

Roadrunner Classic draws variety of competitors

By M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER

More than 1,100 runners, walkers and wheelers turned out for the ninth annual Roadrunner Classic Saturday in Livonia, sponsored by the Redford Roadrunners.

The evening event, which started and finished at Veterans Park (Livonia Family Y), featured the classic junior, a one-mile race, the main event — a flat, fast, certified 8-kilometer race (just shy of five miles); along with a spirited post-race party, awards and colorful T-shirts.

Kevin Hanson of Shelby Township had no trouble outdistancing the field on a warm, humid night in 24:40. Ann Boyd of Ann Arbor did the same in the women's race (27:49), one minute ahead of runner-up Kim Bruce of Dearborn. Hanson and the men's field ran with the unsolicited help of a rabbit, which paced them to their first three miles.

Hanson knew the unregistered

runner planned to drop out, but it probably threw off the other runners.

Hanson was delighted with his time. After he finished, he realized his brother Keith had won the 1984 Classic in a time of 24:42.

"That's a bonus," Hanson said with a laugh. "Otherwise he would have told me I was second."

Mile winners

Winner of the men's mile run was Keith Scalzo, 31, of Allen Park. He ran a personal best in 5:13.

The first female to break the tape was Jennifer Bryl, 14, of Ann Arbor in 7:12.

For Bryl, it was a family affair. Her mom, Jane Ketchin, won the 40-44 age division in 34:41. Her dad, John Bryl, placed ninth in the 45-49 division in 31:51. Her sister Emily, 8, ran the Classic Junior in 10:54.

Top finishers in the junior classic mile came in some impressive

times.

First to finish was Robert Block, 12, of Livonia in 6:46. On his tail were runner-up Harold Clayton, 9, of Monroe in 5:45.5, and third-place Trent Jones of Plymouth, 12, in 6:12.

Jessica Welch, 11, of Monroe defended her classic junior title, leading the females in 6:58. Erin Langhust, 9, of Livonia took second in 6:41. Julie Zalewski, 12, of Trenton finished third in 7:20.

Behind the speedsters was an entrant who finished the 8K in a little less than two hours, bringing tears to the eyes of spectators who lined the finishing stretch. When wheeler Donna Cruz, 29, of Farmington Hills crossed the finish line, propelling herself backwards, she did so to a thunderous applause.

The tenuous Cruz took a little longer than she'd planned to finish the race — her chair had just been adjusted and the seat kept slipping forward, according to her uncle and coach, John Cruz of Plymouth.

Women's battle

Another exciting finish involved the second- and third-place battle in the women's 8K, as Dearborn residents Bruce and Carol Poesch.

Bruce and Poesch ran the first mile with Boyd, the eventual winner.

Boyd, however, pulled away, leaving friends Bruce and Poesch to battle for second.

Poesch trailed Bruce, but caught her at the four-mile mark. "We were shoulder to shoulder," Bruce said. "It was just a matter of who wanted it more."

Poesch, whose last mile was her fastest (6:33), made a late charge. "I was gaining on her," she said. "I was looking at her back thinking, 'This is my best friend in the whole world. I have nothing left and I'm not going to kill myself.'"

Poesch finished in 28:51, three seconds behind Bruce.

Boyd was coming off a 90-mile

week and didn't decide to race until Friday. She said felt sluggish in the humidity, but was surprised to run a personal best, unchallenged, by four seconds.

"I feel like a really backed off," Boyd said. "I want to kick myself for doing it. Maybe I could have taken 10 seconds off."

Masters division

Masters' winner Nina Bovio won her second race of the day in 33:24. Earlier in the day at Flint, she led the masters field in a 10K in 42:20. Meanwhile, John Scott of Dearborn out-performed the males over 40 in 28:08.

A trio of wheelers from the Grand Rapids area finished swept the paraplegic division; Chuck Patten (21:45), Thomas Ottenwess (22:13) and Darryl Antell (26:42).

Pat Rowe of Flint led the quadriplegic division in 43:48.

Jimbo Boyd of Rochester won the

IA wheelier in 37:58, while Jim Daniels of Toledo heeded the open field.

Patricia Ford of Linden captured the women's paraplegic division in 31:49, followed by Darlene Hunter of Commerce Township (37:22). No women entered the quad division.

It was a special night for Jean Menzies of Plymouth. An avid golfer and walker, Menzies won her age group despite covering the longest distance she's ever walked.

