

▼ LOCAL RUNNING

Run like the wind

Endale, Millhouse win at 25th Ausherman

By GREG HOLDER
For Public Opinion

Twenty-five years: Where'd they go?

That had to be the sentiment of race director John Ausherman as he started over 400 runners on their way Saturday morning in the 25th version of the Tom Ausherman Memorial Five-Mile run on Grant Street in Chambersburg.

Since its inception in 1988, the Ausherman 5-Miler has always drawn in the area's best running talent, with local standout Tim Cook winning the inaugural event. Generous prize money got the attention of elite talent in the region during the road racing hey days of the 1990s and since then performances have been nothing less than spectacular.

The uniqueness of an event to allow "regular" runners to mix it up with national and Olympic caliber talent has added to the allure of the event over the years.

The 2012 version did not disappoint.

Abiyo Endale, 28, of New York City and a member of the 2003 Ethiopian World Cross Country Team, led a contingent of Ethiopians in a top-five sweep of the men's open division.

Endale, last year's runner-up, covered the five-mile distance in 24:06, well off the course record of 22:43 (Ruben ChebII, 2004), but nonetheless impressive since he arrived only 15 minutes prior to the event start time.

Due to his late arrival, Endale's race strategy had to go in a different direction.

"I wanted a faster pace as I am preparing for a one-mile event in Pittsburgh next week (GNC Road Mile)," he said, "but I just stayed in the back until 2 1/2 miles left until I felt ready to go."

After clocking an opening first two miles in 9:46, Endale covered miles 3 and 4 in 9:30 to break open the race and close in a comfort-



Final stretch: Kara Millhouse (Boiling Springs), left, and Abiyo Endale (New York City), right, race in the 25th Ausherman 5-Miler. Millhouse was the female winner while Endale won the overall race.

Greg Holder/For Public Opinion

Eyobalenu Woldeseio (30, 24:12); Demesse Tefera (29, 24:17) and Tatiku Aboset (30, 24:19) followed closely to round out the top five.

Asked he if would return next year to defend his title, Endale said, "I have raced here many times. It is a great event. Even when I can't come I call and tell my friends."

The women's race found area talent Kara Millhouse (22, of Boiling Springs) shadowing defending champion Slemtschay Misganna (32, New York) until the final straightaway.

Millhouse, a time-time Big Ten champion at Penn State in the 5K and 10K, unleashed a strong kick over the last 600 meters to out-distance Misganna by six seconds and win in a solid time of 27:09.

Millhouse, who is also training for the GNC One Mile in Pittsburgh, just wanted to keep it simple.

She said, "The pace was real

a surge that narrowed the pack to just three of us, so I just decided to hang and kick."

Her efforts paid off and she was never really challenged down the closing stretch.

Hirut Beyene (20, New York), on the tail end of the pack, finished in a close 27:25. Terata Dengersa (31, New York) and McKelis Bekele (24, New York) rounded out the top five in 28:19 and 28:42, respectively.

The Masters open division (age 40 to 49) produced some outstanding performances as local runners Tim Schuler (49, Chambersburg, 28:06) and Susan Gray (44, Hagerstown, 31:33) led the way with very solid times.

Regardless of record performances and influx of elite talent, the Ausherman race has always been about the community and local runners.

John Ausherman said, "We try

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— Ron Kelly, Chambersburg native

back into the race with great prizes and awards."

The race also supports the Marine Corp League's Toys for Tots and the Chambersburg Cross Country Booster Club with donations every year.

"We are proud of the fact that we support these fine organizations and to help grow the running community," Ausherman said.

Two runners who have been a part of all 25 races — Jim Fry and Margaret Horioka — were given recognition after the event.

Another featured award at the event is the Tim Cook Award, given to the top high school male and female finishers. This year's awards went to Danny Klink (17, 28:02) and Courtney Group (16, 34:39), both of Chambersburg.

The spirit of the race was summed up by local master runner Ron Kelly, 51, of Chambersburg: "They put on a classy race. I schedule my vacations around this event. I ran the last seven