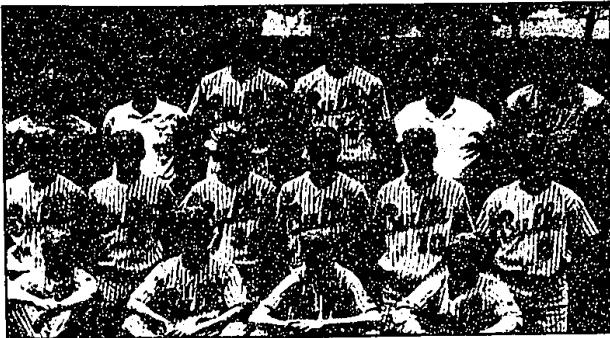


Caesars champions



Best in the league: The Bloomfield Bulls Mickey Mantle players are (front row, from left) Jason Holdinski, Matt Ksiazek, Nick DiPonio, Matt Firlik; (middle) Kevin Thomas, Erik West, Brian Glazer, John Larson, Eric Carriereau, Adam Stachurski; (back) Rick Firlik, 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, Ryan Anderson, Greg Hocking, Bryan Theisen; (middle) Danny Doig, Steve Paul, Brian 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 EMONS
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 of even world-class prior training partners John Shaver (24:37), Pat Lencioni (24:40) and Rich Stark (24:52).

"I prayed a lot the last two

miles, especially when you have guys that are talking to 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 Shaver.

"The competition was pretty stiff," said Barnett, who is a technical research project manager for NCMC of Ann Arbor.

She covered the 8K conditions in 27:38, only five seconds off her personal best.

"I thought the course was tough," said Park, alluding to the course changes this year.

"The first mile was very fast, but the second mile was uphill and it didn't give me a good chance to get into a good rhythm."

"But I'm pleased. Plus, it's just a fun race."

Park is gearing up for the Bob-Crim, a 10-miler on Saturday, Aug. 26 in Flint. She also plans to run a half-marathon the first weekend in October.

The second woman overall was former Livonia Stevenson High standout Bridget McKinnon, who finished in 29:33.

McKinnon, who broke a personal best by over a minute, will be a sophomore this fall at DePaul (Ill.) University.

See meet results.

RUNNING

ROADRUNNER CLASSIC
6-MILE AND 8-MILE RESULTS
AUG. 22 AT NORTHVILLE

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Women's overall champs: Linda Park (8-mile), 27:38; 27:38.

Barnett's runners: Jason Kerr, 24:20;

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