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More than 300 run for the Roses

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5K, 10K are popular annual events in Roseville

By HEATHER RULE Sun Focus

On a crisp and overcast Saturday morning, the 5K and 10K Run for the Roses events found 326 runners darting across the ceremonial finish line - complete with a colorful balloon arch - at the John Rose Oval in Roseville.

The annual 5K and 10K runs were among many various activities scheduled for the city's annual Rosefest, which officially concluded Tuesday. On Saturday morning, family members, friends and community members gathered at the Oval to cheer on the runners as they came through the finish line.

While others were still making their way around the course on the streets of Roseville, the first 5K runner to run through a multi-colored string of flags at the finish line was David Rae, 24, from Portland, Ore., with a time of 15:54 and a pace of 5:08. He finished 26 seconds ahead of Brandon Griffin, 22, of Minneapolis. Rae was a first-time runner in the annual Roseville race and was just looking to "go out there and run a 5K."

"I've just been looking for a race to do and I thought this would be a good one," Rae said.

Brian Davenport, 32, of Minneapolis, finished the 5K in third place overall at 17:29. Roseville residents Jon Miller and Mike Drinane had strong races in the 5K finishing seventh and eighth overall, both just seconds behind sixth-place finisher Nicholas Robinson of Minneapolis.

Twenty-year-old Mary Palmer of Anoka, and a runner at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, was the first female to cross the line in the 5K as she clocked in at 20:09 and in 12th place overall. Someone told her about the run, and she thought she'd try it, Palmer said.

"And they have cool t-shirts," she said.

The second and third 5K female finishers were Judy Meyer, 47, of New Brighton, and Mollie Lager, 22, of Robbinsdale. They were not far behind Palmer as they finished 14th and 15th in the overall field of 192 runners. Both finished just seconds apart with times of 20:29 and 20:33.

St. Paul native Tom Tisell, 39, earned himself a first-place finish in the 10K race by leading the field of 134 runners as he ran at a 5:46 pace to finish with a time of 35:47. Another first-timer in the Run for the Roses, he said he had always wanted to run this race.

"I was surprised that there weren't faster runners, but it's always fun to come in first," Tisell said.

Kyle Neumann, 18, and Spencer Siddons, 17, both runners on the cross country and track teams at Andover High School, rounded out the top three behind Tisell with times of 36:27 and 37:02 respectively.

"We just love to run," Neumann said. "It felt great, kind of surprising, but it felt really good."

Top Roseville finishers in the 10K were residents Brett Chmel, Michael Vosght, Richard Ziegler and Brent Matzke. The runners came in 10th through 13th overall with times ranging from 40:17 to 41:34.

Right behind the cluster of Roseville 10K runners, and a total of 13 male competitors, was 24-year-old Sarah Hesser, of St. Paul, with a time of 41:49. Hesser ran the race with some friends and enjoyed the nice course and great effort by the runners.

"It's a great way to get a run done with early in the morning," Hesser said.

Katie Salvatore, of Shoreview, and Diane Hankee, of Lino Lakes, followed Hesser as the next two female 10K finishers, with 15th and 17th-place finishes overall.

Some younger runners also made it out to the race. Nine-year-old Roseville native Michael Patrf finished with a time of 37:22 and was the 172nd 5K runner to cross the finish line.

Johnathan Machler, 13, of Falcon Heights, finished the 5K in 34th place with his 22:42 run. This was his third time participating in the Run for the Roses and he said he runs "because it's healthy to do."

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