

1994

Pinkston dedicates victory to father

By Ed Grisamore
The Macon Telegraph

The sun had barely peeped over the tops of the houses on Ridge Avenue when Adam Pinkston put both feet on the starting line and his father in his heart.

"This one is for my dad," he said. "He has been my biggest fan since I started running."

A.L. "Pop" Pinkston was waiting for his son near the finish line. He has been a dedicated volunteer at 16 of the 18 Labor Day Road Races.

And nothing could wipe the smile off his face when he saw his son gliding and striding into Central City Park at the head of the pack in the 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) newly named Olympic Labor Day Road Race.

This wasn't Pinkston's fastest race, but it was his most special. The 32-year-old Macon native, who now lives in Asheville, N.C., became the first three-time winner of the event. He dedicated the victory to his 75-year-old father.

"He gave us a scare earlier this year," Pinkston said. "They found some cancer in his nose. They think they got most of it with the radiation treatments. But I wanted

10K top finishers

No., Name	Time	No., Name	Time
MEN		WOMEN	
1. Adam Pinkston	31:36	1. Jill Hargis	36:57
2. Robert Gerrard	32:57	2. Suni Heaton	37:26
3. Ricky Austin	33:44	3. Connie Robertson	38:07
4. George Pierce	33:44	4. Sherri Hintz	38:41
5. Sherman Eller	34:10	5. Phyllis Pierce	40:26
6. Jason Russell	34:21	6. Valerie Reed	40:45
7. Kevin Gowen	35:50	7. Sally Gray	40:46
8. Bill Causey	35:05	8. Christine LePoutre	40:48
9. Perkins Nobles	35:11	9. Susan White	40:49
10. Thomas Shinnick	35:11	10. Tracy Steele	40:54

to win this one for him. He's been with me every step of the way."

Pinkston crossed at 31:36, more than a minute ahead of his nearest competition. Robert Gerrard of Savannah was second at 32:57. Ricky Austin of Spring Garden, Ala., was third with a 33:44.

Jill Hargis of Atlanta celebrated her 34th birthday by winning the women's 10K with a time of 36:57. Suni Heaton of Macon was second with a personal-best 37:26. Connie Robertson of Hapeville, the 1988 5K winner, finished third at 38:07.

A total of 1,693 runners from 11 states participated in the 10K and

5K events. They were greeted by near-perfect weather as they hit the streets. The temperature at the start of the 5K race at 7:15 a.m. was a cool 58 degrees.

Pinkston was a two-time region cross country champion at Central. He later ran cross country at Georgia State. He now manages an outdoor supply store in Asheville.

"He started running when he was 14, and we set up a one-mile track over on Lake Valley Road," said A.L. Pinkston. "We bought a stop watch and started keeping his

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Pinkston is first to win three 10Ks

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times. It's very special to see him come back to his hometown to run and win this race. Everybody knows him."

Pinkston said the inaugural Labor Day event in 1977 came early in his running career and was only his second race. He has competed in all but one of the races, crossing the finish line first in 1986 and 1991.

"I had a good race today, but not a great one," he said. "I thought it would be much faster after the first mile, but I was slow. Of course, Ralph Boston (former Olympic gold medalist and the official starter) was in the car ahead of me, so I couldn't slow down too much."

On his left thigh, Pinkston sported a new tattoo of cartoon character Bugs Bunny running. A mile into the race, it was "that's all folks" for the rest of the 10K field.

Hargis, a first-time participant, knew nothing about the course or her competition going into the race.

"I had hoped to be in the top five," she said. "I was running pretty even with (Heaton) the first mile before I started to pull ahead. I wasn't really sure who she was, but I heard a lot of people cheering for her so I figured she was the local favorite. It was fantasy of mine to win this in my first race here. I'm happy I did."

McWhorter wins fourth

By C. Jemal Horton
The Macon Telegraph

Ken McLeod and Susan McWhorter weren't even going to run in Monday's Olympic Labor Day Road Race.

Although they were battling colds, McLeod and McWhorter somehow had enough energy to easily win the men's and women's 5K portion of the 18th annual event.

McWhorter, 30, who is from Atlanta, won her fourth consecutive women's 5K in 17:25. Marcia Wentworth set the women's record of 16:58 in 1989.

McWhorter had been contemplating not defending her championship after she got sick last week. Even after deciding to run, she was thinking more about surviving than winning.

