

The Capital
Sports



By Mark M. Qdell — The Capital
Silver Spring's Merrill Hausenfluck repeated as the Annapolis Ten-Mile winner.

Heat takes toll in 10-miler

By GABRIELLE deGROOT
For The Capital

Yesterday's intense heat took its toll on many of the entrants in yesterday's Annapolis Ten-Mile Run, including defending champion Merrill Hausenfluck of Silver Spring.

One runner, Christopher Cechak, 38, of Severna Park, was hospitalized after collapsing during the race and was listed in

S. Park man is hospitalized

the 4-mile mark, and didn't have any competition for the rest of the course. But the heat and humidity wore on him, too.

"Realistically, I thought this pace would feel easy," said Hausenfluck of his 5:20-per-mile pace. "I wanted to break 51 [minutes], but I really started to feel the heat early on

Hilary Cairns, 27, of Washington, D.C., finished third among the women in 1:04:27.

A record number of runners finished the race, the largest field ever to complete the race through Annapolis and its environs.

While the weather slowed runners somewhat, more than 3,700 runners completed

Arundel Medical Center. No further details about his condition were available this morning.

Cechak received medical attention almost immediately after collapsing, according to Ron Bowman, the race director. "We really don't know too much about what happened because the ambulance was there and gone before we could get any information," Bowman said.

Even Hausenfluck, who won the race for the second straight year, realized early during yesterday's run that he wasn't going to break any records.

The 26-year-old Silver Spring runner and winner of last year's race took the lead at

Hausenfluck still finished in a respectable time of 53:11, 58 seconds off his winning time in 1997.

His nearest competitor, Gary O'Donnell, 25, of Arlington, Va., finished in 54:42. Dave Wall, 24, of Riva, came in third in 55:15.

On the women's side, Lisa Bandiera, 30, of Annapolis, Va., won the race in 1:03:20, just 21 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Jennifer Flint, 28, of Malvern, Pa.

"I really felt good the whole way," Bandiera said. "I tried to hold back during the first half — I have a tendency to go out too hard — and I did start to go too fast around mile 4 or 5, but I slowed down a little and everything worked out."

Several other runners were treated for signs of heat exhaustion and released.

"On a day like today, it could have been a lot worse," Bowman said yesterday. "But we had tremendous support — plenty of water and paramedics stationed throughout the course."

A helicopter also was stationed at the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium along the race route for emergencies.

Last year, in far more mild conditions, a Columbia, Md., man, 47-year-old Joseph Sokol, collapsed and died during the race. That is the lone fatality in the 22-year history of the race.

An autopsy revealed that Sokol suffered

TOP FINISHERS

A list of the top 10 finishers in the men's and women's divisions at yesterday's Annapolis Ten-Mile Run, with finishing time.

MEN	
1	Merrill Hausenfluck, Silver Spring, Md., 53:11
2	Gary O'Donnell, Arlington, Va., 54:42
3	Dave Wall, Riva, 55:15
4	Yancey Hall, 55:33
5	Anthony Basile, 55:40
6	Patrick Reed, 56:15
7	James Pryde, 56:35
8	Gary Sullivan, 56:40
9	Paul Keating, 57:12
10	David Kent, 57:25

WOMEN	
1	Lisa Bandiera, Annapolis, Va., 1:03:20
2	Jennifer Flint, Malvern, Pa., 1:03:41
3	Hilary Cairns, Washington, D.C., 1:04:27
4	Vanessa Carr, 1:04:34
5	Jackie MacDonald, 1:05:23
6	Cecily Tynan, 1:05:37
7	Darcee O'Donnell, 1:07:09
8	Deborah Kopecky, 1:08:02
9	Colleen Cohle, 1:08:08
10	Pat Keating, 1:08:12

from hardening of the arteries, and died from a heart attack, which may or may not have been related to the exertion of running in the race, doctors said.

SPORTS COMMENT



By JOE GROSS

Mids receive history lesson

Navy football coach Charlie Weatherbie speaks often about the tradition that is so much a part of Navy football. It's something he believes in and it's something he tries hard to get his players to believe in, too.

The coach is quick to point out that his players often walk past the Heismans that went to alumni Joe Bellino and Roger Staubach, and the national championship trophy on display in the Ricketts Hall trophy cases.

And on Saturday morning, anyone who doubted the rich tradition of Navy football got an idea of what it is all about.

After the Midshipmen had run through a grueling scrimmage, they huddled in the middle of the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium field. And they were introduced to several members of the 1962 Navy football team and a couple of the coaches, too.

The Navy football players learned about the lifelong bonds among the players. They saw the camaraderie of the men who played together 35 years ago.

