

Estimated 18,000 run 68th Bay to Breakers

By Glenn Kramon

8:30 a.m.: Bob Hodge glides alone through Golden Gate Park to victory with the quiet grace of the Athenian messenger for whom Marathon is named.

Four miles back, two guys wearing togas and laurel wreaths struggle to push a broken chariot loaded down with another noble Roman up the Hayes Street Hill.

In different ways, Hodge and the Romans are out for a good time.

In Hodge's case, the good time is 36 minutes and 50 seconds, a record for the 7.6-mile Examiner Bay to Breakers. The 23-year-old from Hanover, Mass., is among the 500 or so entrants who regard the run as "a race."

For the Romans, the good time is the laugh they have when a wheel falls off the chariot and caroms off dozens of their running countrymen straining to reach the top of the hill. They are among the 17,500 who regard the run as "an event."

The record by the 23-year-old Hodge was not the only one set in yesterday's 68th annual race across The City. Laurie Binder, 31, of San Diego surpassed by 15 seconds the women's mark set by 11-year-old Mary Eta Boitano of San Francisco five years ago. Her time of 43:07 earned her 75th place overall — the best finish ever for a woman. The woman who won last year, Skip Swannack, was 280th.

Indeed, five females finished in the top 165 — an indication that when it comes to foot races, the women are gaining.

The estimated 18,000 runners also is a record. If they had teamed up for a relay race, they could have circled the Earth five and a half times.

The Romans also helped set a record — for the most crazies. Among the entrants were seven giant caterpillars composed of eight to 13 runners tied together. One team of high school students wore yellow tuxedos with fresh pink roses on the lapel, ruffled yellow shirts, bow ties and matching shorts and running shoes. Like the other teams, they had antennae and seemed to come from Mars, not Pleasanton.

Another team, from Clorox, wore their company's plastic bleach bottles as hats.

A giant six-pack of Budweiser

Inside: Top 50 finishers, photos and anecdotes

featured "six 12-ounce bodies." It finished four minutes behind a six-pack of Heineken whose occupants swilled Schlitz and obviously couldn't hold it. They had to make a pit stop.

Three high school students from Oakland came as nuclear-plant cooling towers. "In the long run, nuclear power can't win," said the one dressed as Three Mile Island. His two friends grimaced at the pun.

Two teams wore Arab headdresses and carried empty oil drums on stretchers. One group called itself "OPEC Track Team."

Four guys ran in fatigues and army boots. They were asked if they'd run the distance before. "Yes, but under different conditions," groaned one.

This year's field of runners also set a record for debunking stereotypes:

The handicapped can't compete. A woman in a wheelchair finished in 83 minutes — ahead of at least a thousand runners. She zigzagged her way up Hayes Street Hill the way a hiker follows a mountain switchback. She probably has more difficulty getting her wheelchair into some restaurants.

Pregnant women can't compete. Robyn Barry of Redwood City is expecting in three months. She ran the race only 17 minutes slower than she did last year although, as her T-shirt said, "I'm running for two."

The blind can't compete. George Miller of Portola Valley and Leslie



Examiner/Eric Meskauskas

A morning is what you make of it — as illustrated by an elderly Hayes Street spectator and Bay to Breakers participants yesterday

Inman of Belmont don't believe this after having run the final mile blindfolded. "We did it as an experiment," he said. "Blind people can do a lot of things people think they can't."

Older people can't compete. Ivor Welch, 84 years of age, has been running four or five days a week for four to 15 miles. He finished the Bay to Breakers in 90 minutes, then noted that "I run harder in practice." It's the first time in recent years that Dr. Paul

Spangler of San Luis Obispo, who ran again this year, has not been the oldest entrant (he's 80).

All these people attracted stares and smiles. Less noticed was a silent majority of runners fulfilling personal goals. For thousands, this was the longest race they'd run. Upon crossing the finish line, many jumped for joy because they had made the course without stopping. Even the Hayes hill hadn't been as bad as they'd heard.

A couple danced triumphantly across the finish line holding hands. A man filmed his female running partner as she headed down the home stretch.

