

Octogenarian still running at 83

By Steve Kowalski
Staff writer

George Foreman isn't the only ageless wonder in the sports world.

Two days after the 42-year-old Foreman tried unsuccessfully to regain the world heavyweight boxing title, Detroit Jim Ramsey started and finished another West Bloomfield Half Marathon.

At age 83, "I envision Jim running until he's 90 and 100," said George Foreman. "He is amazing. He doesn't get any older records but he starts and completes a course. We give our oldest runner a medal and he deserves it."

Spans draped another medal over Ramsey's shoulders Sunday, two hours, 49 minutes and 48 seconds after Ramsey began the 13.1 mile course. The post-race awards ceremony had already begun when Spans interrupted the program to announce Ramsey's entrance into the West Bloomfield High School gymnasium.

SEVERAL HUNDRED runners who finished ahead of Ramsey applauded his arrival. "All I can say is it's nice coming in and finding out there's people who appreciate the rotten race I ran today," he said. "This is a nice race, the only thing is it's either too hot or too cold (the day of the race)."

Now, Ramsey wasn't about to challenge Doug Kurtis, the winner who finished in 1:39:17, but it was far from a "rotten" race. Considering the drizzle, 10-15 mile per hour winds and 38 degree weather, he did quite well for himself.

Ramsey, who said he competes in about 30-35 races a year, also ran in the Briarwood 20-kilometer race the week before in Ann Arbor. A veteran of 12 Detroit Free Press Marathons and a first-time Boston Marathon runner earlier this month, Ramsey said he's "never been in a race he doesn't finish."

"I got a couple hamstrings pulls in the Free Press one and I finished," he added. "I think (the hamstring injuries) did me some good."

RAMSEY, A retired mechanic, took up jogging at the urging of his doctor after suffering a heart attack 14 years ago.

"That's when I started running and it happened that I liked it, so I've run ever since," he said. "To tell you the truth, I wish I had gotten into it earlier."

Today he chooses to run on his own, sometimes up to 10 miles a day, mostly in downtown Detroit and on Belle Isle.

Ramsey's longevity as a runner is impressive and so is his 62-year marriage to wife Julia. The two raised six children, all of whom he said have graduated from college.

The Ramsey's 62nd anniversary fell on April 15 but the two did not celebrate because Julia was feeling ill.

"I'll take her to (a race in) Kalamazoo this weekend and treat her to a movie or dinner there," he said.

And what were his plans for Sunday evening?

"I'll go home and have a beer — but I don't care for more than one," Ramsey said. "Then I'm going to get in the hot tub and rub with Ben Gay."

So that's his secret.

Goba 10th in race

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Men's (40-49) race at 1:17:26, just ahead of Rochester Hills' Bob Gross' time of 1:17:54 and West Bloomfield's Don Balkwell (1:17:55) and William Benton (1:18:17).

THE VETERANS Division (50-59) was won by Holland's Harry Tellman in 1:20:32; Livonia's Jack Hoskins won the Supremen (60-up) Division in 1:40:02; Southfield's Stephen Hoffman won the new Clydesdale Division (under-40 men who weigh at least 196 pounds) in 1:27:10, and Troy's William Constantine won the Clydesdales (over 40, at least 196 pounds) in 1:30:33.

On the women's side, Troy's Estelle D'Souza, 15, took the Juniors Division (under 15) in 2:03:05. Bloomfield Hills resident June

'I don't think too much about it (the weather). There's nothing you can do about it, so you make the most of it.'

— Doug Kurtis

MacDonald won the Masters (40-49) in 1:30:46 and the Submasters was taken by Milan's Cindy Keeler in 1:24:20.

Detroit's Marilyn Morehead won the Veterans Division in 1:58:41, while the only husband and wife team that finished was Rei Cousineau and Wanda Cousineau, of South Ste. Marie, who had a combined time of 3:17:36.

half-marathon results

15TH WEST BLOOMFIELD HALF-MARATHON RESULTS

BOYS 17-UNDER: 1. Steven Short, 14, Saginaw, 1:28:53; 2. Aaron Chelicko, 15, West Bloomfield, 1:35:07; 3. David Shantz, 13, Birmingham, 1:44:02.

