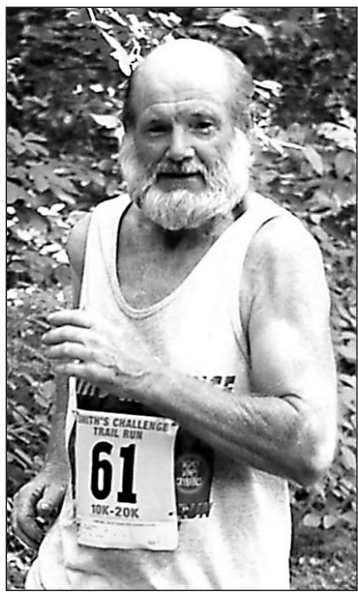
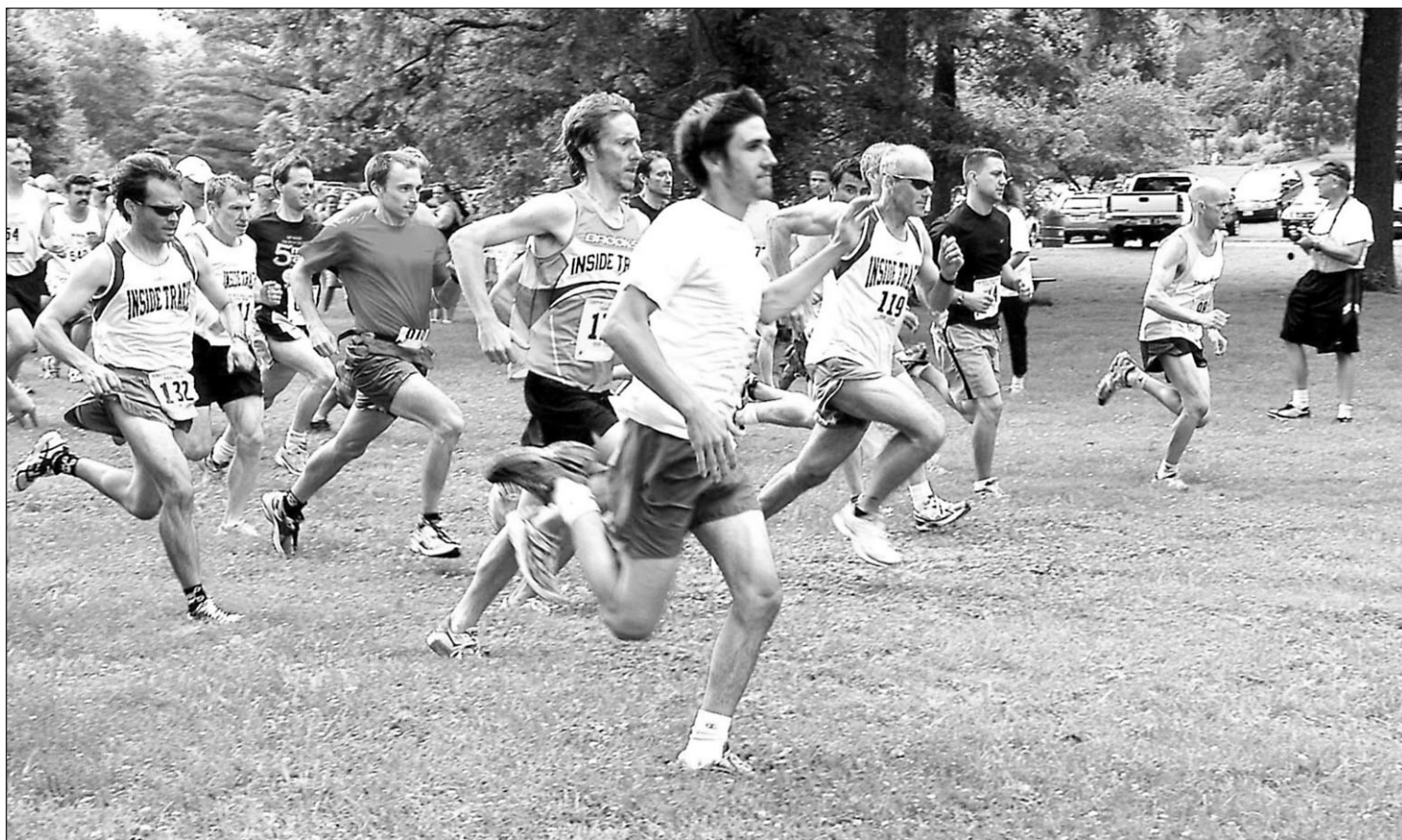


