

**Concentration:** Jackie Joyner-Kersey throws the javelin during heptathlon competition at Sunday's track and field trials at New Orleans' Tad Gormley Stadium.

# Fierce summer gale plays Midnight runners for fools

By RICHARD F. SCHMITZ  
THE JUNEAU EMPIRE

The warm summer gale that lashed Juneau Saturday night with sheets of rain and branch-breaking wind left no doubt about one thing - Only Fools Run at Midnight.

All 750 to 800 of them, foolishly racing, running or walking downtown at and after midnight Saturday to raise funds for Alaska's Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Over 400 walkers completed the 1-mile course, said organizer Alan Edwards, while 351 completed the demanding 5-kilometer course. So considering over 1,000 pre-registered for 8th-annual event, at least 250 Juneau residents took one look out their window before agreeing "Only Fools Run at Midnight" and climbing into bed.

"It was the Fools Run, so (the storm) had to be expected. I liked it, although it was a little difficult with the wind," said Karter Koelsch, who placed fifth overall with a time of 18 minutes, 16 seconds.

Tom Waldo, who finished seventh, agreed. "It was a good run. It was fun."

Joann Quigg, third fastest female, said the rain and wind didn't matter. "It was OK... fun." After counting T-shirts, Quigg said it was her fifth Fools Run.

"It was crazy coming up the hill near the cemetery," said runner Margie Thomson. "As you ran up Cedar, the wind was just blowing down the hill."

Rick Thibodeau won the race with a time of 17:10.1. Lisa Kirsch apparently was the fastest female runner, placing an impressive sixth overall with a time of 18:26.3.

With the rain and wind, the race was plagued with moments of confusion - but few seemed to mind. The 5K turn-around point at the ferry dock wasn't marked or manned, Thibodeau said.

"The lead group looked for a cone or official, so we went a little past (the dock) and didn't find one, so we finally turned around," he said. The rest of the field followed suit, making the course slightly long, Thibodeau said.

At the finish line spools containing runners' and walkers' numbers were bumped over, but organizers were able to accurately reconstruct the finish order and assign accurate times, Edwards said.

Still, considering the rain, darkness and wind, the event went off pretty much without a problem.

"There was mass confusion at the start. But we got everybody going," he said.

The event raised \$12,500 in pledges for MDA, said co-organizer Paul Dick. For the second year in a row Becky Kalwara was top pledge-getter, with \$4,500, and

won the event's grand prize: a cruise for two. Leslie Kalwara was second-highest fund-raiser, followed by Kay Griffin, Dick said.

"We've had rain before," Edwards said, "but I think this was the hardest (conditions). It was hard to control the finish chute because the lines kept blowing over.

"It took over 100 volunteers to pull this thing off. Volunteers were the heart of this whole event," Edwards said.

The course was new, starting and ending at Centennial Hall instead of the downtown fire hall. The result was some key downtown intersections blocked for 40-50 minutes late Saturday night.

"It took a little understanding on the part of Juneau residents, and they did very well. One volunteer even turned in a DWI by Sealaska Plaza, which is the kind of thing you have to worry about with 750 people on the streets.

"But it worked out OK. We raised a lot of money," Edwards said.

The event began when Andy Stokes of Anchorage, the MDA's 1992 poster child, took off on his racing wheelchair one minute before the mass start.

"After all the work putting this together, it was really neat to see 750 people stand and cheer as Andy wheeled off in the rain and dark toward Egan Drive," Edwards said.

Stokes, who bunked at the fire hall with Edwards, practiced the course a few times - and was ready to go.

Ron Dangelis was third with a time of 17:57. Dave Pusich, who competed in a Juneau Freewheelers' mountain bike race earlier in the day, finished fourth with a time of 18:14.

"The wind kind of blew me along. People in front of me kind of drafted me. I was hoping to finish in the top 20, so I kind of surprised myself... I didn't think I'd have that fast a time."

Edwards said he was especially impressed by the 400 or so walkers who turned out despite the inclement weather. "That has to be the biggest involvement of walkers in any event in Juneau. It's great to see a lot of interest," he said.

For masters runners (age 50 and over), Bob Warren led the men's side with a time of 23:01.2. Art Peterson was second, 23:02.5, while Stephen McPhetres was third, 23:28.4. For women, Cecile Richter was first, followed by Brenda Wilbur and Ann Parsons. Their times were, respectively, 26:03.4, 29:39.2 and 30:29.2.

For youngsters, Matt Beedle led the boys with a time of 2:39.5 while Keirsten Smith led the girls with a time of 25:06.4.

# Courier easy win at Wimbledon

By ROB GLOSTON  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND

Monica Seles struck Wimbledon opened with a drop of rain.

Courier and Seles had a little difficulty getting sun-drenched grass.

Courier won her first Wimbledon in a 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 decision in Grand Slam over Jenny Byrnes.

No seeds were favored in sentimental favor of Connors, playing 7-5, 6-3 to Luis Lloreja.

Even chance he had in the first set, "I got to a painful," said Courier.

liance but basic hips go and my up.

"I hurt every three sets. They enjoy being around with a bad attitude.

The top six Courier rolled Zoecke, one of the had 10 aces, but top seed.

Courier, who earlier this year in 1993 to win trying to join sweep the Grand Slam.

"I felt pre-emptive envision a better my favorite me."

Two-time Wimbledon joined Courier feat of American.

Defending champion year, swept specialist Stefana glasses out.

Also winning the fourth set and fifth set 6-3 victory over Seles.

Other seeds (ed sixth), Courier Brad Gilbert der Volkov

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