

Livonia woman scores 'running touchdown' in South Bend

**BY DEAN BROWN
STAFF WRITER**
Livonia's Patricia Bagley scored a "running touchdown" in South Bend, Ind. Her time, clocked under warm, sunny and humid conditions, was a respectable 3 hours, 5 minutes and 42 seconds.

Given the conditions, I'm very happy," said Bagley, who also reaped the \$1,000 first-place check in the women's division. The 28.2-mile race started at the College Football Hall of

MARATHON
Fame and ended at the 50-yard line in Notre Dame's stadium. "It was pretty hot," a lot of turns, but there was a lot of support on the course," Bagley said. "We went off at 9 a.m. (Indiana time) and it was about 70 degrees with a breeze. We went through a lot of subdivi-

sions, there was a lot of shade at the seven and eight miles." Bagley took the lead at the outset and maintained an even pace throughout the race. She struggled a bit late in the race, but got a boost from her fiancée, University of Detroit Mercy track and cross-country coach Guy Murray, who ran in the Olympic Men's Marathon Trials just last month in Pitts-

burgh. About 22 miles into the race, Bagley was running a pace of 10:10 per mile. In 1997, Bagley was runner-up in the Bank of America Marathon. In June of 1999, she ran a personal best 2:59:50 in

the Grandma's Marathon held in Duluth, Minn. Murray, who has been Nike Breakaway High Kick outside South Bend, and now resides in Farmington Hills, will marry Bagley next month. The couple plans to honeymoon in Lake Tahoe before heading to the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Sacramento, Calif.

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also chalk one up for gaining respect. McMullen, a local icon in his sport to a certain degree, had seen Ritzsche race before and fame away even more impressed. "He's got a lot of courage and I'm proud of him because tonight he stepped out of his comfort zone," said the former Eastern Michigan University standout and high school footballer. "There were the winds and it was warm, but tonight was very exciting for the state of Michigan."

"Now, I've got to show him how to play to the crowd." McMullen, nursing a sore Achilles tendon, made a cameo appearance in the 600. The much anticipated mile match-up between Sullivan, who has already qualified for the Canadian Trials, and McMullen, will have to wait another day. But Sullivan did not disappoint the crowd, putting an exclamation point on an amazing night of track and field for the curious locals in the meet's featured and final event.

Helped by former U-M teammate Jay Cantin, acting as a first-lap rabbit, Sullivan blazed the mile course in 3:55.87, a Michigan all-comers record. Loyola of Chicago's Tom O'Hara set the mark back in 1963 with a time of 3:58.8. "Until I read it in the newspaper yesterday (Friday), I had no idea about the record," said the Brantford, Ontario, native. "I just wanted to break four minutes. I would have been happy with a 3:59.9."

Sullivan takes his mind off his race by watching the other races. The Ritzsche-Jurcovich duel certainly put him in the proper frame of mind. "A couple of weeks ago I ran in a meet at Ferry Field in Ann Arbor, and they had a turnout of about 1,000," Sullivan said. "But this was better than that. I've never seen people get so excited about a track meet. It was great to get that support." With meet director/announcer John Goodridge spurring on the crowd, the European-style rhythmic clapping reached a crescendo as the men's 5,000 and mile fields burned through the final laps.

And the kid, the fluid, graceful performer who looks more like a paperboy gave everybody their \$5 worth. "Dathan Ritzsche — extra, extra, read all about it."

SPORTS EVENTS

ELITE HOCKEY PROGRAM
In a joint effort, Suburban and Huron hockey schools are offering an advanced instructional program for premier or elite players in the 8-13 age group.

The program is offered in two sessions July 10-14. One will take place at Suburban Training Center in Farmington Hills and the other at the Onyx in Rochester. The program is for players who want to achieve a highly-skilled level and compete in more prestigious leagues. It is designed for AAA, AA and A players. Players will be divided into age groups: 8-10 and 11-13.

To sign up, call Amy Jones at Suburban Hockey at (248) 478-1500 or Cathy Christensen at (888) 487-6888.

FARMINGTON FAMILY RUN

The Farmington Family Festival's four-mile run will be Saturday, June 24. It will begin at 9 a.m. at Shawssee Park in Farmington, at the corner of Power and Shawssee Roads.

The entry fee is \$15 before Tuesday, June 20, and \$20 on race day. The race will be run on the parade route. There will be awards and T-shirts for participants. For more information, call (248) 473-9570 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.



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