"My goal was just to finish and

5K top finishers

No., Name	Time	No., Name	Time
MEN		WOMEN	
1. Ken McLeod	15:00	1. Susan McWhorter	17:50
2. Johnny Kirksey	15:11	2. Lynn Taylor	18:38
3. Sammy Roark	15:16	3. Patti Paterson	19:05
4. Alvin Nelson	15:22	4. Jessica Kirkland	19:37
5. Hunt Brown	15:29	5. Traci Robinson	20:11
6. Perry Thomas	15:59	6. Ashley Williams	20:18
7. Jeffrey Unislawski	16:01	7. Katy Robertson	20:28
8. Billy Skinner	16:04	8. Bethany Robertson	20:29
9. Lee Fidler	16:09	9. Deb Baber	20:31
10. Alfie Cronin	16:30	10. Janyne Januzelli	20:56

not fall over," said McWhorter, who is director of package development at Coca-Cola. "I got a good start. I was fine for the first two miles and I got a little tired at the end. It's a little tougher to (defend the title) each year.

"I had hoped to break 17 minutes,

but I came up a little short."

McWhorter left no doubt that she would be the winner, leading the 3.1-mile race for the duration.

"I keyed off some of the guys I was running beside," McWhorter said. "That helped push me a little."

straight

McWhorter's clocking was 20 seconds off her winning time last year.

Her sister, Redonna Prince, lives in Macon and has seen McWhorter win all four races.

"We're all proud of her," Prince said. "She has really done a great job. It's fun to watch her."

Macon's Lynn Taylor was second among the women, coming in at 18:38. Deb Baber of Macon took the women's masters division in 20:31, and another Maconite, Claire Mattox, was first in the 60-64 division.

McLeod, who finished second last year, can partly thank his running buddies for his gold medal.

Since he had not been feeling well enough to race, McLeod, a government worker from Macon, was supposed to be going home to visit relatives in Middletown, N.J. How-

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McLeod gets first finally

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ever, some of McLeod's friends coaxed him into running.

"They kept telling me I needed to run, so I listened and it paid off," said McLeod, 31.

McLeod hung with a pack for the first half-mile but broke loose and coasted the rest of the way, finishing in 15:00, about 75 meters ahead of second-place John Kirksey (15:11).

Marty Flynn set the men's 5K record of 14:19 in 1989.

After coming close to winning last year's race, McLeod didn't want to let this one slip away. When McLeod rounded the curve with a quarter-mile left, he picked up speed to lengthen his margin. The smile on his face told the story.

"It felt good to finally win it," McLeod said. "Last year, I had led the whole way and lost it in the last 100 meters."

Stone Mountain's Lee Fidler, who won the 10K in the first Labor Day Road Race in 1977, was just as strong 17 years later, taking the masters title in 16:09. Fidler, 45, was 38 seconds ahead of his closest competitor.

5K men's age group leaders

Name	Time	Buddy Davis	17:03
MASTERS		35-39	
Lee Fidler	16:09	Jeffrey Unislawski	16:01
Joe Carter	16:47	Alfie Cronin	16:30
Anson Clapcott	17:05	Jose Balli	16:35
10-UNDER		40-44	
Will North	22:39	Bill Brooks	17:18
Cody Horton	23:26	Brad Hill	17:21
Greg Borek	23:58	Gary Hosmer	17:52
10-14		45-49	
Jacob Lonberg	17:20	Jim Marshall	17:32
Kyle Brooks	18:23	Quinton Moore	19:35
Mike O'Donnell	18:39	Joey McClelland	19:39
15-19		50-54	
Chris Carter	16:47	Richard Boggs	17:07
Andy Moore	17:17	Michael Lowrie	17:40
Michael Monk	17:47	Kermit Bowen	17:47
20-24		55-59	
Perry Thomas	15:59	Roger MacDonald	18:36
Clay Thomas	18:00	Arthur Stepp	21:23
John Anderson	18:04	Louis Johnson	22:01
25-29		60-64	
Brian Brewer	16:54	George Rogers	21:54
Richard Blevins	18:06	Fred Coleman	23:58
Mark Justice	19:14	Bob Day	25:09
30-34		70+	
Billy Skinner	16:04	James Warren	24:37
Lance Martin	16:52	James Martin	25:02