MEN 18-29 YEARS: 1. Mark Neal, 20, Rochester, 1:10:55; 2. Dale Hart, 29, Detroit, 1:11:25; 3. John Springer, 29, Columbia, 1:12:20; 4. Rick Snape, 26, Auburn Hills, 1:12:45; 5. Dan Goba, 18, Farmington Hills, 1:12:49; 6. Todd Kelly, 29, Troy, 1:13:37; 7. Edward Cheneba, 29, Auburn Hills, 1:16:56; 8. Rob Hill, 19, Bloomfield Hills, 1:17:40; 9. Al Paolucci, 29, Mt. Clemens, 1:18:02; 10. Donald May, 21, Lathrup, 1:19:06; 11. Alan Zolnowski, 25, Jamez, 1:20:03; 12. Scott Baker, 28, Royal Oak, 1:20:28.

MEN 30-39: 1. Doug Kurtis, 39, Northville, 1:05:17; 2. Donald Demetriades, 30, Ann Arbor, 1:10:05; 3. Dick Smith, 32, Kalamazoo, 1:11:37; 4. Terry Ebey, 37, Farmington Hills, 1:12:36; 5. Tom Emmert, 35, Redford, 1:15:06; 6. Mark Wetherston, 31, Mt. Clemens, 1:16:45; 7. Ken Pice, 33, Centerline, 1:17:46; 8. Duane Seward, 32, Royal Oak, 1:17:53; 9. Thomas Ford, 33, Royal Oak, 1:19:13; 10. Peter Imboden, 30, Detroit, 1:19:34; 11. Daniel Kendall, 33, Royal Oak, 1:20:10; 12. Thomas Taylor, 36, Plymouth, 1:20:14.

MEN 40-49: 1. Paul Delachantay, 45, Riverview, 1:17:24; 2. Bob Gross, 42, Rochester Hills, 1:17:54; 3. Donald Balkwell, 44, West Bloomfield, 1:17:54; 4. William Benton, 41, West Bloomfield, 1:18:17; 5. Clifford Maycock-Doris, 47, Detroit, 1:18:53; 6. Doug Goodhue, 49, Midland, 1:19:48; 7. Ellis Boas, 41, Detroit, 1:21:51; 8. John Lowfien, 43, Windsor, 1:22:16; 9. Keith Wright, 40, Farmington Hills, 1:22:45; 10. Alan Glonick, 44, Bloomfield Hills, 1:22:48; 11. Richard Reame, 41, Plymouth, 1:23:08; 12. Tom Henderson, 42, St. Clair Shores, 1:23:31.

MEN 50-59: 1. Harry Tellman, 52, Holland, 1:20:32; 2. Kurt Makowski, 51, Windsor, 1:24:02; 3. Ed Rooney, 50, Dearborn, 1:25:54; 4. John Watson, 51, West Bloomfield, 1:30:43; 5. Gene Reck, 53, Franklin, 1:32:10; 6. Art Kize, 52, Garden City, 1:34:31; 7. John Wehrly, 51, Madison Heights, 1:34:47; 8. Sergio Vitorreolo, 54, Grosse Pointe, 1:36:18; 9. Leo St. Amour, 52, Birmingham, 1:36:32; 10. Bob Hays, 50, Grosse Pointe, 1:37:15; 11. Travis Cosgrove, 51, Grosse Pointe Park, 1:37:49; 12. Carlos Arroyo, 50, Detroit, 1:38:07.

MEN 60-OVER: 1. Jack Hoskins, 60, Livonia, 1:40:02; 2. Darwin Sprayky, 64, Waterford, 1:42:35; 3. Ernie Smith, 61, Allen Park, 1:48:18; 4. Bob Rooney, 60, Bloomfield Hills, 1:54:56; 5. Frederick Dunn, Jr., 60, Waterford, 1:55:29; 6. John Goby, 60, Redford, 2:08:12; 7. Robert Morley, 65, Farmington Hills, 2:08:12; 8. Jim Braunlich, 64, Farmington Hills, 2:08:12; 9. Michael Braun, 62, Dearborn, Lake, 2:10:02; 10. Robert Lipkowitz, 63, Troy, 2:12:04.

