

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE D1

Nilson pitched four innings and was the winner, giving up one hit but no walks and striking out 11.

Kasey DeSutter was 2-for-2 and scored three runs. Julia Hall hit a grand slam for her fourth homer of the season.

OCC's Toni Salo smashed a triple; Jamie Seaman hit her 12th double and DeSutter her fourth.

Salo and Seaman drove in two runs apiece; DeSutter and Emily Bell had one RBI each.

In the second game, Kristi Marszalec tossed a three-hitter over five innings, striking out nine and refusing to issue a

walk. The Lady Raiders had 11 hits for a total of 19 for the day. Salo was 3-for-4, DeSutter 3-for-3, Hall and Bell 2-for-3.

Salo, the team's leadoff hitter, stole three bases, pushing her season total to 23, and scored three runs.

She and DeSutter also had two RBI apiece, Hall and Nilson, who scored two runs, one each.

OCC improved its overall record to 28-5. Alpena is 6-6 in the Eastern Conference and 6-6 in all games.

The Lady Raiders also won a doubleheader on April 15 from visiting Mott CC, 9-3 and 7-2.

Lady Raiders whip Mott

Nilson pitched four innings

of the opener to get the win, giving up three runs on eight hits and four walks. She struck out seven. Racicki worked three innings of scoreless relief. Salo and Bell went 3-for-4; DeSutter and Seaman were 2-for-4. Bell also had four RBI and Hall two; Salo, DeSutter and Seaman scored two runs each.

Marszalec was the winning pitcher in the second game. Mott had five hits off her but no runs or walks. Racicki was the closer again.

OCC had another 12-hit game with nine players contributing. Hall, Salo and Victoria Kaiser had two hits apiece. Hall had four RBI and DeSutter two.



Grizzlies win hoop title

The Grizzlies won the sixth-grade championship in the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation basketball league. The Grizzlies are (front row, left to right) Omar Sobani, Jeffery Gahman, Max Perrotta, Sean Sanko, Jeremy Browne, Jarret Levine, (second row) Corey Lightner, Alex Goldfarb, Jake Holloway, Rob Benjamin, Eric Altman, (third row) coaches Wendell Browning, Jeff Levine and Terry Elsey.

W. Bloomfield hosts 27th half-marathon

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of runners of all ages and from many communities will converge Sunday for the 27th Annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon.

According to Marilyn Balewski of West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, pre-registration is down slightly from last year. But she is optimistic that good weather forecasts will bring more folks out for the 13.1-mile race than the approximately 500 who took part in 2002.

That's when Birmingham's Donald Malen led the way on a bone-chilling afternoon, finishing the challenging neighborhood course in 1:13.09. It should be warmer this time around.

"Right now the registration is down a little bit," Balewski said. "But we do a lot of it on the day of the race, when people wake up and see it's really nice out."

As of Tuesday afternoon, about 230 had signed up for the half-marathon, which begins 12:45 p.m. Sunday at West Bloomfield High School, crosses over Orchard Lake

Road into hilly subdivision streets and concludes at Holy Spirit Church.

Meanwhile, another 140 have pre-registered for the 5K Run/Walk and 90 are set to do the Kids Fun Run. Numbers for both of those events also should climb a bit, Balewski said. The 5K Run/Walk is at 10:30 a.m.; the Kids Fun Run follows at 11:30 a.m.

She added that there aren't any significant changes this year, although there are two new sponsors (Running Fit of West Bloomfield and Warren-based LaCroix Water, Co.). Running Fit will provide prizes for the top male and female finishers in both the half-marathon and 5K (3.2 mile) Run/Walk.

"It's pretty much business as usual," Balewski said. "You might as well stay with a thing that works."

According to Balewski, the half-marathon continues to succeed because of the hospitality shown to runners — including hot, steaming pasta, rio wrap sandwiches and pizza to be doled out afterward in the WBHS gymnasium. (The food is being donated by Pizza Papalis, Balewski said.)

"It's a quality, safe race," Balewski said. "And they're treated well."

There will be about 200 volunteers also making it as comfortable as possible for the athletes.

Balewski said some of those workers will be stationed along the race route, to make sure runners stay on course.

"Volunteers mean a lot to this event," Balewski said. "You can't do an event like this with just staff."

Other sponsors include Singh Development Co. Ltd. and Cauley Chevrolet. Also, Krispy Kreme Donuts will supply breakfast to volunteers when they set up for the day. Balewski said pre-registration will continue until 4 p.m. Friday, at West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation, 4640 Walnut Lake Road (about a half-mile west of Orchard Lake Road).

Check-in on Sunday is 9:15-10:15 a.m. for the 5K Run/Walk; 10:15-11:15 a.m. for the Kids Fun Run; 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. for the half-marathon. For more information, call (248) 759-2500.

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• June 18th & 19th - Starting at 8:00 a.m., and continuing throughout the day - Great Race Registration and Technical Inspections at the Holiday Inn, 6 Mile and 276

• June 18th - Roush Collection Open House, 11851 Market Street, Livonia, 6:30- 9:00 p.m.

• June 20th - Great Race Trophy Run, from the Livonia Holiday Inn, to Michigan International Speedway, to Livonia City Hall. Cars will leave the Holiday Inn beginning at 8:00 a.m. and return to City Hall beginning at 3:45 p.m.

• June 20th p.m. & 21st - The Livonia Great Race Car Show ...featuring cars & trucks from local car enthusiasts.

• June 21st - Race Day!! Join us early... Displays of Competitor's Vintage Race Cars, and our own Local Cars, featuring over 400 original classic cars & trucks, street rods, customs, sports cars and more! The judged local show will run from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.