

# RECREATION CENTER

The Observer & Eccentric publishes the "Recreation Center" every Sunday in Sports. To submit results of competition, items for the Rec Roundup or local story ideas, call at writer Chris Mayer at (248) 901-2589, fax him material at (248) 644-1314 or write to him at: The Observer & Eccentric Sports Department, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

## Area skiers shine at annual VASA event

The 1998 NorthMed VASA Cross Country Ski Races always attract a talented group of skiers. And, as usual, local participants figured prominently.

The annual races were conducted Feb. 13-15 in Traverse City, and West Bloomfield's Herb Ashbeck proved to be one of the area's standout performers.

Ashbeck placed second overall in the 27K Classic, posting a time of 1 hour, 38 minutes, 6.2 seconds. He finished just under five seconds behind winner Kevin Parmenter of Williamsburg.

Other local finishers in the 27K included Birmingham's Thomas Kuhn and John Zvirbulis. Kuhn came in 10th in the men's 30-39 age division (2:33:54.7) and Zvirbulis was 15th in the same age category (3:15:51.6).

Claudio Vacas of Bloomfield Hills crossed sixth in the men's 50-59 division (2:24:51.9) and Peter Lamb of Birmingham was third in the men's 60-up division (4:00:20.0).

Bloomfield Hills' Merry Vander Linden was the lone female to take the 47K Classic and her time of 4:01:10.4 left her fourth overall.

West Bloomfield's Leonid Tikh crossed fifth overall in the 27K Freestyle with an impressive time of 1:18:03.6.

Here is an overall and age-division breakdown of the top male and female finishers in the various races.

**Top male finishers (10 started)**

1. Kathy Whalen, Traverse City 31:23.9
2. Sally Whitkop, Traverse City 41:06.0
3. Anne Dodd, Traverse City 46:36.1

**27K CLASSIC**

**Top male finishers (14 started)**

1. Kevin Parmenter, Williamsburg 1:38:01.8
2. Herb Ashbeck, West Bloomfield 1:38:06.2
3. Phil 'Jaw' Cannon, Holland 1:41:35.2
4. Richard Jaisle, Traverse City 1:44:19.8
5. Michael Keenan, Scottville 1:45:25.7
6. Steve Westphal, Traverse City 1:46:14.2
7. Timothy Lederle, Minnesota 1:46:29.9
8. Ed Clay, Amherst, Ohio 1:47:22.3
9. Guy Cannon, Medina, Ohio 1:48:37.2
10. Mark Holtz, Williamsburg 1:50:23.8

**Top female finishers (22 started)**

1. Diane Patridge, Deephaven, Mo. 1:55:59.6
2. C. Mueller-Brumbaugh, Rford 2:25:28.4
3. Whitney Armstrong, Ludington 2:28:45.7

**Men 30-39 (12 finished)**

1. Richard Utter, Maryland 2:34:01.1
2. Wesley Vandembark, Troy 4:22:29.8

**Men 30-39 (17 finished)**

1. Kevin Parmenter, Williamsburg 1:38:01.8
2. Herb Ashbeck, West Bloomfield 1:38:06.2
3. Timothy Lederle, Grand Marais 1:46:29.9
4. Thomas Kuhn, Birmingham 2:33:54.7
5. John Zvirbulis, Birmingham 3:15:51.6
6. Jeffrey Zabel, Farmington Hills 4:03:22.3

**Men 40-49 (12 finished)**

1. Phil 'Jaw' Cannon, Holland 1:41:35.2
2. Richard Jaisle, Traverse City 1:44:19.8
3. Steve Westphal, Traverse City 1:46:14.2
4. Michael Banks, Walled Lake 3:10:44.2

**Men 50-59 (12 finished)**

1. Gene Randall, Traverse City 2:34:17.2
2. Don Begman, Holland 2:35:21.6
3. Peter Lamb, Birmingham 4:00:20.0

**Men 60-69 (12 finished)**

1. Whitney Armstrong, Ludington 2:28:45.7
2. Ellen Fagan, Chicago, Ill. 2:32:28.3
3. Cindy Haight, Bloomington 2:54:45.2

**Top female finishers (14 started)**

1. Marc Furberston, Traverse City 36:24.9
2. Bruce Bodjack, Traverse City 36:28.2

**Women 50-59 (4 finished)**

1. Jean Bergman, Holland 2:46:41.1
2. Jean Murray, Mt. Pleasant 3:14:30.6
3. Kathleen Donahoe, Ann Arbor 3:24:30.6

**47K CLASSIC**

**Top male finishers (18 men started)**

1. Randall Bladel, Granger, Ind. 3:09:49.1
2. Jap Wright, Wallon Lake 3:37:23.6
3. Kevin Hayes, St. John 3:57:22.0
4. Michael Gill, Williamsburg 4:08:22.8
5. Sidney Smith, Lake Forest, Ill. 4:22:01.0
6. Gregory Kulesha, Warren 4:22:48.8
7. Mike Schaeffer, Traverse City 4:25:53.9
8. Victor Dolan, Elkhart, Ind. 4:28:42.8
9. Patrick Loria, Grand Rapids 4:30:10.7
10. Garrett Chiles, Lake Orion 4:42:46.6

