

An explosive Firecracker Mile

By STEVE STEIN
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It doesn't have the glamour of New York's Fifth Avenue Mile, but Clawson's two-year-old Firecracker Mile is fast becoming a Fourth of July fixture in this area.

The race, held before Clawson's annual holiday parade, takes runners down Fourteen-Mile from Crooks to Main and because that is the parade route, hundreds of spectators are there to offer their support.

The defending champions returned this year to try to make it two in a row against a much larger field and women's winner Carol Roberts of Troy did repeat.

She was timed in 5:36.6 in 1984 and came back to win Thursday's race in 5:27.5.

Dave Homann of Garden City, a surprise men's winner in 1984 in 4:20.5, had to settle for fourth place this year. Last year, Homann had just completed his junior year in high school and was getting ready for the fall cross country season when he pulled off his upset.

Shaun Butler of Dearborn was the 1985 men's winner in 4:18.3 and runnerup Jim Deren of Union Lake also shattered Homann's time of last year. Deren was clocked in 4:20.0. Steve McClelland of Clawson was third in 4:21.1 and Homann was fourth in 4:23.2.

The lead pack of 10 men came through the quarter in 62 seconds and was still flying at the half-mile mark at 2:07, when Butler went in front. Deren and McClelland closed in on Butler with a quarter-mile to go but Butler stayed in the lead.

The oldest of the top 20 male finishers was Lou Scott, 39, of Ecorse, who finished sixth in 4:25.9 to stay on the comeback trail. Two months ago at the Blue Cross International Mile in downtown Detroit, Scott ran a 4:42.

Scott, a member of the 1968 U.S. Olympic track team, had retired from running for 10 years before taking up the sport again two years ago. He's dropped 40 pounds since he began training.

The three top competitors in the women's division were followed in fourth place by 11-year-old (yes, 11-year-old) Korie Ocolisan of Windsor.

Behind Roberts, the champion, were Chrissy Stabile of Southfield (5:29.3) and Kelly Betzold of Sterling Heights (5:31.4). All three topped Roberts' winning time in 1984. Young Korie was clocked in 5:45.3.

The three leaders hit the first quarter in 70 seconds and were 2:35 at the half-way point. At the three-quarter

mark, Roberts began slowly pulling away for the win.

The race is the shortest of the year which is conducted by the Motor City Striders.

Listed below are the top 20 finishers in the men's and women's divisions:

MEN

1. Shaun Butler, 19, Dearborn, 4:18.3
2. Jim Deren, 31, Union Lake, 4:20.0
3. Steve McClelland, 19, Clawson, 4:21.1
4. Dave Homann, 17, Garden City, 4:23.2
5. Bob Abraham, 18, Dearborn, 4:25.0
6. Lou Scott, 39, Ecorse, 4:25.9
7. Mark Tate, 19, Detroit, 4:28.2
8. Paul Mister, 19, Detroit, 4:29.5
9. Ken Leonowitz, 36, St. Clair Shores, 4:34.1
10. Rick Slapic, 20, Warren, 4:36.3
11. Ken Ranney, 23, Royal Oak, 4:37.2
12. Mike Stone, 20, Detroit, 4:38.0
13. Pat Wilson, 38, Mount Clemens, 4:42.7
14. Jeff Kepsich, 18, Clawson, 4:43.4
15. Jim Brown, 18, Milford, 4:45.0
16. Mark Everly, 19, Troy, 4:45.9
17. Clark Storm, 37, Sterling Heights, 4:49.8
18. Mike Paul, 18, Clawson, 4:51.1
19. Mike Considine, 31, Farmington Hills, 4:52.8
20. Andy Arnold, 25, Birmingham, 4:55.1

WOMEN

1. Carol Roberts, 20, Troy, 5:27.5
2. Chrissy Stabile, 18, Southfield, 5:29.3
3. Kelly Betzold, 19, Sterling Heights, 5:31.4
4. Korie Ocolisan, 11, Windsor, 5:45.3
5. Bonnie Roberts, 16, Troy, 5:52.5
6. Carol Rice, 31, Madison Heights, 5:58.7
7. Gail Long, 30, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., 6:05.1
8. Barb Frey, 42, Farmington Hills, 6:09.6
9. Linda Wittmer, 15, Troy, 6:10.2
10. Sue Allum, 42, Clawson, 6:23.4
11. Kathy Aberasturi, 29, Dearborn, 6:24.3
12. Renee Stuart, 29, Warren, 6:31.1
13. Bernie Lopata, 37, Madison Heights, 6:33.3
14. Donna Wright, 16, Clawson, 6:35.4
15. Maria Iwaniec, 34, Birmingham, 6:44.3
16. Laurie Klysinger, 25, Clawson, 7:06.4
17. Nora Delbusto, 10, Bloomfield Hills, 7:13.8
18. Pat Brehler, 29, Clawson, 7:22.2
19. Ann Nation, 38, Royal Oak, 7:26.5
20. Sue LeBlanc, 17, New Baltimore, 7:42.6

Clawson's Steve wins