

# DEARY MEMORIAL RACE SET FOR SATURDAY

By DON SIKORSKI  
*Special to the Bulletin*

The road racing scene will be making some noise in the so called "Quiet Corner" of Connecticut this Saturday, as the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Deary Memorial 5 Mile Road Race and Fun Walk takes place in Putnam. The Deary race has become a summer tradition for many runners near Northeastern Connecticut, drawing over 300 for last year's road race event, including some of the top talent from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The race, honoring the late Cathy Deary, has developed a solid tradition of attracting both top level performers as well as strong numbers of participants looking to do something healthy for a good cause. And both keep coming back to the Deary race year after year. Past division winners include Chaplin's Rebecca Stockdale-Wooley, the female course record holder (29:43 as a Master in 1994) and a Putnam native who is currently ranked as one of the county's top age group runners at 50-59, two-time state cross-country champion Chad Johnson of Canterbury, 4:01 miler Geralt Owen of New York City (the course record holder in 24:48), and high school standout Megan Owen (no relation to Geralt), an All-American in both cross-country and track entering her senior year at Killingly, who holds age group records for both 12 & under and 13-17. Last year race also featured a talented field, as 28 year-old Michael Richardson of Providence was able to hold off strong challenges from both Eric Bonnette (2<sup>nd</sup> in 25:47) and Chad Johnson (3<sup>rd</sup> in 26:13) to secure an 8 second victory in 25:39. Norwich's Melissa Perkins-Banas (29:56) is the defending women's champion. The strength and competitiveness of last year's field was a result of the growing Deary race tradition, where runners are treated to a professionally run event (thanks in part to the hard work and efforts of local running veteran Jim Gothreau), a scenic race course, and all the race amenities that a quality road racing event offers. Not a bad way to spend your Saturday morning.

The 5 Mile Road Race is preceded by a 5-Mile Fun Walk on the same course, beginning at 8:00am. The road race begins promptly at 9:00am, with professional race timing provided by SNERRO. The course begins and ends at J.D. Cooper's Restaurant, just 1 mile south off Exit 95 (from I-395) on Park Road in Putnam. Cooper's will also host the post-race festivities, ranked as one of the best post-race gatherings in the state. Plenty of awards, including \$200 cash to the top male and female finishers (\$100 each for runner-up honors) and a \$200 team award (with top 5 scoring) will be distributed. There is also a free raffle, bonus money for course records, and complimentary refreshments for all participants. As a unique feature, race highlights will also be shown on the big screen in Cooper's at the awards ceremony. All race proceeds with benefit Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. Call (860) 928-7141 for more race information, and make every effort to get to Putnam and be a part of a great race for a great cause.

## Racing Roundup

- Keep an eye on Tyler McCabe this fall. The former Stonington High standout, who claimed top honors at the New London 5K Road race earlier this month, is expected to be one of the top runners for Ray Treacy's Providence Friars in this fall. Providence, with their historically strong Irish runner contingent, is always a national treat in cross-country.
- The Liberty Bank USATF State 4 Mile Championship race in Middletown on July 21<sup>st</sup> was one of the most competitive fields assembled in Connecticut this year. Hartford's Gideon Mutisya, 36, who has been racing a lot (and winning a lot) on the Connecticut roads over the past few years now, was out front early and never looked back, cruising through the hilly course in 19:29. Canterbury's Chad Johnson, the state's USATF point leader to date, moved up to claim 2<sup>nd</sup> in 20:20, passing both Hartford TC's Marc Robaczynski (3<sup>rd</sup> in 20:21) and teammate Steve Swift (4<sup>th</sup> in 20:22) in the final quarter mile. Swift, returning from recent injuries in his first competitive race appearance of 2002, dragged Mutisya out in 4:38 for the opening downhill mile before surrendering the lead. Waterford's Stephen Herrera ran a strong race to finish 5<sup>th</sup> overall in 20:34. Oxford's Sue Faber, who continues to run extremely well year after year at age 39, was again the top female finisher, 36<sup>th</sup> overall in 23:07. The Mohegan Striders men's team, bolstered by their 2-4-5 finish, captured the team title over rivals Hi-Tek Racing and the Hartford Track Club.
- 40 year-old Don Tyskiewicz took advantage of his new racing division to win the Montville Masters 10K Road Race on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Tyskiewicz, who also competes for Pfizer's Corporate Racing Team, ran 38:14 over the very challenging 6.2 mile course to claim the overall win. Nancy Kneeland was the top female in 45:34. The Masters race, restricted to only to runners 40 years of age and up, is one of the best low-key races in the state and a favorite amongst Master and Grandmaster competitors in the area.

## This Month in History

August 7th, 1988 – 36 year-old Gary Nixon of Higganum uses his experience to claim a come from behind victory over Yale University teammates Jim Gibson and Greg Bonaiuto to win the Willimantic 5K TAC State Championship Race. All three runners had pulled away from the very competitive 350-person race field early after hitting their opening mile spilt in 4:38. Nixon, however, soon fell off the pace some 30 yards, as both Gibson and Bonaiuto attacked the one major hill on the course just before 2 ½ miles. After the hill, Nixon was able to gain ground on his younger competitors, passing both runners in the final quarter mile to win in 14:59, bettering Gibson's 15:07 runner-up effort. Bonaiuto, a former state champion at Xavier High, hung on for 3<sup>rd</sup> in 15:11, with Joe Swift (15:17) and Don Cavanaugh (15:19) rounding out the top 5 finishers. Oxford's Sue Faber, 26, easily won the women's race by more than a minute in 17:18. Nixon and Swift led their Mohegan Strider teammates to a team victory in the men's open competition. Colchester's Darrin Eisman (8<sup>th</sup> in 15:24), Old Saybrook's Sean Delaney (12<sup>th</sup> in 15:34) and Norwich's Chris Hansen (14<sup>th</sup> in 15:41) also scored for the Striders team, who held off Lead Pack Sports and the Hartford Track Club for the team title. Faber led B&W Tool to a win in the women's team race, outdistancing the Mohegan Striders (2<sup>nd</sup>) and the Groton Track Club (3<sup>rd</sup>). Other individual division winners included Killingly's Bryan Zadora (14 & under; 17:53), Norwich's Tim Smith (top Master in 16:43), and Jan McKeon (top female Master in 18:54).

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