

## Sports

Dan O'Meara editor/591-2312

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(F10)



# King of the Hills

## Esey conquers 'toughest course'

By Bill Parker  
staff writer

Terry Esey beat the heat and the hills. Tish Schmidt and Joe Thornburg beat the odds.

Esey was the overall winner of Saturday's third annual Bloomfield Hills Heart of the Hills 10K run.

Schmidt was the women's division winner and Thornburg was the oldest participant in the race which took runners over a hilly course and across the winding streets surrounding Bloomfield Hills Andover High School.

Esey, a 35-year-old Farmington Hills resident, hadn't intended to try to win the race, but the victory was "an added bonus."

"This has to be the toughest course in Michigan," said Esey who completed the race in 31:45. "It was constant hills and some of them were pretty decent, too."

Having finished seventh in an Alton Park 5K run the night before, his 32nd race of the summer, Esey wasn't going all out to win the Heart of the Hills race.

"I went out real slow so I was able to hold out pretty well near the end," explained Esey. "It was a fun race, but I think I'm getting too old to be doing this stuff."

THORNBURG, AT AGE 71, would probably argue that point with Esey after stating how much he liked the race.

"That was probably my best time of the year," said the Troy resident who completed the course in 47:24.

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— Terry Esey  
Heart of the Hills winner

"I loved the course and enjoyed the run, but I hated those hills. It was a little humid, too, but not real bad. I thought the race was well conducted and it should draw more participants in the future."

Schmidt broke the tape in the women's division in 38:59. The win was a personal triumph for the Brighton resident who sustained a broken back three years ago in an accident.

After a long, tedious recovery period, Schmidt began running competitively in May. Not only was this her first 10K victory, but she also achieved a personal goal of breaking the 40-minute barrier.

"It was so hilly, it was an awesome course," Schmidt said. "The last three miles were all hills. I've been running almost every weekend since May. I was trying to break 40 (minutes) and I flooded it. I can't believe it. This is great."

OVERALL, NEARLY 400 runners took part in the race which featured a 10K run and a 2-mile fun run. Proceeds of \$3,000 will be donated to the

Special Olympics, the Baldwin Avenue Community Center and Safe Rides.

Special Olympics is an international program of sports training for mentally impaired individuals. The Baldwin Avenue Community Center provides numerous services for disadvantaged individuals in Oakland County while Safe Rides is a student-run organization working to prevent accidents by providing alcohol/drug awareness education and safe rides home for teens in need.

In its third year, the race has grown dramatically from the 70 runners which participated in the inaugural event. Last year there were 235 registered participants.

"I'm very, very happy with the response and the overall success of the race," said race director Dr. Tony Sakorafas, who organized the event with the help of the Andover Soccer Boosters and the Bloomfield Hills Optimist Club. "We were expecting between 400 and 500 runners. We probably would have done a little better had the weather cooperated with us. It has been pretty hot."

SAKORAFAS ALSO apologized for any inconvenience during the two-mile fun run. Evidently there was a mix-up on the course. Many of the leading runners missed the turnaround at the one-mile mark and ended up running better than three miles instead of two.

"I want to apologize about the mishap on the two-mile run," Sakorafas said. "We have all volunteers out there helping us and I guess we overplanned. There was some confusion on the course and I'm sorry for any inconveniences."

In the under 19 division the top three female finishers were K. Browne, 44:08; Jennifer Gailand 45:31; and Susan Lee, 53:58. Top three male finishers were O. Meier 32:20; Eric Blivenicht, 36:34; and Jon Fry, 37:54.

In the 20-29 division the top three female finishers were Trish Schmidt 38:59; Linda Pilar, 39:51; and Elizabeth Lang, 44:20. Top three male finishers were Eric Barron, 32:52; Carl Rundell, 34:45; and Mike Frampus 35:41.

In the 30-39 division the top three female finishers were Jan Jacobs 39:19; Maggie Zidar, 41:19; and Maria Iwaniec, 42:28. Top three male finishers were Terry Esey, 31:45; Stan Polkowski, 34:21; and Patrick Hoyle, 35:25.