Hometown Sports Metro

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2008, LANCASTER, PA. PAGE C2



At right, the field of 156 runners takes off for Sunday's 20th annual Smith Challenge Trail Race in Lancaster County Central Park. Above, race veteran Frank McCardell, 64, of Strasburg, has competed in all 20 Smith Challenges.



Barry Decker photos

Running for adventure

Smith Challenge has tested local runners for 20 years, and counting

BY BARRY DECKER
Correspondent

The water was high, the color was brown and it was flowing faster than normal, but the Mill Creek only added to the excitement of the 20th annual Smith Challenge on Sunday.

Nearly 160 runners climbed the hills, braved the "Burn Hazel," weathered the humidity and conquered the currents of the 10-kilometer trail race in Lancaster County Central Park.

The course was designed to be filled with its share of "hazards," which attract the adventurous runner.

The race's creator, Bill Smith, said, "I've enjoyed directing the race for 20 years, and designed it to be a tough course—one that runners would have fun competing on."

But according to Smith, Sunday marked his last time to direct the race.

"It's time for someone else to take on the race. I still would

be willing to help them, but not direct it," said the 2008 race director.

Smith decided two decades ago that Father's Day was the perfect day for his "men only" race. And since then, it has attracted many fathers who are cheered on by their kids.

Tim Schuler, 45, was one of those dads who had two cheer-leading daughters—Kylee and Kameron Schuler.

"We just wanted to cheer our dad along the way," said Kylee, who watched their father finish first in his (40-49) age group and fourth overall.

This year's overall winner, Daryl Weaver of Lititz, pushed to an early lead in the event.

"With the narrow trails on parts of the course, it's important to get a good position in the race at the beginning. It's hard to pass anyone on some of the trails," said Weaver, 35.

On a warm, humid day, the Lititz runner was able to win by nearly two minutes over runner-up Mark Amway, 47, of

Lancaster.

Said Amway, "Daryl was able to open the race, particularly on the downhills, where he ran with reckless abandon on his younger legs."

Weaver, who finished second last year, noted that he managed to get lost on the course last year at least twice, which cost him valuable seconds.

Due to that confusion, he decided to bike ride the course before this year's race.

"I was able to get a lead through the high grass on the top areas and by pushing the downhills," said Weaver, who noted that the water was so high in the course's second Mill Creek crossing that he had to walk instead of run.

Amway, who has competed in a dozen Smith Challenges, noted that he likes to support local races and encourages his Inside Track Racing Team members to do the same.

As in the past, the Inside

Track members finished in the top spots — Amway (2), Justin Krebs (3), Schuler (4), and Paul Barber (7).

Krebs said, "This is a race that's fun to run as a team."

Frank McCardell, 64, Bob Guigley, 60, and Bob Long are the veterans of the event. They have competed in the race for 20 years.

"I look forward to the race each year. It's always a chance to see what it's like running with wet shoes that feel like they weigh 100 pounds each," said McCardell.

Keeping their vow to continue the tradition of running this race on Father's Day, the Columbia contingent of Don Groom, Bob Herman and Dave Weitzel also returned to run the race.



