

Veteran area runner wins West Bloomfield half-marathon

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Doug Kurtis did a little of everything at Sunday's 25th Annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon, 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run.

What exactly does that mean? Well, let the 49-year-old resident of Livonia and one of the foremost advocates of running explain.

"Well, I was wearing a lot of hats today," Kurtis said. "We wanted to do a booth here to

kind of promote the (Detroit) marathon and I said to the West Bloomfield organizers, 'As long as I'm going to come here, would you like me to come and talk?' They said sure and asked me if I wanted to be the starter for the 5K, too. And I did that.

"I feel like I'm an ambassador to the sport and I want to promote running and get people out here and get them enthused about running."

Oh, by the way, Kurtis also captured the coveted top spot in the half-marathon with a time of 1 hour, 14 minutes, 12 seconds.

Kurtis wrestled away the lead from Donald Malen of Birmingham (1:14:50) just past the 10-mile mark of the 13.1-mile course en route to a 38-second victory.

"I thought I might have a chance when I saw last year's top time was 1:15," Billy Jack of Shelby Township was the overall winner in 2000. "You just never know who is going to show up. All I care about is that I crossed the finish line and was it a good effort for me? If you win, that's just kind of the icing on the cake."

Kurtis is no stranger to success at the West Bloomfield Half-Marathon. He has three consecutive overall titles from 1989-91 - his winning time of 1:07:32 in '89 is still the course record - and placed third in 1996.

"Between miles nine and 10 I knew I was going to catch (Malen)," Kurtis said. "I was running strong and endurance is usually my strong point. Plus, I have that mentality that I know I can catch people."

The women's overall title went to Oak Park's Deanna Skelley, who posted a time of 1:33:12 (34th overall). Jennifer Foley of West Bloomfield was the second female to hit the line in a time of 1:35:49, which was good for 46th overall.

The overall top five included Paul V. Sickle of Adrian (1:15:52), Kenneth Baginski of Center Line (1:17:22) and

Jeremie Carbonaro of Windsor, Ontario (1:18:05).

Todd Kelly of Troy nearly cracked the top 10, clocking an 11th-place time of 1:25:13.

A total of 568 runners finished this year's half-marathon, while a total of 309 participants completed the 5K run. Runners were greeted with mostly cloudy skies, temperatures in the 60s and a few raindrops here and there.

"They do a nice job here," Kurtis said of the event's organizers. "The people are just very friendly and they're very appreciative that I'm here, too. And that feels nice and you feel good about what you're doing for them."

Gabriel Wordell of Rochester Hills emerged victorious in the 5K run with a time of 17 minutes, 25 seconds.

The 5K winner in the female division was Holly Foss of Orion who clocked a time of 21:06.

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DISCERNATIVE PERSONAL BANKING

County champs from page D1

second to the Cranos last year.

"We got our trophy back," Kowalski said. "We lost to Cranbrook for four last year, and we were determined to get it back this year."

"This was a test of endurance for us. It rained six different times during the tournament, but we just stayed with it."

Ashley Gardner from South Lyon was the only other player to shoot under 90 with her second-place round of 89. Moira O'Connell of Cranbrook was the highest Eccentric-area player, carding a 92.

The other medalists were

Stephanie Seno of Cranbrook (93), Christina Cibrario of Mercy (94), Liz Vollma of Cranbrook (98), Lauren Fragomeni of Troy (98), Lindsay Drewes of Rochester Adams (98) and Cindy Adams of Troy (80).

Rochester coach Hal Commerson, whose team finished third in the Oakland Activities Association Division I tournament a couple weeks ago, said he was happy his team was able to lap the league rivals in the county meet.

"I knew that Mercy and Cranbrook were the two best teams coming into this, and to finish

third is a nice accomplishment," Commerson said. "Our attitudes were terrific. No one complained about the conditions; they just went out and played."

Troy had two medalists and played pretty well overall, according to coach Al Merian.

"The weather had a big hand in the scores today, but we hung in there," he said. "Our goal is to get to states, and this meet represents a step toward that goal."

"It was a good tournament with pressure. Anyone can play when it's 80 degrees and no wind, and I hope this can make us tougher mentally."

OAKLAND COUNTY GOLF RESULTS

OAKLAND COUNTY GIRLS GOLF DIVISION I TOURNAMENT

April 24 at Portline Country Club

Team standings: 1. Farmington Hills Mercy, 382; 2. Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, 362; 3. Rochester, 415; 4. Troy, 415; 5. Rochester Adams, 424; 6. Birmingham Marian, 426; 7. White Lake-Lakeland, 436; 8. South Lyon, 437; 9. Farmington Unified, 438; 10. Milford, 447; 11. Troy Athens, 450; 12. Novi, 463; 13. Walled Lake Central, 481; 14. Auburn Hills Avondale, 498; 15. Oxford, 513.

Top individuals: 1. Erin Borowicz (Mercy) 82; 2. Ashley Gardner (South Lyon) 89; 3. Moira O'Connell (Cranbrook) 92; 4. Stephanie Seno (Cranbrook) 93; 5. Christina Cibrario (Mercy) 94; 6. Lauren Fragomeni (Troy) 98; 7. Liz Vollma (Cranbrook) 98; 8.

Lindsay Drewes (Adams) 98; 9. Cindy Adams (Troy) 99; 10. (tie) Courtney Quay (Cranbrook) 100; Cory Christenson (Rochester) 100.

AREA TEAM RESULTS

Farmington Hills Mercy (382): Erin Borowicz 82; Christina Cibrario 94; Maureen McFawn 101; Kim Waryncik 105; Jackie Shiver 107.

Bloomfield Hills Kingswood (383): Moira O'Connell 92; 4. Stephanie Seno 93; Liz Vollma 98; Courtney Quay 100; Shaw Smith 101.

Rochester (415): Cory Christenson 100; Megan Bradley 101; Angie DePolo 103; Stacy Golis 111; Julia Merian 114.

Troy (415): Lauren Fragomeni 98; Cindy Adams 99; Beth Robinson 111; Katie O'Donnell 111; Katie Merian 113.

Rochester Adams (424): Lindsay Drewes 98; Erin Nummer 101; Ashley Thomas 114; Amanda Dury 117.

Birmingham Marian (426): Kathryn Lucas 101; Katie Woch 105; Laura Catal 106; Ashley Baraso 110; Jessica Adams 113.

Farmington Unified (438): Sarah Laird 102; Kelly Raymond 108; Christy Dwyer 105; Brittany Nuccitelli 110; Jen Barick 114.

Troy Athens (450): Katie Layman 101; Kristen Nelson 109; Kristen DeBrandt 121; Melanie McCormick 124.

Auburn Hills Avondale (498): Maria Bartoloni 112; Katie Melendovsky 130; Laura Tantiello 138; Sarah Winkler 148.

Oxford (513): Kim Batchelor 113; Lauren Jacobson 127; Liz Henderson 135; Dawn Pinchback 136; Katie Hubbard 148.

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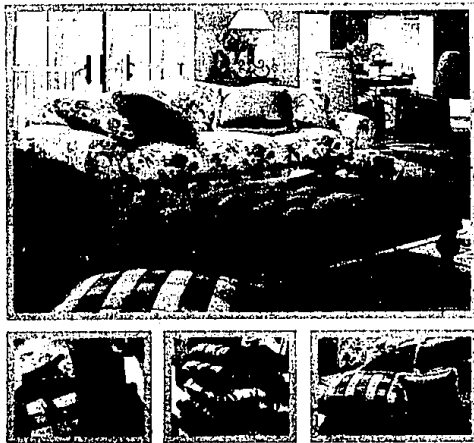
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