**Top female finishers (18 started)**

1. Merry Vander Linden, Bim. Hills 4:01:10.4
2. Victor Dolan, Elkhart, Ind. 4:28:42.8
3. Garrett Chiles, Lake Orion 4:42:46.6

**Men 40-49 (18 finished)**

1. Randall Bladel, Granger, Ind. 3:09:49.1
2. Kevin Hayes, St. John 3:57:22.0
3. Michael Gill, Williamsburg 4:08:22.8

**Men 50-59 (18 finished)**

1. Jap Wright, Wallon Lake 3:37:23.6
2. Terry Wilson, Rochester Hills 4:45:33.1
3. Jim Murphy, Saginaw 4:49:49.3

**Men 60-69 (18 finished)**

1. Charles Faurot, Darien, Conn. 6:29:18.4
2. Merry Vander Linden, Bim. Hills 4:01:10.4

**30K FUN RACE**

**Top male finishers (141 started)**

1. Eric Ouburn, Portage 39:09.2
2. Sam Niemi, Traverse City 41:12.8
3. Rob Wolf, Traverse City 41:14.1
4. David Kuhn, Traverse City 45:07.6
5. Greg Merwio, Weidman 45:16.0
6. Adam Chwalibog, Traverse City 42:28.8
7. Kyle Rughn, Potokay 42:27.3
8. Bob Kughn, Potokay 42:27.6
9. Ed Symonakis, Traverse City 42:28.4
10. Richard Nagenda, Traverse City 43:24.4

**Women 30-39 (120 finished)**

1. Nancy D'Amico, Farm Hills 1:03:56.6
2. David Bernard, Southfield 1:09:41.9
3. Richard Stanley, Roch. Hills 1:09:42.9
4. Daniel Lyons, Troy 1:35:41.7

**Top female finishers (48 started)**

1. Marie McIn, Traverse City 42:24.5
2. Kathy Haley, Traverse City 42:24.8
3. Carolyn Keith, Traverse City 43:39.5

**4. Betsy Tholen, Traverse City 43:57.8**

**5. Claire Ouhurst, Portage 44:82.2**

**6. Kelly Green-Shrift, Traverse City 46:00.0**

**7. Patty Olson, Traverse City 46:14.2**

**8. Teresa Becker, Traverse City 46:37.3**

**9. Cathie Prentiss, Traverse City 47:20.0**

**10. Mary Estel, Traverse City 47:37.1**

**27K FREESTYLE**

**Top male finishers (118 started)**

1. Timothy Ouburn, Portage City 1:14:07.6
2. Clifford Ouburn, Traverse City 1:14:08.6
3. Gregory Roll, Blue Island, Ill. 1:17:07.9
4. Karl Stegmeyer, Interlochen 1:17:10.2
5. Leonid Tikh, West Bloomfield 1:18:03.6
6. Bill Turono, Rosecomm 1:19:28.9
7. Mike Quillinan, East Lansing 1:19:33.1
8. Bill Nanny, Traverse City 1:19:35.2
9. John Ott, Traverse City 1:19:37.2
10. Ed Reid, Grand Blanc 1:19:39.3

**Top female finishers (128 started)**

1. Wendy Anderson, Ohio 1:19:41.2
2. Kaye Kropp, Traverse City 1:27:52.3
3. Debbie Westphal, Traverse City 1:28:18.6
4. Kathleen Cook-Dowd, Cedar 1:30:08.0
5. Carrie Bale, Williamsburg 1:32:11.7
6. Bethany Ouburn, Lake Ann 1:32:31.8
7. Laura Ottwell, Traverse City 1:34:47.9
8. Sara Cockrell, Grawn 1:36:02.7
9. Lesanne Cruise, Ann Arbor 1:36:41.2
10. Roxanne Barton, Homer 1:37:46.9

**Men 30-39 (12 finished)**

1. Wayne Anderson, Ohio 1:19:41.2
2. Kaye Kropp, Traverse City 1:27:52.3
3. Debbie Westphal, Traverse City 1:28:18.6
4. Kathleen Cook-Dowd, Cedar 1:30:08.0
5. Carrie Bale, Williamsburg 1:32:11.7
6. Bethany Ouburn, Lake Ann 1:32:31.8
7. Laura Ottwell, Traverse City 1:34:47.9
8. Sara Cockrell, Grawn 1:36:02.7
9. Lesanne Cruise, Ann Arbor 1:36:41.2
10. Roxanne Barton, Homer 1:37:46.9

