak Donors at Farmington, 4 p.m.
Barden City at Dearborn Forden, 8 p.m.
Bishop Borgese at Monroe Co., 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 8

(Pre-regional qualifying)
Plymouth Canton at Dearborn, 4 p.m.
N. Farmington at Dear. Faxon, 5 p.m.
W.L. Central at Liv. Stevenson, 7 p.m.
Garden City at Liv. Franklin, 4 p.m.
Dearborn Edsel at Liv. Church, 7 p.m.
Dearborn Edsel at Liv. Church, 7 p.m.
Plymouth Salem at Brighton, 4:30 p.m.
Ann Arbor Pioneer at Farmington, 4 p.m.
Catho Central vs. Farm. Harrison
at Redford's Bell Creek Pk., 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 9

Ply. Salem at Liv. Church, 7 p.m.
Liv. Stevenson at Ply. Canton, 7 p.m.
N. Farmington at Farm. Harrison, 7 p.m.
Northville at Farmington, 4 p.m.

golf

FIRN ANNUAL MIDWEST INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday at Hartop G.C.

TEAM STANDINGS: 1. Birmingham Brother Rose, 310 strokes; 2. Livonia Church, 317; 3. Redford Catholic Central, 322; 4. Troy Athens, 323; 5. Dearborn, 335; 6. Waterford Mori, 339; 7. Plymouth Salem, 342; 8. Trenton, 347; 9. Pontiac Catholic, 352; 10. (tie) Livonia Stevenson and Bloomfield Hill Lakes, 358 each; 12. (tie) Livonia Franklin, Bloomfield Hills Andover and Brighton, 358 each.

Individual results: 1. Anthony Dietz (Red), 75 (5-over); 2. Ron Clark (Athens), 75; 3. Dean Kobene (Church), 75; 4. (tie) Roger Trevian (Catholic Central) and Hans Andree (Rose), 76 each; 6. (tie) Bill Dougherty (Church) and Rob Marcus (Rose), 77 each; 8. Ed Wilson (Brighting Heights Stevenson), 78; 9. (tie) Doug Whetsell (Andover) and Doug Hoy (Dearborn), 79 each; 11. (tie) Norm Dickson (Catholic Central), Mark Mawood (Catholic Central) and Pat Miller (Redford Union), 80 each; 14. (tie) Steve McCall (Athens), Kurt Gonzalez (Church), 81 each; 18. (tie) Mike Brown (Rose), Brian Hughes (Athens), Mike Kasey (Redford Kettering), Mike Erskine (Waterford Mori), Mike Granger (Salem), Chris Driscoll (Salem) and Dan Kosowid (Trenton), 82 each; 25. (tie) Dave Arnold (Trenton), Steve Olson (Church) and Drew Pleczak (Church), 83 each.

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sports roundup

GOLF

• **NORTH FARMINGTON 231, PLYMOUTH CANTON 234:** Jerry Dalton fired a 42 to lead the Raiders past Canton in a Western Lakes crossover match at Godwin Glen Wednesday.

Other Raiders scorers were Chris Byser (43), Dan Babington (47), Chuck Howard (48) and Steve Pigula (51). Jeff Lyle and Jeff Gonyea each shot 45 to lead the Chiefs.

North, the Lake Division champions, are 8-2 on the season.

SWIMMING

• **NORTH FARMINGTON 111, LIVONIA CHURCHILL 81:** Pat Dullin's Raiders stayed perfect in the dual meet season Thursday getting double wins from Jennifer Rowe and Liz Worthen.

Rowe won the 200-yard freestyle (1:59.60) and the 600 free (5:08.23) while Worthen won the 200 individual medley (2:28.08) and the 100 backstroke (1:05.51).

Worthen, Cindy Cramer, Meige Cramer and Amy Menefley combined on a 1:57.26 to win the 200 medley relay and establish a North pool record. The old mark of 1:57.30 was set by North in 1983.

soccer

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOCCER STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pts.
Livonia Stevenson	8	0	2	18
Plymouth Salem	4	0	4	12
Plymouth Canton	5	2	0	11
Livonia Church	5	2	0	11
North Farmington	2	4	2	6
Northville	2	4	2	6
Farmington	2	5	1	5
Farmington/Harrison	1	7	1	3
Livonia Free	1	7	1	3

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