

Canton's Fuller wins Bloomfield

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Just because it was a half-marathon, it doesn't mean the runners gave half the effort.

Quite the contrary. The sixth annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon on Sunday attracted 820 registrants with a near-record 744 runners and a few more "handicaps" completing the 13.1-mile course. Runners came from more than 100 cities across the state, and the field included athletes from Ohio and Ontario.

"It was a near-perfect day for the race," said race director Sally Pierce of the West Bloomfield Park and Recreation which co-sponsored the event along with Henry Ford Hospital's West Bloomfield Center.

Under cool temperatures and a light wind, Canton resident Craig Fuller, 30, won the race in a course-record time of 1 hour, 8 minutes and 54 seconds. The previous record of 1:10:21 was set by Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School track coach Larry Fisher in 1984.

Cynthia Poly-Barnett, 23, of Pontiac won the women's race in 1:25:18. Jimbo Boyd, 27 of Farmington Hills, was the first wheelchair athlete entered and finished the winding, hilly course through scenic West Bloomfield residential areas.

"The course isn't perfect as a wheelchair course since it's so hilly, and a small portion of it is over dirt roads," said Pierce. "But we understand that Jimbo even covered the unpaved portion of the course."

running

think I ever ran through a residential area like that before," he said.

GRABOWSKI is a veteran West Bloomfield Half-Marathon participant.

The West Bloomfield High School graduate used the race as sort of a pre-season warmup to the summer season. While Grabowski was aiming for victory — "You always go in hoping to win" — he was satisfied with his overall performance.

"We (Fuller and Grabowski) crossed Farmington Road together, and that's where he seemed to make his move," said Grabowski. "But this was my first race and it's still kind of early. It was a good opening race."

"This was my third Half-Marathon and it's like a homecoming for me because you get to see a lot of friends," he said. "It was a good benchmark to see where I was at this point in the season."

The oldest finisher was James Ramsey, age 78 of Detroit, and the youngest was Matt Welch, age 13 of Ortonville.

Tim Fox of Pleasant Ridge and Laurie Emerson of Southfield were the 1985 men's and women's champions.

Following are initial results (by division) of the annual West Bloomfield race.

HALF-MARATHON RESULTS

JUNIORS (ages under 18): 1. Nick Plaxton, 15, (West Bloomfield), 1:21:04; 2. Andy Petrella, 11, (Kalamazoo), 1:28:18.
OPEN (ages 18-39): 1. Steve Ostrovich, 32, (Canton), 1:12:43; 2. Duane Stewart, 37, (Royal Oak), 1:14:53; 3. Alan Paschew, 34, (Grosse Pointe), 1:14:58; 4. Edmond Guevres, 28, (Mount Clemens), 1:15:15; 5. John Murphy, 35, (Warren), 1:15:18.
SUBMASTERS (ages 40-49): 1. Craig Fuller, 30, (Canton), 1:08:54 (new course record); 2. John Grabowski, 30, (West Bloomfield), 1:10:30; 3. Craig North, 38, (Ann Arbor), 1:12:32; 4. Lonnie Clark, 35, (Southgate), 1:12:42; 5. Randall Bulla, 37, (West Bloomfield), 1:12:44.
MASTERS (ages 50-59): 1. Vadoo Dorlin, 47, (Livonia), 1:12:31; 2. Bill Boyd, 44, (Canton), 1:12:32; 3. John Hall, 41, (Detroit), 1:12:31; 4. James Park, 43, (Livonia), 1:13:03.
VETERANS (ages 60 and over): 1. John Kelm, 67, (Warren), 1:24:41; 2. Dick Sault, 52, (Livonia), 1:25:11.