**Men 40-49 (12 finished)**

1. Thomas Louhela, East G. Rapids 1:37:56.0
2. Dave O'Neil, Traverse City 1:42:23.4
2. Darryl Ulmer, Lansing 1:23:37.9
3. John Morton, Ann Arbor 1:28:22.3

**Men 50-59 (12 finished)**

1. Karl Stegmeyer, Interlochen 1:17:10.2
2. Leonid Tikh, West Bloomfield 1:18:03.6
3. Brian Greene, Traverse City 1:21:18.8
4. Paul Hillier, Bloomfield Hills 1:25:18.8

**Men 60-69 (12 finished)**

1. Gregory Hill, Blue Island, Ill. 1:17:07.9
2. Bill Turono, Rosecomm 1:19:28.9
3. Bill Murray, Traverse City 1:19:35.2
4. Mark Mazzarelli, Rochester 1:45:56.1

**Men 40-49 (142 finished)**

1. Clifford Ouburn, Traverse City 1:14:08.6
2. Mike Quillinan, East Lansing 1:19:33.1
3. John Ott, Traverse City 1:19:37.2
4. Ed Reid, Grand Blanc 1:19:39.3

**Top female finishers (140 women started)**

1. Victoria Aamus, Traverse City 2:13:35.8

**3. Kirt Sanford, Rockford, Ill. 1:21:24.4**

**17. Kenneth Dawson, Farm. Hills 1:38:13.3**

**39. Timothy Duff, Birmingham 2:31:41.3**

**Men 50-59 (18 finished)**

1. Bud Weber, Traverse City 1:22:32.6
2. Bud Ward, Williamsburg 1:23:01.0
3. Jim Steward, Nequaunc 1:24:34.4
18. Michael Fitzpatrick, Bev. Hills 2:03:46.6

**Men 60-69 (17 finished)**

1. Tom Anderson, Big Rapids 1:20:44.5
2. James Hudgen, Traverse City 1:24:40.3
3. Robert Gray, Eastlake 1:27:49.8

**Men 70-79 (2 finished)**

1. Don Hurr, Marquette 1:41:08.9
2. George Kuhn, Traverse City 1:49:24.4
3. William Matson, Saginaw 1:55:18.0

**Men 30-39 (14 finished)**

1. Kaye Kropp, Traverse City 1:27:52.3
2. Bethany Ouburn, Lake Ann 1:32:31.8
3. Lisa James, South Bend, Ind. 1:35:52.0
4. Maureen O'Dowd, Rochester 1:37:50.5

**Men 40-49 (12 finished)**

1. Wendy Anderson, Ohio 1:19:41.2
2. Carrie Bale, Williamsburg 1:32:11.7
3. Laura Ottwell, Traverse City 1:34:47.9

**Men 50-59 (12 finished)**

1. Debbie Westphal, Traverse City 1:28:18.6
2. Kathleen Cook-Dowd, Cedar 1:30:08.0
3. Sara Cockrell, Grawn 1:36:02.7
4. Sharon Watt, Bedford 2:01:02.0

**Men 60-69 (12 finished)**

1. Ellen Piverson, Traverse City 2:02:12.3
2. Karen Harvey, Chicago, Ill. 2:39:48.7

**47K FREESTYLE**

**Top male finishers (141 men started)**

1. Carl Swenson, Boulder, Colo. 2:03:49.5
2. Pete Vordenberg, Boulder, Colo. 2:03:50.1
3. Trond Nystad, Denver, Colo. 2:04:00.9
4. Eric Wilberth, Wilson, Wyo. 2:04:27.8
5. Tom Aamus, Traverse City 2:04:42.5
6. Milan Balic, Williamsburg 2:06:42.8
7. Daniel Packman, Bend, Ore. 2:07:28.3
8. Matthew Coligan, Traverse City 2:10:44.9
9. Ned Overend, Durango, Colo. 2:11:35.8
10. Bill Brundage, Traverse City 2:12:17.4

**Top female finishers (140 women started)**

1. Victoria Aamus, Traverse City 2:13:35.8
2. L. Carani, Highland Park, Ill. 3:23:23.10

### REC ROUNDUP

www.karmanos.org/race-for-the-cure-Detroit.

**THE 1998 MS WALK**  
The annual MS Walk to help the fight against multiple sclerosis comes to Birmingham on Sunday, May 3. Featuring routes of five, 15 and 20 kilometers, the Birmingham event will be conducted at Seaholm High School (2436 Lincoln). Check-in begins at 8 a.m. and the routes open at 9 a.m. Walks will be held in Ann Arbor (Sunday, April 19), Dearborn (May 3), Grosse Pointe (May 3) and Monroe (May 3). For more information or a detailed brochure/registration form, call the National MS Society, Michigan Chapter at (248) 360-0020 or 1-800-247-7382.

