

# Rain fails to halt Helen Hayes 10-k Classic

By STEVEN CHICHETTI  
 competed in the first annual Helen Hayes Classic 10 kilometer race.

Despite the heavy rains, Sunday, the sets of North Rockland came alive and runners and "wheelers" alike com- ATHLETES, CELEBRITIES AND local fans turned out to cheer a field of 230



"Wheeler" champions Natalie Bacon and Marty Ball share a happy moment at the conclusion of Sunday's Helen Hayes Classic. Ball's time 34:48.9 also placed him fifth overall in the race. Photo by Bill Geist

competitors who endured the rainy 6.2-mile course through Haverstraw, West Haverstraw and Stony Point.

More than \$5,000 was raised for Helen Hayes Hospital in entry fees and souvenir sales.

Actress Helen Hayes MacArthur, official host of the race, Dr. David Axelrod, State Commissioner of Health, and actor James MacArthur, Miss Hayes' son, were among the celebrities taking part in the high-hearted event. "With spirits like these leading and inspiring our efforts, we're all winners," Miss Hayes said.



John McNulty glides to a winning finish in the first annual Helen Hayes Classic 10-kilometer road race Sunday. McNulty was overall champion with a 31:4.03 time.

Photo by Steve Chichetti

THE DAY'S EVENTS started with a one mile "fun-run" with County Legislator Sanford Rubenstein of Ramapo winning the race in 7:21. The 10 kilometer race followed, with 230 racers, including six "wheelers" competing of the original 587 registrants. The overall winner was Rockland's John McNulty, with a 31:4.03 time.



Scores of racers in Sunday's road run take off seconds after the start of the Helen Hayes Classic, to raise funds for the volunteer corps at the West Haverstraw facility. The 10-kilometer run took participants through the Village of West Haverstraw and the towns of Stony Point and Haverstraw.

Photo by Steve Chiche

First place in the wheelchair division, and fifth place overall was 45 year old Marty Ball, national wheelchair racing champion clocking in at 34:48.9. The female "wheeler" champ was Natalie Bacon, with a 51:24.3 time.

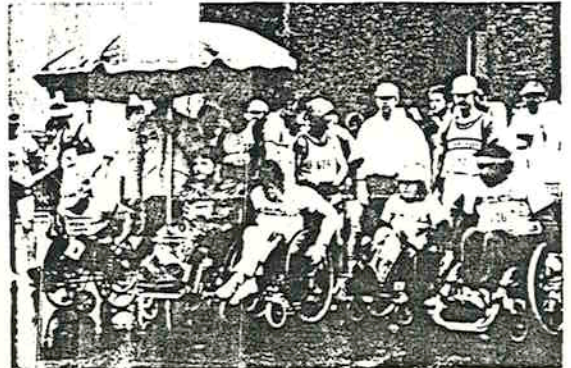
The overall female champion was Kathy Culla, clocking in with an outstanding 39:10.1, but even more outstanding was the performance of Linda Down, of New York City, who ran the 6.2 mile race — on crutches!

Ms. Down, whose recent accomplishments include the New York Marathon, finished the course in 51:24.3. She said that she'll be running the Boston Marathon next week.

THROUGH THE COMBINED efforts of the police and ambulance departments of Haverstraw and Stony Point, as well as the tremendous efforts of the entire

race committee, Sunday's activities were safe and successful.

The dedication and discipline of disabled and able-bodied athletes alike helped the sun shine through Sunday's rain.



Despite the soaking rains Sunday, the racers who participated in the

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