

Rodgers Breaks Record

In Maryland Marathon

By John Hardt.
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BALTIMORE (AP) — Bill Rodgers, 28, of Melrose, Mass., posted a record of 1:17 starters and set a course record of two hours 14 minutes 22 seconds in the fourth-annual Maryland Marathon today.

The Washington Running Club, spearheaded by the fifth-place finish of Bruce Robinson, 26, of Bethesda, Md., captured the team title with a total of 28 points for its top three finishers.

Rodgers, who ran the marathon in the Montreal Olympics for the United States, took advantage of cool, calm weather and the pressure applied by second-place Tom Fleming, 25, of Bloomfield, N.J., in breaking the record on the difficult 26-mile, 385-yard course.

The record of 2:17:02 had been set last year by John Vitale, 27, of Connecticut. Fleming also surpassed the record, running 2:16:01.

"This course is far tougher than Boston or any other marathon course I have run," Rodgers said after the race. He won the Boston Marathon in 1975.

Ron Hill, 38, of Manchester, England, who finished third today in 2:20:23, agreed.

Hill, who has represented Great Britain in three Olympics and owns the third fastest marathon time in the world (2:09:28 in 1970), feels the mile-long Satyr Hill some seven miles from the finish and the other lesser hills make this race something special.

"If they took the hills away, it would just be another marathon," he said.

From the 10 a.m. start outside Baltimore's Memorial Stadium until the 18-mile mark, where the runners encountered Satyr Hill, Rodgers and Fleming were running within a few yards of each other.

"After Satyr I made my move," said Rodgers, who seemed almost unaffected by the 320-foot rise.

By the 20-mile mark Rodgers had a lead of about 10 yards, and as he returned to Memorial Stadium, his smooth, seemingly effortless stride brought him across the tape several hundred yards in front of Fleming.

Fleming, who finished second in the Boston Marathon, said, "I knew no one could stay with Bill and me in this race, but by the 24-mile mark it was clear I couldn't stay up with Bill, either."

Other top finishers for the Washington Running Club included Steve Mahieu, 29, of Edgewood, Md., ninth; Philip Stewart, 26, of Washington, 14th, and Peter Nye, 29, of Alexandria, 21st.

The club's top finisher, Robinson, said his strategy was "basically to lay back until Satyr."

As the runners headed north through Baltimore to the halfway mark slightly past Loch Raven Reservoir, Robinson was 10th. He maintained that position as the field

turned around and headed back to Memorial Stadium. "They finished up Satyr and passed two guys," he said. "In the two miles after Satyr, I passed three more."

Dan Rincon, 23, of Annapolis, was one who felt the effects of Satyr Hill.

"My legs cramped up before I hit Satyr, and the hill made it even worse," Rincon said.

Rincon, a former standout at the University of Maryland, finished 10th today in 2:27:22.

Lisa Matovcik, 21, of Pittsburgh was the fastest of the 61 women in the race. She finished 256th with a time of 3:03:23.

Jim Forshee, 50, of Ann Arbor, Mich., won the award for senior runners with a clocking of 2:58:06.

MEN

1, William Rodgers, Melrose, Mass., 2:14:22; 2, Tom Fleming, Bloomfield, N.J., 2:16:01; 3, Ron Hill, Manchester, England, 2:20:23; 4, Barry Brown, Gainesville, Fla., 2:21:17; 5, Bruce Robinson, Bethesda, Md., 2:22:13; 6, Thomas Lowman, Parkville, Md., 2:24:08; 7, Chuck Burrows, St. Paul, Minn., 2:25:24; 8, Stephen Molnar, Johnstown, Pa., 2:26:48; 9, Steve Mahieu, Edgewood, Md., 2:27:08; 10, Daniel Rincon, Annapolis, Md., 2:27:22.

WOMEN

1, Lisa Matovcik, Pittsburg, Pa., 3:03:23; 2, Margaret Rosasco, Falston, Md., 3:12:33; 3, Sarah Brooks Stewart, Oakridge, Md., 3:14:42; 4, Suzuko Murakami, Bronx, N.Y., 3:17:55; 5, Diana Vlnet, Montreal, Quebec, 3:21:34; 6, Paula Davenport, Northampton, Mass., 3:22:42; 7, Elizabeth Franceschini, New York, 3:23:04; 8, Catherine Farrell, Arlington, Mass., 3:24:57; 9, Helene Stetch, Brooklyn, 3:25:05; 10, Carolyn Wells, Baltimore, 3:28:57.