



photos by JOHN STAND/staff photographer

More than 700 brave runners gathered at West Bloomfield High School — and didn't worry about the cold weather — to compete in the half-marathon race.



The agony of it all shows in the faces of Marlene Sundberg and Lewre Sundberg, who came all the way from Bay City to compete in the half-marathon.

Bravin' it! Runners defy weather in area mini marathon

Despite the rain and wind, nearly 800 runners braved Sunday's chilly weather to compete in the West Bloomfield Half-Marathon Run.

Mark Mesler, 20, of Grand Blanc was first to cross the finish line, winning the men's open division (ages 18-29) with a time of one hour, four minutes and 38 seconds.

David Hinz, 28, of Canton, who competed in 1980's Olympic trials, was Mesler's stiffest competition, placing second (1:05.38).

The Grabowski brothers, Eddie and John, of Orchard Lake, placed third and fourth, respectively. John won last year's race, and Eddie finished second.

The first woman to finish was Kathy Ricea, 21, of Chatham, Ontario (1:21.26). Chris Kage, 20, of Pontiac placed second (1:24.18) in the women's division, running her first half-marathon race.

THE RACE, co-sponsored by the West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation and Vic Tanny International, switched from last year's full-marathon format to a half marathon — and participation more than tripled.

"I think a lot of people, obviously, prefer to run

13 miles instead of 26 (actually 26.2)," said Chuck Proulx, community coordinator for West Bloomfield's recreation department.

After years of marathon competition at Belle Isle in Detroit, the annual West Bloomfield event moved to the township last year.

But Proulx said last year's full marathon meant utilizing many dirt, mud and gravel roads.

"The main consideration in dropping to a half marathon was to go to better road conditions, keep away from heavy traffic and keep it closer to the residential area."

THE EVENT, slated for 13.1 miles, fell short of that distance, however, explaining the fast times. The course was approximately 2/3 of a mile shorter, according to Proulx, because the car leading the runners made a wrong turn early in the race.

Proulx said the car turned left, instead of right, at White Birch in the first mile of the race. The runners, following the car, then advanced to Hardwoods, back on course, but the distance was cut substantially.



Mark Mesler has reason to smile, as he was first to cross the finish line with a time of one hour, four minutes and 38 seconds.

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Baseball roundup Soph pitcher shines as Hawks rip FHS

There was a family feud of sorts on Farmington Harrison's baseball field Tuesday.

Paul Wenson, Harrison's sophomore righthander, tossed a five-hitter and struck out five as the Hawks clobbered Farmington High, 10-2, while his older brother Tony and his father Fritz looked on.

And well they should have been in attendance. Tony coaches the Farmington varsity, and Fritz is an assistant coach.

Paul went the distance, surprising Hawk coach John Herrington.

"Paul threw a very nice slider and moved his fastball around real well," Herrington said. "I never expected him to go the whole seven innings in this cold weather, but he seemed to get stronger as the game went on."

Harrison, which had 12 hits in the game, scored seven runs in the second inning. Dale Sklar had three hits — a triple, homer and a single. John Recker had three hits and scored three runs.

Farmington scored two runs in the first inning. In the season opener last weekend, two righthanders — Gordie Hershisser and Tim Newman — pitched Birmingham Groves to a double-header sweep of Harrison, 7-4 and 9-1, last Saturday on Groves' field.

In the first game, Hershisser worked the first 5 1/2 innings, struck out seven and walked six. Tim Quill finished up on the mound. Harrison had five hits.

Rocky Riccelli led Groves' eight-hit attack, collecting three hits, driving in two runs and scoring two. Teammate Brian Hefele drove in two runs with a hit.

Groves' B.J. Cameron was a terror on the base paths, stealing three bases in the first game and smothering two more in the nightcap. Losing pitcher Jim Macielak worked 3 1/2 innings, gave up seven hits, fanned two and walked three. Sklar doubled and knocked in one of Harrison's runs.

In the second game, Newman, better known for his accomplishments on the school's swimming team, gave up just two hits in five innings. He struck out four and walked three.

Newman also carried a big bat — his first-inning grand-slam homer landed in Groves' tennis courts. Hefele knocked in two more runs with two hits, and Riccelli had one hit and one RBI.

Sklar and Macielak each had a double, and teammate Gary Kazanjian had a hit and scored a run.

NORTHWEST 6
LUTHERAN NORTH 3

Richard Hubble, the ace of Farmington Lutheran

Northwest's pitching staff, tossed a six-hitter and was touched for one earned run last Saturday as his team stopped Lutheran North, 6-3.

Hubble, who is 2-0 this season, had a shutout going until the seventh inning, when Lutheran North scored its three runs. The Northwest righthander struck out five and walked four.

Hubble helped his own cause by going two for four and driving in two runs. Andy Rickus clouted a solo home run in the fourth inning, and Carl Payne had two hits in three trips.

Northwest scored three runs in the third inning, one in the fourth and two in the fifth.

Hawk runners notch 2nd win

Ken Kopko, Mike Boyd and Dave Tremonti were multiple winners last Monday as Farmington Harrison's boys' track team outran Novi High, 96-42. The win was the second straight this season for coach John Shoemaker's Harrison team.

Kopko won the sprints, taking the 200-meter dash (24.0), the 400 (52.6) and the 100 (11.9). Boyd won the 300 low hurdles (42.9) and the 110 high hurdles (44.9). Tremonti took the 1,600 run (4:48.0) and the 800 (2:09.0).

Harrison's 1,600 relay (Tremonti, Mike Boyd, Mark Newton and Maury Nussbaum) won in 3:48, and the Hawks' 400 relay (Steve Sweeney, Brian Sandler, Dan Lacey and Tom Goebel) won in 45.5.

Sweeney, Sandler, Ed Mohr and Fien Baker ran on the 800 relay, which posted a winning time of 1:40.7.

Two Harrison field event winners were Mohr, who soared 12 feet in the pole vault, and Art Wilhelm, who cleared 5-4 in the high jump.

On April 30, Harrison runs at Walled Lake Western in a Western Six League contest with a 4 p.m. start.

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