JUNIOR WOMEN (ages under 18): 1. Pam Crockett, 17, (Lake Orion), 1:20:59.
WOMEN'S OPEN (ages 18-39): 1. Cynthia Poly-Barnett, 23, (Pontiac), 1:25:18; 2. Michelle Roper, 30, (East Lansing), 1:29:30.
WOMEN'S SUBMASTERS (ages 40-49): 1. Leslie Robinson, 38, (Grand Lodge), 1:28:29; 2. Robin Harris, 30, (Ann Arbor), 1:32:28.
WOMEN'S MASTERS (ages 50-59): 1. Carol Swaney, 45, (Ann Arbor), 1:33:12; 2. Lynne Tenbusch, 42, (Ann Arbor), 1:39:51.

WOMEN'S VETERANS (ages 60 and over): 1. Gertrude Verboeven, 51, (Sterling Heights), 1:53:49; 2. Jessica Hasko, 51, (Livonia), 1:54:16.
HUSBAND/WIFE: 1. Randall and Kathleen Step (Northville), 2:55:04.



photos by GARY CASKEY/staff photographer

Canton's Craig Fuller (left) and West Bloomfield's John Grabowski lead the pack up Green Road Hill.

Runners of year: Boyd, Hatch

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

There's no known medical treatment for the addiction Melba Hatch and Bill Boyd have.

And the runners from Canton, who were both selected Runners of the Year in 1985 by Michigan Runner magazine, hope one isn't found soon.

Hatch and Boyd just love to run. In snow, rain or searing heat, they even have their support group, the Redford Roadrunners, who all have the same compulsion to run.

Each has pretty much the same story on how it started. For Hatch, the love of running started in 1981.

"I started up for health reasons like everyone else," admitted Hatch, 57, who works for Grand Trunk Railroad in Detroit. "One thing led to another and someone suggested that I race."

"It gets in your blood."

"I WAS OVERWEIGHT and I needed some exercise," explained Boyd, 44, an accountant for the Ford Motor Co. "It started as a bet and I ended up in a five-mile road race."

They both appear to be headed for a life term of running.

Michigan Runner, which will hon-

or both at the Old Kent 15½-mile race in Grand Rapids, polled its readers to select the top runners in the state.

Hatch received the most votes and was selected the overall Michigan Runner of the Year. Boyd was runner-up and was tagged Male Michigan Runner of the Year.

The distinction doesn't have family members crying by their windows at night. In fact, they're quite proud. "My son and husband were very proud of me when I was selected Michigan Runner of the Year," said Hatch. "It kind of caught them by surprise."

"It feels good," said Boyd. "You've got to have a good year as a runner to even be a candidate."

AND A GOOD year is what both Hatch and Boyd had in 1985.

Hatch broke three national records for her age last year. She set

the mark in the 10-mile for a 57-year-old at the Bobby Crim 11-mile race in 1:11:40.

In Chicago, she also set the 12-kilometer mark with a time of 52:57. Hatch also set a two-mile mark for her age in a seniors track meet in Redford with a clocking of 13:46.

Boyd was the master of the Masters in 1985. He won the Masters for his age group (40-49) at the Detroit Free Press Marathon and the Old Kent run, along with half marathons in Port Huron and Williamston.

He was 23rd overall at the Free Press Marathon in 1985.

So, it's obvious both have come a long way from the first time they started running.

"IT WAS DIFFICULT at first," said Boyd, who's trimmed down from close to 200 pounds to 160.

"The first couple of weeks I hated it. Now I'm hooked on running."

"I didn't like it in the beginning," added Hatch. "I didn't like it until I started training for races."

Both, in a relatively short amount of time, have accumulated plenty of race experience. Hatch, in addition to the Redford Roadrunners, belongs to the Ann Arbor Track Club.

Boyd has been involved in a few Boston Marathons.

"It's fantastic," said Boyd of the Boston Marathon. "Boston is the one with all the tradition in it. Plus you get a lot of notoriety as a runner since you have to qualify for it."

At the Free Press Marathon, the Redford Roadrunners are well-represented. Members not running in the race usually work as a support group to help runners that are.

After all, birds of a feather run together.

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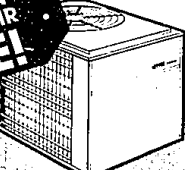
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