

Matt Wilson wins 10-mile run

Outsprints closest opponent in Annapolis event

By JOE GROSS

Associate Sports Editor

During the past year a number of distance runners have been struck

by burnout. It's something that happens in an Olympic year when competitors work too hard hoping to become good enough to earn a berth

on the Olympic team.

Matt Wilson of Fairfax, Va., was among those runners who had run too much. But he is on his way back.

Yesterday, the 26-year-old Wilson outsprinted Georgetown's John Eberle to the finish line to win the ninth annual Annapolis Ten Mile Run.

Wilson and Eberle had been running together for much of the race and entered the stadium almost abreast of each other. Wilson was no match for the less experienced Eberle during the final 300 yards on the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium grass.

Wilson, who finished third last year behind Gary Siriano and Jeff Peterson, was timed at 49:29. The winner was among those who said he missed Siriano running in the event, feeling the two would have duelled again. Peterson finished seventh in yesterday's race.

Siriano has been the winner here the past three years and holds the course record of 48:42 established two years ago. This year he was sent by Nike Shoes, his employer, to a clinic in Ohio.

"It's been a long summer for me," commented Wilson. "I've been trying to get myself back into shape. I had gone through a year and a half of hard training and a lot of running," explained Wilson.

"Mentally, I felt like I could go out and run, but my body was just too tired." Wilson also noted there have been some major changes in his life during the past year that have made him more susceptible to becoming tired.

"We have a baby now, and I'm working as a real estate appraiser. That's different for me, but I think I'm getting accustomed to the

changes and I'm beginning to run better again.

Wilson planned on taking advantage of what he called the lack of depth of top quality runners in the Annapolis field by running under five minute miles.

"I didn't think there were many runners here who could keep up with a 4:50 (per mile) pace. I led all the way to the turnaround at six and a half miles, then I decided to let two other guys running with me take the lead, to let them do the work. You can only work a lead for so long."

Wilson stayed behind the leaders, running directly into the light breeze, as they slowed the pace some. One of the runners dropped off the pace and Eberle and Wilson were alone at the front.

"I started to go by him at nine miles, but he responded and I didn't want to race him for a full mile, so I backed off," noted Wilson.

That set up the final sprint to the finish with a standing crowd of spectators cheering the runners home.

Back in the pack, the top two women had a similar duel to the finish with Patty McGovern of Washington outdashing last year's first woman finisher Sue Crowe. The 23-year-old McGovern was timed at 58:11, with Crowe five seconds behind her.

McGovern finished 53rd overall with Crowe right behind her.

As has become expected, the event went off virtually without a hitch, this time under the direction of Mike Van Beuren.

Because of the excellent weather conditions only two runners went to the first aid room with any problems, though a number of runners did run into swarms of bees and

other flying insects. Some were bitten or stung, but kept running.

Among the surprising finishers was Norman Green, who won the 50:59

age group but used an all-out sprint at the end to finish 21st overall with a 54:15 clocking. Green is a minister from Wayne, Pa.



Photo by Keith Harvey

MATT WILSON raises his hands as he hits the finish line in yesterday's Annapolis Ten Mile Run. Behind him is John Eberle, who finished four seconds behind Wilson.



Photo by Keith Harvey

PATTY MC GOVERN raises her arms in triumph as she hits the tape in the women's division of the Ten Mile Run. Over her shoulder is the second woman finisher Sue Crowe.