Daryl Weaver of Lititz surges to the finish line, becoming the overall winner of the Smith's Challenge in 39:55.



Shown with race director Bill Smith, center, are Sunday's top finishers. From left, they are Masters winner Mark Amway (second overall), overall champion Daryl Weaver, 40-49 age group winner Tim Schuler (fourth overall) and 30-39 age group winner Justin Krebs (third overall).



Justin Krebs, who placed third overall, heads for the fast-moving, higher waters of the Mill Creek.

20th Annual Smith's Challenge Trail Race AWARDS

Open Division Winner — Daryl Weaver, 35, 39:55.

Masters Division Winner — Mark Amway, 47, 41:54.

Age Group Winners — (18-29) 1. Ryan Bair 44:10, 2. Matt Kantner 45:50, 3. Jonathan Pfadenhauer 47:04; (30-39) 1. Justin Krebs 42:38, 2. Evan Sandt, 43:44, 3. Kurt Krahnke 48:07; (40-49) 1. Tim Schuler 43:00, 2. Paul Barber 44:32, 3. Angel Alvarez, 45:37; (50-59) 1. Tim Dunlap 47:47; 2. Doug Arndt, 50:49, 3. Will Charles 54:05; (60-69) 1. Bill Doherty, 56:26, 2. Don Groom 1:05:28, 3. Mike Mellinger, 1:07:24.

OVERALL RESULTS

1. Daryl Weaver 39:55, 2. Mark Amway 41:54, 3. Justin Krebs 42:38, 4. Tim Schuler 43:00, 5. Evan Sandt 43:44, 6. Ryan Bair 44:10, 7. Paul Barber 44:32, 8. Angel Alvarez 45:37, 9. Matt Kantner 45:50, 10. Jonathan Pfadenhauer 47:04, 11. Matthew Bailey 47:04, 12. Tim Dunlap 47:47, 13. Kurt Krahnke 48:07, 14. Chris Young 48:08, 15. Evan Kleinhaus 49:07, 16. Dietrick Linde 49:07, 17. Scott Podgurski 49:57, 18. Seth Charles 50:02, 19. Doug Arndt 50:49, 20. Steve Dohohue 51:02;

21. Kevin Shope 51:06, 22. Brian Jenkins 51:16, 23. Daniel Pineda 51:22, 24. P. Ryan Kelly 51:22, 25. Mike Hershberger 52:01, 26. Brandon Kopp 52:14, 27. Marcus Grimm 52:16, 28. Stephen Geyer 52:37, 29. Dennis Hagan 52:55, 30. Michael Burgess 53:08; 31. John Fisher 53:15, 32. Brett Meisner 53:21, 33. Jeff Kirchner 53:44, 34. Will Charles 54:05, 35. Brett Lynch 54:28, 36. Casey Bires 54:29, 37. Brif Kilbourne 54:31, 38. Curtis Holland 54:39, 39. Joshua Snyder 54:40, 40. Dan Simmons 54:43;

41. Greg Lavelle 55:05, 42. Greg Weaver 55:50, 43. Istvan Nagy 55:55, 44. Rod Fizz 55:59, 45. Jerry Paparo 56:01, 46. Travis Hess 56:16, 47. Bob Heinz 56:17, 48. Rick Albright 56:22, 49. Ryan Doherty 56:24, 50. Bill Doherty 56:26; 51. Mark Ward 56:27, 52. Lynn Kline 56:28, 53. Chris Slabek 56:54, 54. Brad Hess 57:25, 55. Caleb Farrell 57:26, 56. Charles Butz 57:32, 57. Ashton Farrell 57:42, 58. David Snyder 57:52, 59. Andrew Smith 57:52, 60. Robert Powell 57:53;

