

Josh Myers won the men's 10K event of the Labor Day Road Race in Macon. Myers finished in 35:46, more than a minute ahead of runner-up Mike Caldwell. Amy Smith Boyer won the women's 10K race.

# UNDETERRED

## Runners ignore rain, wind to complete annual race

By Sarah Meinecke  
Telegraph Staff Writer

Early Monday morning, the only signs that perhaps Hurricane Frances' effect would reach Middle Georgia were some wind gusts and a little drizzle.

When the 2004 Labor Day Road Race began at 7:15 a.m., however, rain fell intermittently between sprinkles and downpours. Uncomfortable maybe, but that didn't stop nearly 1,200 runners from participating in both the 5K and 10K races.

A little water and cooler weather

never hurt anyone, especially during a road race.

"When it started to drizzle, I said, 'Oh well,'" race director Steveorkery said. "We just pulled out our rain coats. The recreational runners may fuss a bit, but only because they're not used to it. But life goes on."

As did the race.

In the 5K, the first person to pass the finish line was Charles Robitaille of Stockbridge realized his goal of finishing the 5K in fewer than 16 minutes when he posted a winning

Please see RAC;

### TOP FINISHERS

#### MEN

■ **10K:** 1. Josh Myers, 35:46; 2. Mike Caldwell, 37:08; 3. Perry Slaughter 38:12.

■ **5K:** 1. Charles Robitaille, 15:51; 2. John Kirksey, 16:20; 3. Chad Bacon, 16:23.

#### WOMEN

■ **10K:** Amy Smith Boyer, 42:51; 2. Kathy Woodard, 44:09; 3. Krista Swanson Wieters 44:26.

■ **5K:** 1. Margaret Bozgoz, 18:44; 2. Emily O'Bryant, 18:57; 3. Erin Colunga, 19:29.

Full results on 6C

## RACE

Continued from 1C

time of 15:51. Margaret "Sue" Bozgoz clocked in at 18:44 to win among women racers.

In the 10K, 21-year-old Josh Myers, a student at Middle Georgia College, posted a time of 35:46 to finish nearly 90 seconds ahead of his closest challenger. The first female to finish was Amy Smith Boyer from Forsyth, who completed the course in 42:51.

There was a bit of drama when Robitaille neared the finish line in the 5K. Because of a misplaced marker, Robitaille was running down the wrong road toward the end. With help from the large group of umbrella-wielding spectators, Robitaille ran over a median and crossed the finish line.

"I don't know what happened there," the 26-year-old said. "I saw the backs of people, but I didn't see the finish line. But this feels good, because I've wanted to break 16 (minutes) and I finally did."

The confusion didn't get worked out until after Norcross' John Kirksey (16:20) finished behind Robitaille and was trailed by First Presbyterian Day cross country runner Chad Bacon (16:23) in third.

Bacon's teammate and the 2003 All-Middle Georgia cross country runner of the year, Erin Colunga, finished third in the women's division with a time of 19:29. She followed runner-up Emily O'Bryant (18:57).

There was a heartwarming moment during the 5K when Larry Lancaster of Milledgeville crossed the line with a prosthetic leg at the 40:47 mark. Lancaster lost his right leg in a construction accident in August 2003, and Monday's race was just his second since then. His first was Aug. 28 when he finished

the Centerville race with a time of 46:31.

"The hills were tough, especially with my leg," Lancaster said. "But I'm just out here to show that life doesn't stop."

Myers fought leg cramps to post his victory. He said he'd been prepping to win this year after finishing second last year behind Alan Black, who won both the 5K and the 10K.

"I ran scared the whole way," Myers said. "I was looking back every mile. But it's the same course every year, although this year it was wet and windy."

Locust Grove's Mike Caldwell (37:08) and Forsyth's Perry Slaughter (38:12) followed Myers across the finish line.

Boyer, who won the 5K in 2001, jokingly said the best part about the race was that it was finished.

"Everyone was in good spirits," said the 32-year-old who was followed by Kathy Woodard (44:09) and Krista Wieters (44:26). "It was more humid than I'd hoped. But the course was great because it's mostly downhill."

There were no wheelchair participants in either race. After the two main races, there was a one-mile fun run for younger competitors.

The rain picked up near the end of the competition, but race organizers had reserved a large fair building where participants could get water and fruit after the race, while waiting for the awards ceremony.

"We had a race plan," said Corkery, whose jumpsuit was soaked by the end of the events. "But just in case we had this building so people could get in and dry off. It's no big deal. You just have to go with it."