

Caesars champions



Best in the league: The Bloomfield Bulls Mickey Mantle players are (front row, from left) Jason Holdinski, Matt Ksiasek, Nick DiPonio, Matt Firlirk; (middle) Kevin Thomas, Erik West, Brian Glazer, John Larson, Eric Carrievau, Adam Stachurski; (back) Rick Firlirk, Ben DiPonio, Kirk Taylor, Jeff Trzos, Dan West and Gary Larson. The Bulls won the Little Caesars Federation title with a 17-1 record.

Tourney champions



Winning combination: The South Farmington Eagles are (front row, from left) Chris Hanna, Joe Russo, Bryan Anderson, Greg Hocking, Bryan Theisen; (middle) Danny Doig, Steve Paul, Ryan Grewett, Anthony Faletti, Bryan Smith, Eric Howard, Brian Bosler, Chris Walsh, Neil Sternberg; (back) coaches Hocking, Faletti, Theisen, J. Paul and R. Paul. The Eagles won their second tournament July 23 in Grand Blanc.

Race winner makes comeback

BY BRAD EMOHS
STAFF WRITER

For most of 1993 and '94, Kerry Barnett wondered if he'd ever run a competitive race again after suffering a fractured kneecap.

"I fell on the ice . . . skating," said Barnett, who won the eight-kilometer Roadrunner Classic July 22 in Northville, one of the metro area's biggest road races, in 24 minutes, 20 seconds. "I took out my neighbor's kids and said, 'I can do this,' but I found out the hard way.

"I split my kneecap in half. I came back very slowly. I didn't take a step for a year. I started out jogging a mile in my rehab."

Barnett, 35, who resides in Saline, was a late entry into the event, which attracted over 1,000 runners.

"Sharon Springer (one of the race officials) knows my wife and she had heard I was doing pretty well competing," Barnett said. "I got a complimentary entry and it worked out kind of nice."

Barnett set the pace throughout the five-mile, staying ahead or even with Ann Arbor training partners John Sherris (24:37), Pat Lencosel (24:40) and Rich Stark (24:52).

"I prayed a lot the last two miles, especially when you have guys like that stalking you," Barnett said. "I always tried to be in the lead, or right with the leaders. I was trying to get away from them."

Barnett eventually pulled away and gained great satisfaction in winning. He was able to finish 17 seconds ahead of his friend Sherris.

"The competition was pretty stiff," said Barnett, who is a technical research program project manager for NCHS of Ann Arbor. "And the course, from my perspective, was fairly tough. A lot of turns and some long hill stretches."

"But it was a great race and the people who ran it treated me just wonderful."

Barnett is a graduate Pontiac Central High and ran collegiately for Western Michigan University.

"I want to NCAA a couple of times, but it was not a stellar college career," Barnett said. "I missed qualifying (by provisional status) for the '94 Olympic Trials by less than a second."

"I'm not training for the Olympics or anything. I try to take things low key and have fun, and they (his training partners) do, too."

RUNNING

- 5000-METER CLASS**
GUYTONVILLE AND GUYTONVILLE
July 23 at Northville
- Men's overall champion: Kerry Barnett (Detroit), 24 minutes, 20 seconds.
Women's overall champion: Laurel Paul (Ann Arbor), 27:28.
Men's 1000-meter champion: Tom Holbrook, 27:18.
Women's 1000-meter champion: Barbara May, 34:29.
Men's 1500-meter champion: Scott Denton, 20:45.
Women's 1500-meter champion: 27:04 Laura Davis, 26:38.
Men's 2000-meter champion: Alan Larson (Highland), 30:17.
Women's 2000-meter champion: 32:01.
Men's 2500-meter champion: 35:11.
Women's 2500-meter champion: 45:00.
Men's 3000-meter champion: 45:00.
Women's 3000-meter champion: 55:00.
Men's 3500-meter champion: 55:00.
Women's 3500-meter champion: 1:05:00.
Men's 4000-meter champion: 1:05:00.
Women's 4000-meter champion: 1:15:00.
Men's 4500-meter champion: 1:15:00.
Women's 4500-meter champion: 1:25:00.
Men's 5000-meter champion: 1:25:00.
Women's 5000-meter champion: 1:35:00.
Men's 5500-meter champion: 1:35:00.
Women's 5500-meter champion: 1:45:00.
Men's 6000-meter champion: 1:45:00.
Women's 6000-meter champion: 1:55:00.
Men's 6500-meter champion: 1:55:00.
Women's 6500-meter champion: 2:05:00.
Men's 7000-meter champion: 2:05:00.
Women's 7000-meter champion: 2:15:00.
Men's 7500-meter champion: 2:15:00.
Women's 7500-meter champion: 2:25:00.
Men's 8000-meter champion: 2:25:00.
Women's 8000-meter champion: 2:35:00.
Men's 8500-meter champion: 2:35:00.
Women's 8500-meter champion: 2:45:00.
Men's 9000-meter champion: 2:45:00.
Women's 9000-meter champion: 2:55:00.
Men's 9500-meter champion: 2:55:00.
Women's 9500-meter champion: 3:05:00.
Men's 10000-meter champion: 3:05:00.
Women's 10000-meter champion: 3:15:00.

Soccer from page 1C

The process is not an easy one. It will begin anew in two weeks, when the state ODP program holds tryouts for its state teams Aug. 12-13 at Founders Park in Farmington Hills. For 150 (if projected), players go through 6 1/2 hours of a camp and tryout.

A state pool consisting of 30 players is then selected in each age group. From that pool, the age group's coaches pick teams of 18 players to compete in tournaments, the biggest over Christmas in Cocoa Beach, Fla. Four winter workouts are also conducted indoors at the University of Michigan and Michigan State football facilities.

After a break for the high school season, the state teams reconvene to prepare for the USYSA Midwest Regional. Throughout all these processes, O'Shea's strategy is different than

normal coaching philosophy. "Our goal," he said, "is to place as many players on the regional team as we can. If we win the (regional team) titles along the way, great."

In other words, this is one time a player is not asked to sacrifice her individual skills for the sake of the team. Indeed, O'Shea encourages the opposite — display your passing ability, your dribbling talents, because that's the best way to make the regional pool.

His approach has apparently worked. "We had more than any one last year, too," he said.

Convincing others this is the proper way last year, O'Shea faces opposition from local club coaches who are certain the ODP program is nothing more than a tool for select teams to rob them of their best players.

And then there's the selection process for state and regional pools, which, O'Shea said, club coaches believe "is all political." The end result is they call their top players not to bother going to the ODP tryouts.

"We have players who are very good who don't even tryout," he said.

Brown, the Seaholm star chosen as Miss Soccer this year, is a perfect example. According to O'Shea, she didn't try out for the ODP program until her sophomore year. She made the state team and her soccer career has skyrocketed since, including expelling her to college coaches.

So the process is proven. It's worked. It's allowed — and aided — players to develop their individual potential. And it's been a more successful formula than any other state's in the Midwest.

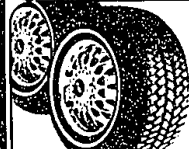
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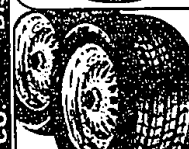
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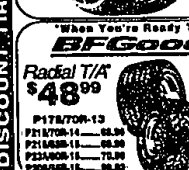
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