

Festival run is now the Fox Trot

By Tom Baer
staff writer

From a minimarathon to a foot race to a fox trot — that's the progression of an athletic event, which for years has been a popular feature of the Farmington Founders' Festival.

In past years, the Farmington-Area YMCA sponsored a festival minimarathon, a 10-mile run through the streets of Farmington and Farmington Hills which ended near the festival parade on Grand River.

Last year the YMCA scrapped that format in favor of two shorter "foot

aces" through a subdivision near the YMCA, 28180 Farmington Road, north of 12 Mile.

This summer the event has a new name — the Founders' Festival Fox Trot. Two races, five kilometers (3.1 miles) and 10 kilometers (6.2 miles), are scheduled for Saturday morning in the Kendallwood subdivision northeast of the Y.

The five-kilometer run begins at 9 a.m. and the 10-kilometer race starts 45 minutes later.

THE REASON for the name change is that Fox and Company, a certified

public accountant firm located in Southfield, is sponsoring the event.

"We've had partial sponsorship in the past, but this is the first time we've had one company handle it all," said meet director Kevin Bush, the assistant executive director of the Farmington-Area YMCA.

Runners may preregister at the YMCA at \$4 each through today. Late registrations, at \$6 each, will be accepted through Friday. Runners may still register on the morning of the race if they show up before 8:15 a.m.

The first 125 runners to preregister were given sun visors, and the first 250

to sign up received tank tops.

"We're stressing early registration this year because it gives us more time to organize the race," Bush said. "Our goal is to have at least 300 runners. We're going to have some good local runners — guys who can finish the 10-kilometer run in under 30 minutes."

THERE WILL BE 12 competitive classifications, six each of men and women. Age groups are: 13 and under, 14-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49 and 50 and over.

A trophy will be given to the runner with the best time of the race. Plaques

will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age group, and every participant will receive a commemorative patch.

The five-kilometer course begins at Tallipwood and Farmington road and winds through the subdivision on the following streets: Kendallwood, Red Clover, Lorikay and Wayburn. The finish line will be in the YMCA parking lot.

The course will be repeated for the 10-kilometer race.

An aid station will be set up along the course, according to Bush. Runners

may walk through the course before the race if they wish. There'll be course markers and people to direct them on race day.

"Overall, there'll be a festive atmosphere," Bush said. "We'll be giving away balloons to the kids and there'll be refreshments available after the race."

Participants will be eligible for a drawing for athletic equipment after the race.

Last year, 350 runners participated in the five and 2 1/2-mile foot races.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Rich Stoblin of Forest Elementary playground team strains at the chinning bar during the Youth Fitness Olympics at North Farmington High School.

Gill's young athletes earn fitness award

The spectators played key roles in the festivities last Thursday in the seventh-annual Farmington Youth Fitness Olympics at North Farmington High School.

Continuing a tradition begun last year, the fans were allowed to cast ballots to decide the winner of the sportsmanship award, given to the playground team displaying the best sportsmanship, conduct and style during the meet. Every program contained a ballot.

The crowd of about 100, which included Farmington Hills Mayor Donn Wolf and Councilwoman Jan Dolan, voted for Gill Playground, an 18-member team directed by Dennis Antishin and Wendy Randall.

"Gill's kids won hands down," said Dave Justice of the sponsoring Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department. "Gill's kids were excellent in terms of conduct and sportsmanship. Their leaders did a super job in getting them ready."

More than 150 youngsters aged 8-15 participated in this year's Youth Fitness Olympics. Each of the Farmington area's 10 playgrounds entered a team in the competition, which tests playground skills.

FOR THE SECOND year in a row, Middlebelt Playground won the trophy for athletic excellence,

scoring 62 points. Linda Bache and Paul Gessler directed Middlebelt this summer.

William Grace placed second in the athletic competition with 52 points, and Gill took third with 45. Woodcreek scored 43 points. Dunckel had 30, Flanders 26, Forest 22, Larkshire 14, Longacre 11 and Wooddale 10.