**INDOOR SPORTS**  
**BOWLING BONANZA**  
The 9th Annual Alzheimer's Association Bowling Bonanza, benefiting the Alzheimer's Association-Detroit Area Chapter, will be held Saturday, March 7, at Cloverlains in Livonia. Bowlers, who can win great prizes, are required to raise \$25 in pledges, due the day of the event. There is a \$10 registration fee which includes three games of bowling and lunch. Teams are limited to five persons. There are a limited number of bumper pool lanes available for youngsters. Morning (10 a.m.) and afternoon (2 p.m.) sessions are scheduled. For further information on registration and participation, call (248) 587-8277.

**TENNIS**  
The Suburban Tennis Association will present "Saturday Night Tennis" events in the next few weeks at Franklin Fitness & Racquet Club in Southfield. The next matches are scheduled for 7 p.m. on March 7 and March 14. The night features doubles and mixed doubles play, a minimum of two hours court time, new tennis balls, soft drinks, sandwiches, salad and dessert. All players are welcome, and the cost is \$16. Call Marilyn at (248) 879-1873 or Al at (248) 846-4277 for more information. Franklin Fitness & Racquet Club is located at 29350 Northwestern Highway.

**HOCKEY**  
The Farmington Hills Adult Hockey program's spring season is scheduled to start Sunday, March 29 and run through the end of May. The organization has openings for 16 teams in the over-18 and the over-30 divisions and eight teams in the over-40 division. All teams will play a 16-game schedule (two games a week) plus playoffs. Applications are now available at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena. For more information regarding the spring program, applications, schedules or cost of team entry, call (248) 478-2683.

**JOE DUMARS' FIELDHOUSE**  
The winter II league season at Joe Dumars' Fieldhouse begins in early March. Offerings include adult 5-on-5 and 4-on-4 basketball leagues, adult floor hockey leagues and adult hard court volleyball leagues. Call Dave Stone or Jen Hopp at (810) 731-3080 for more details.

**SOFTBALL**  
**TROY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
Team registrations are currently being accepted for summer adult softball leagues. Various leagues are being offered for men's, women's and co-rec teams. Some of the changes that have been made include: Each team can now have a maximum of six non-residents; a player can now play in two leagues; no player registration forms will be used this year; team entry fees have not increased; more co-rec leagues and a new men's 43-over league. New teams will be drawn from a lottery on Monday, March 2. Call Troy Parks and Recreation at (248) 824-3484 for more details.

**OUTINGS**  
**SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN GROUP, SIERRA CLUB**  
Sunday, March 1, Pointe Pelee Ice Hike. Join the eighth annual winter outing to the Pointe in Ontario, Canada. Dress warmly for this five-mile walk and all-day adventure. There is a \$1 trip fee and a restaurant stop afterward. Bring appropriate ID. Call trip leader Liz Allingham at 313-681-7679 for more information.

**Be There. The next time Bobby Higginson sees a hanging curve.**

Call the Tigers Home and order your season tickets today. Be there for all the action and make sure you get priority seating in the new ballpark.

Call the season ticket hotline at **313-963-2050**  
21 game packages as low as \$168

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### RUNNING

#### HALF-MARATHON AND FUN RUN TIME

The 22nd Annual West Bloomfield Half-Marathon, 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run returns to the streets of West Bloomfield Sunday, April 19, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The event will begin at West Bloomfield High School and travel along rolling terrain through the city. Last year 1,158 runners and walkers participated in the Half-Marathon, 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run. West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation co-sponsors the Half-Marathon and 5K with Henry Ford Medical Center-West Bloomfield, Henry Ford Health System's Moprogene center co-sponsors the Kids Fun Run with Parks and Recreation. A portion of each entry fee from the Half-Marathon will go toward Kaleidoscope Kids-Hospices of Henry Ford Health System. The event also requires the assistance of more than 150 volunteers, handling such duties as passing out water at aid stations, course marshals and registration. Each volunteer receives a T-shirt and invitation to a post-race banquet. For further information, contact West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation at (248) 738-2500.

### FUND-RAISERS

#### RACE FOR THE CURE

The Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute will present Detroit's Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race For the Cure on Saturday, April 26 at The Detroit Zoo. An information and warm-up period begins at 7 a.m., the men's five-kilometer run starts at 8:30 a.m., a 5K run/walk for women, family and friends follows at 9 a.m., and a one-mile fun walk kicks off at 9:10 a.m. Cost is \$15 by Friday, April 3; \$18 by April 10; \$20 by April 17; and \$30 thereafter. There will be no race day registration. All proceeds support breast cancer research, screening and education. For more information, call 1-800-KARMANOS (627-6266) or (248) 544-9099. Online registration can be done at: