

SPORTS

Kenyan wins Grandma’s Marathon in record time

Six Falls runners finish 26.2 miles

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A 26-year-old Kenyan runner set a new course record Saturday at Grandma’s Marathon, beating the previous mark by 31 seconds.

Dominic Ondoro won the 26.2-mile run in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 6 seconds. He beat second-place finisher Christopher Kipyego by 2 minutes, 51 seconds.

More than 6,200 runners finished Saturday’s race from Two Harbors to Duluth.

Ondoro made his move around the 19-mile mark, breaking away from a pack of runners who had been trading the lead.

Among the spectators was Dick Beardsley, who set the previous record in 1981. Beardsley hugged and congratulated Ondoro shortly after he crossed the finish line.

Kenyan Pasca Myers was women’s top finisher in a personal-best time of 2:33:43.

SIX FALLS FINISHERS

Of the six runners with listed addresses from International Falls to finish the

marathon, Breanne Friend, 23, had the fastest time. Her chip time — the time from when she crossed the starting line to when she reached the finish — was 3:31:23.

“I was really, really happy with my performance,” said Friend, who noted she ran in her first marathon ever and could possibly qualify for next year’s Boston Marathon after finishing in under 3:35:00.

Given the number of people in front of her at the start, it took Friend almost 2 minutes to cross the starting line after the race began. She finished about an hour after Myers completed the race.

Friend, a 2009 Falls High School graduate who was a distance runner in high school and now lives in Mankato, said she ran with a pack of runners for much of Grandma’s Marathon to pace herself for a time that could qualify her for the Boston Marathon.

Friend’s chip time was 1,149th overall, 248th out of 2,713 females and 164th out of 1,397 females in the 19-34 age group.

The top male from the Falls was Bob Bahr, 47, who

finished with a chip time of 3:49:17. He was 2,070th overall, 1,447th out of 3,495 males and 160th out of 413 males in the 45-49 age group.

Bahr called Saturday’s running conditions “absolutely perfect” and noted it was his fifth marathon ever and the fourth time he ran in Grandma’s Marathon, which he recommends for anyone interested in running 26.2 miles.

Friend’s father, Brian Friend, 49, who noted he also ran in his first marathon ever, finished with a chip time of 4:08:41.

“Course conditions were exceptionally good — cool and moist,” Brian Friend said.

Prior to last weekend’s marathon, Brian Friend said the longest race he had ever been in was a half marathon last October in Mankato. He also noted he now wants to run another marathon and finish in under 4 hours.

A longtime distance runner from the Falls, Tony Oveson, 67, who finished with a chip time of 4:35:00, noted he has run in two marathons and five ultramarathons already this year and is also



From left, Breanne and Brian Friend pose for a picture after finishing Saturday’s Grandma’s Marathon. The daughter and father from the Falls finished their first marathon ever.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Kenyan Dominic Ondoro (1) reaches the finish line Saturday to set a new course record in Grandma’s Marathaon. Ondoro finished in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 6 seconds, to break the previous mark by 31 seconds that was set in 1981 by Dick Beardsley.

SOFTBALL

► continued from B1

2-1 lead with seven runs in the third inning.

Taylor Sears hit two singles with Graves adding another double for the Fusion 16U.

The Falls will be back in action this weekend in a tournament at Bemidji.

Game 1
Int’l Falls 17, Deer River 0
Deer River 0-0-0 0-0-0
Int’l Falls 3-8-3 3-X-17

Game 2
Int’l Falls 10, Deer River 1
Int’l Falls 2-0-7 0-1-0 0-10
Deer River 1-0-0 0-0-0 0-1



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, the Fusion 16U’s Lexi Graves is tagged out by Deer River’s third baseman in the second game of Monday’s doubleheader.

BASEBALL

► continued from B1

advanced to second on a wild pitch, reached third on a ground out by Caleb Dahlin and scored on a single by Humbert.

Dahlin, who played Legion baseball at Hibbing last year, pitched all seven innings for the Falls in recording the loss. The only two hits he gave up occurred in the top of the fourth when Hibbing scored both of its runs.

Dahlin ended up striking out nine Hibbing batters.

The Falls, which tallied four hits for the game, loaded the bases with three walks in the bottom of the fourth, but Hibbing pitcher Ethan Bayless was able to work his way out of the jam when Ulrich grounded out to retire the side.

Ricky Brant then pitched the final three shutout innings for Hibbing.

HERMANTOWN 5, FALLS 2

The Post 66 Broncos lost Sunday’s third-place game to Hermantown, 5-2.

The Falls, which took a 1-0 lead in the top of the third, gave up all five runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Ulrich pitched the first five innings in recording the loss, allowing all five runs, three earned, on six hits with a walk while striking out two. Jack Bartkowski pitched the sixth inning in relief, giving up a hit and a walk.

At the plate, Ulrich recorded two of the Falls’ three hits with a run scored. Kulig accounted for the other hit and run.

FALLS 8, ML/WR 1

The Post 66 Broncos also played a conference game Saturday at Pegilly, where they defeated Moose Lake/Willow River, 8-1.

Miggins pitched all seven innings to record the victory, allowing an earned run on eight hits with a walk while striking out two.

The Falls recorded six hits with Ulrich doubling and Anderson driving in two runs.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

The Falls Legion’s Caleb Dahlin (5) delivers a pitch in Saturday’s “Land of the Loon” tournament semifinal game against Hibbing.

The Post 66 Broncos are scheduled to host their first home game of the season at 6 p.m. Monday against conference op-

ponent Deer River. That game will be preceded by Falls’ VFW team also playing Deer River at Scheela Field.

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