5K women's age group leaders

Name	Time		
MASTERS		35-39	
Deb Baber	20:31	Nancy White	21:29
Jan Slaughter	21:14	Karen Jenkins	22:17
Rosemary Spiegel	23:06	Lisa Browning	22:18
10-UNDER		40-44	
Ashley Hickman	25:20	Juanita Kerpf	23:25
Kinsee Crowe	25:44	Elaine Geiger	23:29
Annie Katz	26:24	Patrice Perugini	23:33
10-14		45-49	
Katy Robertson	20:28	Maureen Nobles	25:23
Sandra O'Donnell	24:02	Jean Partin	25:32
Jennifer Henderson	24:51	Judy Hodgins	26:41
15-19		50-54	
Ashley Williams	20:18	Nancy Rosenberg	23:11
Bethany Robertson	20:29	Gisela Clemens	25:20
Jamye Januzelli	20:56	Amita Harris	25:26
20-24		55-59	
Gail McLeroy	24:27	Beverly Powell	24:10
Victoria Sarvidge	24:27	Floreen Chambers	25:40
Stacey Brown	25:01	Norma Banks	26:38
25-29		60-64	
Rachel Toub	21:23	Claire Mattox	27:16
Tami Tesch-Jerles	21:48	Gisela Cramer	23:58
Laurel Gross	22:24	Mildred Phelps	38:16
30-34		65-69	
Denise Cravey	21:16	Marguerite Matthews	25:41
Sue Williams	21:54	Rosemary Evans	31:45
Ronea Charleston	22:02	Mary Landrum	32:00

10K men's age group leaders

Name	Time
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MASTERS

Bill Causey	35:05
Thomas Shinnick	35:11
Marris Johnson	35:52

10-UNDER

Gavin Kidd	52:45
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10-14

Brett Israel	54:15
Chris Maxwell	1:01:01
Brad Butts	1:01:17

15-19

Jason Russell	34:21
Josh Goodman	36:40
David Guillory	36:44

20-24

Charles Baron	36:36
Brian Johnson	36:46
Jeff Madden	38:01

25-29

Perkins Nobles	35:11
Chris Mauk	36:56
Stephen Kirkland	37:24

30-34

Bobby Jones	35:45
Scott Edwards	36:08
David Ruemmele	36:45

35-39

Kevin Gowen	34:50
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Richard Bishop	35:54
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Randall Roland	36:23
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40-44

Gary Harmon	39:06
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Rob Barron	39:19
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Larry Adkins	40:01
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45-49

Alan Abramowitz	36:50
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Hank Glass	37:26
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Jim Skipper	37:29
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50-54

Andrew Sherwood	36:38
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Bill Shea	37:00
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Russell Brown	37:34
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55-59

Larry Miller	39:45
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Billy Smith	44:42
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Terrence Sheridan	44:45
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60-64

Lloyd Chambers	41:50
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Joe Nettles	41:53
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Ed Moskaty	46:41
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65-69

Bo Lynch	52:33
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Calvin Ward Jr.	57:44
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70+

Charles Lewis	57:35
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Ed Morgan	1:02:34
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1994

10K women's age group leaders

Name	Time		
MASTERS			
Sally Gray	40:46		
Carolyn Mather	40:59		
Betty McBrayer	41:12		
10-UNDER			
Danielle Seay	55:56		
10-14			
P.J. Miller	1:21:52		
15-19			
Carter Kelly	46:45		
Amanda Schnar	57:36		
20-24			
Catherine Talley	48:06		
Charmion Leatherwood	55:18		
Diane Schieneman	55:46		
25-29			
Christine LePoutre	48:48		
Susan White	40:49		
Dana Austin	41:15		
30-34			
Valerie Reed	40:45		
		Tracy Steele	40:54
		Kathy Woodard	41:05
		35-39	
		Phyllis Pierce	40:26
		Cris Higgins	41:43
		Robin Cobb	43:16
		40-44	
		Michie Pitts	43:01
		Lynn Smiley	44:49
		Brenda Kerr	45:32
		45-49	
		Ursula Uhlir	42:42
		Anne Wright	45:18
		Lolly James	49:32
		50-54	
		Carole Limonciello	54:00
		Martha Wallace	54:08
		Mandy Gossett	55:26
		60-64	
		Nancy Thomas	59:18
		65-69	
		Violet Carden	1:05:53