61. Steven Hoffmann 58:23, 62. Edwin Stauffer 58:33, 63. Dale Koppenhaver 59:22, 64. Jim Heckard 59:24, 65. Tyler Harvey 59:29, 66. Dave Holmes 59:33, 67. William Corbin 59:34, 68. John Banzhof 59:39, 69. Jim McIntosh 59:52, 70. Steve Pfautz 59:53; 71. Pete Giangiulio 59:54, 72. Gary Bell 59:55, 73. Christian Taylor 1:01:04, 74. Florin Tencariu 1:01:09, 75. Harry Reitzel 1:01:24, 76. Bob McEvoy 1:01:28, 77. Larry Gray Jr. 1:01:50, 78. Randy Hoffman 1:01:54, 79. Ernest Houck 1:02:06, 80. Adam Furrari 1:02:13;

81. Steve Goss 1:02:14, 82. Edward Pogue 1:02:15, 83. Robert Cisneros 1:02:16, 84. Jeremy Mayer 1:02:17, 85. Mark Pawling 1:02:37, 86. Neil Puente 1:02:43, 87. Zach Eyster 1:02:51, 88. John Eyster 1:02:52, 89. Swamp Feinauer 1:02:55, 90. Daniel Nguyen 1:03:02, 91. Joe Lee 1:03:05, 92. Donovan Graybill 1:03:09, 93. John Cooper 1:03:29, 94. Paul Swann 1:03:38, 95. Jim Malkowski 1:03:59, 96. Jim Stutzman 1:04:07, 97. David Hagelberg 1:04:20, 98. Bruce Moffitt 1:04:22, 99. Steve Clark 1:04:30, 100. Kennedy Comer 1:04:46;

101. Gregg Bair 1:05:21, 102. Don Groom 1:05:28, 103. John Smith 1:05:32, 104. Mark Mulvihill 1:05:35, 105. Chip Bixler 1:05:37, 106. Dan Hince 1:05:55, 107. Karl Willems 1:05:56, 108. Mike Julian 1:05:56, 109. Brett Calabretta 1:06:00, 110. Rob Wentz 1:06:01; 111. Joe Christaldi 1:06:01, 112. Dave Weitzel 1:06:03, 113. David Hirneisen 1:06:57, 114. Jeff Foote 1:07:01, 115. Alex Morrow 1:07:04, 116. Carl Christiansen 1:07:12, 117. Mike Mellinger 1:07:24, 118. Ig Wentling 1:07:46, 119. Dave Mayer 1:07:49, 120. Frank McCardell 1:07:49;

121. Dave Strangarity 1:07:51, 122. John Heycock 1:08:18, 123. David Clark 1:08:44, 124. Fred Burgess 1:09:04, 125. Stephen Liskey 1:10:01, 126. Mike Ice 1:10:32, 127. Timothy Jones 1:11:22, 128. Bob Herman 1:11:23, 129. Jim Chastek 1:12:41, 130. Doug Thomas 1:12:48; 131. John Rigg 1:13:05, 132. Gary Lord 1:13:27, 133. Barry Davis 1:13:56, 134. Wayne Jensen 1:14:38, 135. Frank Byrnes 1:14:42, 136. Ed Hans 1:15:09, 137. Wayne Windslow 1:15:47, 138. Robert Spotts 1:15:49, 139. Don Watson 1:15:52, 140. Erich Diem 1:15:53;

141. Chad Rankin 1:16:39, 142. Don Doster 1:17:06, 143. Robert Sanders 1:19:05, 144. Andrew Gingrich 1:19:25, 145. Jeremy Seedorf 1:19:58, 146. Victor Lambory 1:20:14, 147. William Meiers 1:22:16, 148. Thomas Pyfer 1:24:11, 149. Brad Sinnen 1:24:48, 150. Bob Guigley 1:24:49; 151. Bruce Weaver 1:30:01, 152. Joseph Poplawski 1:31:38, 153. Ron Horn 1:32:39, 154. Bob Long 1:35:39, 155. Barry Elder 1:38:23, 156. Larry Gray Sr. 1:44:22.

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