Just watching the interaction of these grown men with one another left no doubt about the lasting friendships that had been forged.

The lesson in tradition was intensified when 1963 team captain Tom Lynch, Staubach and coach Wayne Hardin each delivered short inspirational and highly informative comments.

It was the words of the men who were still together after 35 years that really got through to the young men, young men who are just beginning that bonding process. Lynch, who made his way through the ranks to admiral and served as a superintendent of the Naval Academy, told the players that he and his teammates were in town for one of the regular reunions and that part of the festivities involved attending the scrimmage.

There was a reason that stadium

SPORTS ON TV

TONIGHT	
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL	
White Sox at Orioles	7 p.m. HTS
Astros at Braves	7:35 p.m. TBS
COLLEGE FOOTBALL	
Florida State vs. Texas A&M	8 p.m. 27
TOMORROW	
TENNIS	
U.S. Open	11 a.m. USA



Oriole shortstop Mike Bordick hops over a sliding Dean Palmer to complete a double play during yesterday's game.

O's free fall continues with 3-2 loss

By JOE GROSS
Sports Editor

BALTIMORE — Could the Orioles be jumping from the frying pan into the fire? And as they do so, could they be in dire need of a reality check?

■ McGwire, Sosa both connect, close in on record / B3

Yesterday's 3-2 loss to the Kansas City Royals concluded the Orioles' second straight series sweep, seventh consecutive loss and third in a row by one run.

Tonight the Chicago White Sox, who pounded the Orioles into submission three times in as many tries last week in Chicago, visit for three more games against the plummeting Orioles.

After the Royals captured the season series 7-6 over the Orioles, it left the club with little to play for and less desire to even come to the park. The Orioles, save for a major miracle, are now relegated to simply playing out their schedule and making plans for an early offseason.

After their gallant drive to get back into the race for the AL wild card berth, the Orioles ran into a brick wall, dropping nine games out of 10.

"It's frustrating," said Orioles manager Ray Miller said "but it shouldn't be hard for us to go and play major league baseball.

"Hopefully, everybody will go home and do what I do: Get a long night's rest then come back and see what happens (today)," said Miller.

"I'll tell you, nobody's happy about the way things are going. Nobody wants to go out there and play poorly and not hit," Miller said. "For whatever reason, lefties

O'S PERCH



When: Tonight, 7:05
Where: Oriole Park
White Sox starter: James Baldwin (8-5)
O's starter: Scott Erickson (14-10)
TV: HTS **Radio:** 1090-AM
Outlook: O's try to end seven game losing streak tonight against the White Sox, who kept the streak going by sweeping the Orioles in Chicago last week. The same two teams will play tomorrow and Wednesday.

WILD-CARD RACE

Team	Record	GB
Boston	79-55	—
Texas	72-64	8
Toronto	71-66	9½
Baltimore	69-67	11

have given us a hard time and guys we should be scoring runs against are getting away."

Despite having his club fall into fourth place behind the Toronto Blue Jays and being 11 games behind the wild card front-running Red Sox, Miller refuses to accept reality, even though he seems to realize the source of the club's problems.

"I know people will say I'm making excuses if I say that we're tired. But we're in kind of a unique spot because we have an awful lot of people who play every day," Miller said.

(See BIRDS, Page B4)

Williams has eyes on big step at Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Venus Williams made more than a little noise with her beads, brashness and bump with Irina Spirlea at the U.S. Open a year ago.

Now she's back hoping to raise the level a notch by capturing her first Grand Slam title.

As the U.S. Open began today, Williams returns more polished in every way, and has the confidence of several tournament titles behind her. Last year, she seemed to be learning on the run at the Open, assessing how to play big points in big matches, gauging when to rally, when to come in, when to go for hard shots, when to just keep the ball in play.

This time around she's got most of that figured out.

I think my serve is much better. Williams said. "I would say I'm much smarter. I think I play better shots. I make better selections. I know I win matches from

my playing well or if I'm not supposed to win."

Williams has been bothered much of the summer by a strained knee, but says it is in pretty good shape right now with the help of rest and regular stretching.

At the start of the year, Williams boasted that she would be No. 1 by year's end. That's unlikely now, though her No. 5 seeding is not too shabby for someone playing less than two full years on the tour.

"I thought maybe I'd be higher up," she said. "But it's difficult when you're an athlete because you always want to be better. Sometimes you have to be happy where you're at."

The women's draw at the Open is perhaps stronger than ever. Steffi Graf showed in Saturday's final victory over Jana Novotna in New Haven that she's ready to challenge for a major title again after a year away from the

(See OPEN, Page B4)



Defending men's U.S. Open champion Pat Rafter is back to defend his title on Long Island.