In the 40 and over division the top three female finishers were Georgiann Tonnigury, 41:34; Nancy Wales 44:11; and Roberta Thaxton, (time not available). Top three male finishers were Ronald Ruffin, 35:48; Alan Glavack, 36:49; and Tim Klinkhamer, 38:03.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Terry Esey of Farmington Hills was the overall winner of Saturday's Heart of the Hills 10K race at Bloomfield Hills Andover High School. Esey finished the course in 31:45.

## Holzer wins regional, 2D

## Westland eliminates SF from AABC tournament

South Farmington's bid for a second straight appearance in a national baseball tournament was dashed by arch-rival Westland.

After splitting its first two games in the AABC tournament in Coldwater, South was eliminated by the eventual winner Sunday, 12-4.

Westland, the North-Central Region representative, leaves today on a return trip to Waterbury, Conn., where it will attempt to defend its national championship.

Farmington, which finished with a 28-9 record, was third in the National Amateur Baseball Federation's tournament in Northville last year. South and Westland both compete in the Little Caesars Mickey Mantle travel league.

Westland, which received an automatic bid to the regional, jumped to a 6-1 lead after two innings and added six more after South closed to within 6-4, invoking the eight-run mercy rule.

"IT SEEMED like we were hitting the ball hard; they just hit it better," said South coach Lou Pirronello, adding he fully anticipated another national appearance.

"I knew we had our hands full — as much as I thought we had a great team," he said. "There was a lot of competition there."

Ben Underwood started against Westland, but was chased after 1 1/2 innings, allowing six runs on seven hits. "It was a real credit to Westland the way they hit the ball against him," said Pirronello, recalling Underwood pitched one-hit relief to beat Team Tire No. 1 of Macomb County on Thursday.

Dave Miracle, Billy Hardy — both of whom were named to the all-tournament team — and Rich Hamel had two hits apiece, and Kevin Young hit a two-run dou-

ble. Hardy and Paul Pirronello had one RBI each.

After losing its first game Thursday to Homer, 15-13, South stayed alive with a 12-9 victory over Team Tire later in the day, a game that didn't end until 1:05 a.m. Friday.

SOUTH'S SEVEN-run fifth inning wiped out a 3-0 deficit, but the team needed three runs in the 10th to win. With two out and two on, Miracle got the game-winning hit with a two-run double and scored the last run on an error.

Miracle was 2-for-4 with six RBI, having hit a grand slam in the big fifth inning to put South on top 7-3. Chris Schmidt was 3-for-4. Underwood and Pirronello 2-for-3. Starting pitcher Ron Hollis gave up nine runs in six innings, but Underwood shut out Team Tire over the final 4 1/2, striking out three and walking three.

"He just floated the ball up there and smuck his fastball in there every now and then," Pirronello said. In the opener, South overcame a seven-run first inning by Homer when it scored seven itself in the fifth to take a 12-10 lead. That was short-lived, however, as Homer came back to score five times in the bottom of the inning.

IN SOUTH'S half of the fifth, Jay Alexander had two RBIs on a base hit and a sacrifice fly, and Eric Miller, Hardy, Underwood, Pirronello and Young had RBI singles.

In a game that took 3 hours, 15 minutes to play, Underwood was 3-for-3 with two walks, and Pirronello and Young had two hits and three RBI. Hamel and Hardy also had two hits apiece.

Schmidt, who compiled a superb earned run average during the regular season, surprisingly lasted only one third of an inning. He gave up six runs on five hits but didn't figure in the decision.

## Semifinals in hockey

Dan Lambert attempts a point-blank shot at Spartans goalie Dave Cergini in a Metro Summer Hockey League semifinal game Monday at the Plymouth Ice Arena. Lambert and his Wildcat teammates rallied from an 8-3 deficit in the third period to post a 13-10 victory. The surging Wolverines won the other game, 6-3 over the Broncos. See Page 4D for details on the games.



BILL BRIDGEMAN/staff photographer



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