"It's my first race, and I'm 65," she said with an ear-to-ear smile, as well as a medal hanging from her neck. "I felt wonderful. I kept up the same pace, and felt great."

Wheeler Jim Keskany of Pinckney, who has multiple sclerosis, wheeled the last quarter mile under his own power in a new 33,000 racing chair. He was pushed the remainder of the race by members of the People Who Run Downwards, which related pledges in Keskany's name for MS.

All-star game showcases unsung talent, too

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

One of the finest individual performances at a Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Star Game came in 1993 from a guy who looked like he didn't belong.

"I remember (Farmington Hills Harrison quarterback) Ken Kish, whom everyone said wasn't a great ballplayer, didn't look like a quarterback, doesn't run fast," said Don Lessner, executive director of the MHSFCA. "John Harrington (Harrison's coach) said 'Wait until game time.' And here the kid comes out and throws for (about) 275 yards, three touchdowns. You never know what a kid can do until he puts on the pads."

Kish, who went on to star at Albion College, led the East to a 24-10 win. And that's part of the beauty of the 12th annual MHSFCA All-Star Game, scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Michigan State University's Spartan Stadium. Tickets cost \$6 each.

This game never draws as many fans as it should, but for the 88 players selected to play it's a final chance to show what they can do as a high school football player. It will be the only chance for some players who were overlooked by bigger colleges in the recruiting process to prove they belong on the same field with a high school All-American like Sterling Heights Stevenson tight end Pete Chryplewicz, headed to Notre Dame.

Chryplewicz is playing for the East team, which is looking to win for the seventh time against the West in the series.

Moshimer coaching East

One guy who has nothing to prove but has been selected to coach the East All-Stars is Plymouth Salem coach Tom Moshimer. Moshimer has coached football since 1959 when he took over a struggling program at Dundee, and he also is past president of the MHSFCA.

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Lessner, who coaches a successful Riverview High School program, knows Moshimer well.

"We started coaching together — when Tom was starting at Dundee. I was starting at Monroe Catholic Central," Lessner recalled. "He took a team at Dundee that won only two or three games in three years and then won 35 straight games. He's very organized, has good rapport with the players and a sound knowledge of the game of football."

As an active member and past president of the MHSFCA, Moshimer has attended each All-Star game and usually spends the week in the dorms at MSU. So lodging at MSU is nothing new to Moshimer, although coaching will

be.

The East has a couple of mobile quarterbacks. Northville's Ryan Hujak (University of Toledo) and Allen Park's Brian Nyx (Central Michigan), running Moshimer's I-Bone attack.

"You always go into every contest to win," Moshimer said. "We want the team to have a good time and to win the game."

Because he was the highest vote getter among the coaches selected for the All-Star Game, Moshimer was able to choose one of his assistants at Salem, Jim Jarvey, as an assistant coach with the East.

Moshimer also is renewing ties with East assistant coach Ernie Hoffman, who played for Moshimer at Dundee and now coaches there.

"He played for me in '65 and '66, was a tough little kid," Moshimer said, remembering Hoffman as a player. "He was about a 165-pound running back. He's gained a little weight — like we all did."

Granger playing for cousin

The East Team includes Salem tailback Leon Hiter, Redford St. Agatha defensive back Cardell Davis, Redford Bishop Boggess defensive lineman Justin Gugala, Westland John Glenn defensive lineman Jason Hagelthorn, Farmington line-backer Matt Siakosky and Farmington Hills Harrison flanker Roy Granger.

Granger made his uniform number request later than some of his teammates so he'll be wearing No. 22 instead of the familiar No. 2 he wore at Harrison. Granger wanted to wear either No. 2 or No. 1, the latter number in honor of his cousin, Stanford Blue, who was shot to

death last year. Blue played high school football at Detroit Henry Ford and taught Granger a lot about the game.

Granger will attend Michigan State this fall, but because of academic reasons won't be eligible to play football until 1995.

"I want to see Stanford's grave this morning (Saturday)," Granger said Saturday. "I dedicated my whole senior year to him and this is my last game as a high school player and that's why I want to score a touchdown real bad. I know a lot of the guys on the West. They're all out to get me."

Hagelthorn, who is headed to Central Michigan, might have an interesting matchup against West lineman Pat Corcoran (Bay City Central) who is Colorado University bound.

"I'm not sure yet, but I'll probably be going against Corcoran," he said. "It'll give me a chance to get used to hitting again and get a head start on things."

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