

Runners will remember woman during marathon

BY M.R. DILLON
FORD WRITER

Christine Byndas will run her first marathon Sunday, but in a drastically different fashion than she planned.

A product design engineer for Ford Motor, Byndas was training with her sister, Caryn Casas, for the Oct. 15 Detroit Free Press/Mazda International Marathon. The Chicago-born sisters — runners since childhood — were following a 16-week training program, putting in weekly track workouts and 20-mile endurance runs.

Casas, also a Ford engineer, was running alone on Hines Drive between Merriam and Newburgh at 7 p.m. Sept. 13 when she was struck by a driver. Paul Raymond Sadler, 42, of Garden City is charged with second-degree murder, causing an accident resulting in death while under the influence of liquor, and leaving the scene of an injury accident in connection with the 24-year-old's death. He is being held in Wayne County Jail on \$500,000 cash bond.

"We were going to run our first marathon together," said Byndas, 26. "We figured at least one of us would feel good at any given time. It was my sister's idea to go out and buy the same running outfit, to run together, and cross the finish line together."

The plan was to keep up with

training partner Anne Bork of Saline, a research engineer at Ford and a three-time marathoner who's shooting for a time of 3:20. Byndas and Bork will attempt to finish the marathon together. Every step of the way, Caryn's image will be with them — literally. A friend at Ford, with help from Byndas, designed a T-shirt that will be a familiar sight on the streets of Windsor and Detroit Sunday.

More than 200 people have purchased the T-shirts, proceeds from which will help raise funds for a bike path on Hines east of Newburgh. Mothers Against Drunk Driving is spearheading the project.

The words "Running like MADD" for Caryn are all-screened on the front of the shirt. On the back is a picture of Caryn, who as a youngster competed in the Junior Olympics and throughout the U.S.

"My mom was going to get a few T-shirts made up," said Byndas. "I told a few people at work about it, and the response has been overwhelming." Thirty-four relatives and friends of Casas are traveling from Chicago for the race.

A research engineer in Ford's safety office, Steve Nyquist of Canton got to know Casas while competing with her on Ford's Corporate Cup team.

"I put a message out on our

electronic mail as soon as I found out about Christine's T-shirts, and immediately started getting all kinds of messages," said Nyquist. "Obviously, Caryn touched people other than runners."

A portion of the proceeds will go to the Caryn Teresa Casas scholarship fund at the University of Illinois, where both Casas and Byndas earned degrees. Ford

is putting up matching funds, Nyquist said. Among the 30-40 Plymouth-Canton residents planning to wear the T-shirts marathon day will be Plymouth attorney John

Stewart, and Ford employees/Canton residents Tim Underwood, Avery Burke and Belinda Burks.

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