Molly White of San Francisco was in the high spirits typical of these finishers. She had moved from Fresno recently and this was her first Bay to Breakers. "I thought I'd be all alone (way behind the pack) by the end of the race," she said. As it turned out,

"there were people all around me. Everyone in the race was happy, and everyone watching was happy."

Contributing to The Examiner's coverage of the Bay to Breakers were Pete Bhatia, Jane Carroll and Robert Hollis and photographers Nicole Bengiveno, Lee Romero, John Gorman and Eric Meskauskas.

Running minority sizes up cross-town event

By John Crumpacker

I am a member of a disadvantaged minority, and I don't like it.

I am an endomorphic runner, for which no category exists. In the sport of road racing, there are categories for open men, open women, age group men and women and age group boys and girls. That means 45-year-old women and 11-year-old boys can receive awards for finishing first in their respective divisions. More power to them. They deserve whatever is coming to them.

But me, I am a man without a country, wearing waffle-soled shoes. There is no category for corpulent runners, damnit to hell. Because of my weight, 225 pounds, I cannot compete on an even basis with other runners, except maybe those 45-year-old women and 11-year-old boys, but, more often than not, they, too, march to the tune of a faster drummer.

The solution is simple. Adopt a heavyweight division in road races and give us slobs a chance. Boxing, wrestling, and rowing clarify weight divisions. You wouldn't ask Wilfredo Benitez to step into the ring with Larry Holmes, would you? Of course not.

Then why ask someone like myself to tread the same path as a wraith weighing 100 pounds less? Justice for the heavies!

Yesterday's Examiner Bay to Breakers was a perfect example of this deplorable injustice. Hundreds of cadaver-like runners, ribs protruding like keys on a xylophone, jockeyed for the top prizes. "One hundred and twenty-pound Joe Schmoe wins Bay to Breakers in record time." Great. Let's see how Joe Schmoe does with a 100-pound bag of cement on his back. What's the matter Joe, having a little difficulty ascending the Hayes Street Hill? Look at me, I'm right beside you, now that things are equalized.

Now, I'm not taking anything away from yesterday's overall winner, Bob Hodge, who happens to be 100 pounds lighter. Let him have his cake and frost it, too. Why not institute a category for runners over 200 pounds? There were a few heavyweights trudging along the 7.63-mile course yesterday morning.

Let us, beached whales, have our day in the sun, even if it is obscured by clouds and drizzle, as it was yesterday in The City.



Examiner/Nicole Bengiveno

Runner-writer John Crumpacker weighs evidence for a corpulent category in Bay to Breakers

During the course of my 81-minute, 50-second peregrination in the Bay to the Breakers, I observed a handful of heavies plodding along. With protruding bellies and two-county butts, they nevertheless finished the damned thing, immersed in sweat and smiles at the race's end on the Great Highway.

I pulled even with one such heavy as I crossed the finish line.

"Congratulations," I said warmly to my chunky run-mate. "Way to go," he replied with equal sincerity.

As we shook hands, I glanced at his belly. Bigger than mine, I thought, not nearly as hard. Which doesn't say much for this guy's gut.

Now if we were competing for the heavyweight Bay to

Breakers title, you can bet my knees would be lifting and my arms pumping as I closed the gap on this Fred Flintstone in running togs. If running is truly the sport of the people, then it must be a sport for heavyweights, also.

This year's Bay to Breakers awards merely point out the need for a heavyweight title. In addition to the usual awards to the fastest man, woman, boy, girl and male and female oldster, prizes were given to the best-costumed individual and teams as well.

So, jokers in the nude, clown swearing tuxedos and Groucho Marx get-ups, and teams nattily done up as six packs and the OPEC Track Team get recognition while the silent, puddy minority is ignored.

It's enough to drive a guy to drink, which is what I'm

Bay to Breakers: The first 50 finishers

1. Bob Hodge, Hanover, Mass. (Greater Boston Track Club) 36:50.9 (better's official course record of 37:03 by Paul Geis, Tobias Striders, 1977).

