



Photos by Jim Lanahan

Kathlene Koudela, 17, who attends Monta Vista High in Cupertino, is flanked by her parents after being the first woman to finish Sunday's marathon race. Her time was 2 hours 52 minutes.

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## An unpredictable vineyard run

SARATOGA — There are a lot of problems associated with marathons.

For the runners, there's the worry and pain of training for a 26-mile run. The worry of proper carbohydrate loading before the race. The worry of the weather — is it going to be too hot? Or too cold?

And for the race director, there is that intangible to worry about. Marathons are just too unpredictable.

"That's one of the things I like about a marathon," said Penny DeMoss of Los Altos. "You never know what's going to happen."

And that's exactly what did happen Sunday at the annual Paul Masson Marathon.

DeMoss, the top woman marathoner in Northern California, didn't finish after dropping out at 15 miles with an upset stomach.

Another of the approximately 700 non-finishers was Ron Wayne, a former AAU champion who just Saturday had given a talk on how to prepare for a marathon. Evidently, he didn't.

Also leaving the race before finishing was 71-year-old Walt Stack, who had never quit a race in his life.

And pre-race favorite Duncan Macdonald, Olympic 5,000-meter runner and winner of last year's West Valley Marathon, didn't even show up for the race.

So, with the familiar names in marathoning out of the picture, the void was quickly filled by a few unfamiliar names — unfamiliar until Sunday.

Michael Van Horne, a 20-year-old junior at Sacramento State, won the overall race by clocking 2:20.55.2 for the 26-mile, 385-yards.

And 17-year-old Kathy Koudela of Monta Vista High, running in her first marathon, won the women's division by clocking an amazing 2:52.10 while leading virtually all the way.

Van Horne appeared as if he was barely hanging on for a fifth-place finish at the halfway point, but at the 17-mile mark erstwhile leader Ted Quintana was nowhere to be seen and co-leader John Moreno was struggling.

By the time the course looped back for Saratoga again, Moreno was suffering from cramps and was out of it — leaving Van Horne to assume the lead.

"As soon as I passed him (Moreno), I knew it was all over,"

said Van Horne. "He told me he was really hurting, feeling really bad."

Trailing Van Horne to the finish line was West Valley College sophomore Gregg Szanto and Sunnyvale's Hank Lawson. Szanto clocked 2:25.28.8 while Lawson finished in 2:26.47.

In the women's race, the only trouble Koudela faced was spotting the competition. "I kept looking for a lady on the turns and I finally saw one way back there," said Koudela. "I felt good until 16 or 18 miles and then I felt kind of weird. But then I figured, why stop now?"

Elsewhere in the race, 41-year-old Sue Stricklan of San Francisco clocked 3:04.53.7 to win the women's 40-49 age division. Stricklan, who finished third overall in the women's race, is a mother of nine and a grandmother. She won the International masters women's title with the same time last year in Atlanta.

Ken Apperson, 19th overall, was the fastest finisher under 16 years of age while Brigitt Cruz was the fastest Under 16 girl.

Olympic race-walker Tom Doolley of Santa Clara was the only walker to finish, clocking a respectable 3:55.45.