Boys and girls competed in the 50-yard dash, triple jump, running broad jump, softball throw, shuttle relay, standing broad jump and chinning.

There were four competitive age classifications — Class A, ages 14-15; Class B, 12-13; Class C, 10-11; Class D, 9 and under.

The winners in the top three classes will represent Farmington in the 24th-annual Detroit Youth Fitness Meet on July 30 at the Lower Warren Metropolitan near Belleville. That meet will attract more than 2,500 youngsters from 64 area cities.

"Our kids get fired up about going to the metro meet," Justice said.

Sportsmanship and conduct, and just as important at the metro meet as in the local olympics. The team will be shooting for the John J. Conidine Award, emblematic of good sportsmanship, conduct and appearance.

The local olympics was held a week earlier this summer so it wouldn't conflict with Farmington Founders' Festival events this week.

Baseball roundup

Farmington rips Legion foe

Jamie Whitworth pitched a three-hitter and Mike Turquist drove in three runs with a pair of doubles last week as Farmington clobbered Southfield, 13-1, in an 18th District Legion contest.

Whitworth, who went the distance to pick up his third Legion win, struck out nine, walked two and hit three batters.

Farmington, which scored five runs in the second inning, pounded Southfield pitching for 14 hits. Drrrick Kerr had three hits in three trips, and Mark Leonetti went three runs, and Scott Williams contributed a two-run double.

Dan Dickson was the losing pitcher.

TROY-CLAWSON 8 BLOOMFIELD HILLS 7

Troy-Clawson's Scott Dugan wasted little time in settling the score with Bloomfield Hills in an 18th District American Legion makeup baseball game Thursday.

Dugan, leading off the 11th inning, belted a two-strike pitch served up by Paul Sabol for a home run which gave T-C a long-delayed 8-7 victory in the crucial Legion game, which had been halted by darkness after 10 full innings last Sunday.

And the top of the 11th wasn't without its exciting moments as Bloomfield Hills' Eric C Girdler slid home with what appeared to be

the go-ahead run only to be ruled out on a strikeout by the home plate umpire.

Girdler drew a walk from T-C pitcher Mike McClear and advanced to second on Brad Remer's sacrifice bunt. Bill Rankin struck out, but Tim Jones singled to left and Girdler raced to third base.

McClear then heaved a wild pitch, the ball rolling to the backstop. Girdler attempted to score, but was called out at the plate.

NF-WB squad rolls in tourney

Richard Goldberg pitched a one-hitter and drove in three runs Thursday to pace North Farmington-West Bloomfield to a 10-0 victory over Detroit Renaissance in a 10-Babe Ruth district tournament for 14- and 15-year-olds at Westland's Jaycee Park.

Goldberg turned in an outstanding mound performance, striking out 15 of the 21 batters he faced and walking only three. He contributed three doubles at the plate.

Scott Ronan had three hits and drove in two runs for manager Carl Childress' NF-WB squad, and teammate Tom Krumm had a hit and two RBIs. NF-WB had 10 hits.

In another recent game, Rochester stand-out Eric McCann tossed a seven-hitter and struck out five to help his team surprise Troy-Clawson, 5-3.

"He had a wicked breaking ball, which felt right off the table," said Troy-Clawson manager Hugh Dugan. "He's a good fastball pitcher, too, and he had it all going for him that day."

Rochester got eight hits off starter Rich Stewart, who worked 2 1/2 innings and got the loss, and relief man Dave Smith. Mike Thomas drove in two runs with a double in the third inning and then scored on Kirk Matiek's base hit.

T-C's Ted Bushofsky smacked a two-run homer in the fifth, scoring Scott Dugan, who had tripled.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS 4 BERKLEY 1

Chip Vaughan's strong right arm carried Bloomfield Hills to a 4-1 win over Berkley in a recent 18th District American Legion baseball game.

Vaughan, who will pitch for Pontiac Catholic's baseball team next spring, allowed just one hit, a scratch single by lead-off hitter Dave Harris at the start of the game.

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