CYCLISTS (MEN 18-POUNDS AND OVER) 39-UNDER: 1. Stephen Hoffman, 38, Southfield, 1:27:10; 2. Philip Barker, 36, 1:28:32; 3. Richard Huhn, 39, Detroit, 1:29:27.

CYCLISTS 40-OVER: 1. William Constantine, 40, Troy, 1:30:33; 2. William Mackay, 42, Westport, 1:32:52; 3. Thomas Harrison, 42, 1:33:51.

WOMEN 17-UNDER: 1. Estelle D'Souza, 15, Troy, 2:03:06.

WOMEN 18-29: 1. Laura Murphy, 27, Rochester, 1:19:06; 2. Maggie Linn-Smith, 27, Kalamazoo, 1:22:31; 3. Susan Taiteloff, 23, Livonia, 1:22:56; 4. Donna Donkowski, 25, Bellevue, 1:27:22; 5. Carol Wallace, 26, Royal Oak, 1:28:42; 6. Tracy Smith, 28, Kalamazoo, 1:37:11; 7. Patricia McFadden, 28, Novi, 1:41:00; 8. Tracy Cohen, 19, Ann Arbor, 1:41:42; 9. Deborah Fry, 21, Walled Lake, 1:46:37; 10. Robin Grogger, 25, Troy, 1:47:10; 11. Stacy Lieberman, 20, Bloomfield Hills, 1:48:44; 12. Debra Degroot, 19, East Lansing, 1:50:05.

WOMEN 30-39: 1. Cindy Keller, 33, Milan, 1:24:20; 2. Maureen Carter, 36, Brighton, 1:28:01; 3. Michele Fields, 32, New Hudson, 1:29:24; 4. Jan Jacobs, 33, Birmingham, 1:28:40; 5. Wanda Cousineau, 34, South Ste. Marie, 1:30:00; 6. Robin Serice, 35, Ann Arbor, 1:30:49; 7. Ann Smith, 38, Shelby Twp., 1:34:58; 8. Kathleen Spillane, 33, Farmington Hills, 1:37:21; 9. Elizabeth Doyle, 39, Clawson, 1:39:49; 10. Cathy McKittrick, 37, Tecumseh, 1:41:01; 11. Marce Sabouris, 39, Dearborn, 1:41:23; 12. Patti Tana, 35, Farmington Hills, 1:42:45.

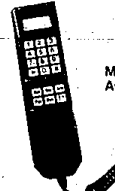

WOMEN 40-49: 1. June MacDonald, 42, Bloomfield Hills, 1:30:46; 2. Mary Wlachusen, 44, St. Clair Shores, 1:35:54; 3. Donna Oton, 41, Bloomfield Hills, 1:36:27; 4. Carol Oton, 40, 45, Birmingham, 1:39:32; 5. Barbara Hays, 43, Detroit, 1:40:02; 6. Joan Murphy-Wisher, 42, Windsor, 1:42:43; 7. Beverly Feuchl, 47, Troy, 1:44:33; 8. Maria Iwaniec, 40, Birmingham, 1:48:18; 9. Suzanne Orszag, 42, Midland, 1:52:55; 10. Sydney Lewis, 41, Birmingham, 1:53:19; 11. Ln Lewis, 40, Rochester Hills, 1:54:07; 12. Veronica Coleman, 46, Ferndale, 1:58:22.

WOMEN 50-OVER: 1. Marilyn Morehead, 50, Detroit, 1:58:45; 2. Mary DeMatia, 50, Novi, 1:58:44; 3. Anne Rouneau, 50, Southfield, 1:59:08; 4. Nancy Smith, 53, Westland, 2:02:03.

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