2. Joaquin Leano, Colombia (University of Nevada-Reno) 37:11.5.

3. John Moreno, Pacifica (Camino West Track Club) 37:14.1.

4. Benton Hart, Berkeley (Unattached) 37:50.6.

5. Alan Gibson, Auckland, N.Z. (Green and McGahill Track Club) 37:51.6.

6. Bruce Palmer (G&M Auckland) 37:55.5; 7. Graham Struthers (G&M Auckland) 38:08.8; 8. Mi-

39:11.3; 23. Gary Elliott (G&M, Auckland) 39:19.1; 24. Randall Diamond (G&M, Auckland) 39:28.6; 25. *Virrginio Dearaugo (Brazil) 39:41.6.

26. Richard Weeks (Basin Blues, Van Nuys) 39:51.5; 27. Reg House (G&M, Auckland) 39:54.6; 28. Scott Thomson (G&M, Auckland) 40:13.2; 29. Fred Villea s (Merced TC) 40:15.4; 30. Ruben Ruiz (Aztlan TC, Monterey Park) 40:20.5.

31. James Howell (West Valley TC, Cupertino) 40:24.6; Lester Mina (Aggie Running Club) 40:45.1; 33. *George Hernandez (Unat., Reno) 40:49.0; 34. Mike Conroy (Excelsior TC, Daly City) 40:50.9; 35. Rick

LEADING WOMEN FINISHERS (Overall place)

1.(75) Laurie Binder (KCBQ, San Diego) 43:07.6 (better's women's course record of 43:22 set by Mary Etta Boitano, Dolphin South End Runners, 1974); 2.(86) Judy Fox (West Valley TC, Sunnyvale) 43:36.5; 3.(134) Carol Urish (Houston Harriers, Austin, Texas) 45:00.0; 4.(154) Skip Swannack (Woodside Striders, Redwood City) 45:33.7; 5.(165) Diane Riley (KCBQ, San Diego) 45:59.5.

(* = denotes Fun Run entrants finishing among top 50)

Bay to Breakers: The first 300 finishers

5/24/79

1 Bob Hodge, Hanover, Mass. (Greater Boston Track Club) 36:50.9 (betters official course record of 37:03 by Paul Geis, Tobias Striders, 1977). 2. Joaquin Leano, Colombia (University of Nevada-Reno) 37:11.5. 3. John Moreno, Pacifica (Camino West Track Club) 37:14.1. 4. Benton Hart, Berkeley (Unattached) 37:50.6. 5. Alan Gibson, Auckland, N.Z. (Green and McGahill Track Club) 37:51.6.

6. Bruce Palmer (G&M Auckland) 37:55.5; 7. Graham Struthers (G&M, Auckland) 38:08.8; 8. Michael Emery (Camino West, Davis) 38:14.9; 9. John Gibson (G&M, Auckland) 38:17.5. 10. John Sheehan (Aggie Running Club, Mountain View) 38:34.0.

11. Fred Smith (G&M, Auckland) 38:35.0; 12. Wayne Buckingham (Jamul Toads, El Cajon) 38:37.2; 13. Jim Mosher (San Diego TC) 38:37.2; 14. Roy Hougland (Camino West, Vacaville) 38:43.2; 15. Paul Sumpter (Auckland Univ., N.Z.) 38:47.1.

16. Steve Brent (G&M, Auckland) 38:47.7; 17. Pete Flores (Aggie Running Club, Woodland) 38:50.3; 18. Keith Pearce (G&M, Auckland) 38:54.2; 19. *Miguel Tibaduiza (UN-Reno, Columbia) 38:58.8; 20. Denis O'Halloran (Aggie Running Club) 39:01.9.

21. *Edgar Leano (UN-Reno, Colombia) 39:11.0; 22. Gerald Crane (Unat., Ann Arbor, Mich.) 39:11.3; 23. Gary Elliott (G&M, Auckland) 39:19.1; 24. Randall Diamond (G&M, Auckland) 39:28.6; 25. *Virgilio Dearaugo (Brazil) 39:41.6.

26. Richard Weeks (Basin Blues, Van Nuys) 39:51.5; 27. Reg House (G&M, Auckland) 39:54.6; 28. Scott Thomson (G&M, Auckland) 40:13.2; 29. Fred Villeza s (Merced TC) 40:15.4; 30. Ruben Ruiz (Aztlán TC, Monterey Park) 40:20.5.

31. James Howell (West Valley TC, Cupertino) 40:24.6; Lester Mina (Aggie Running Club) 40:45.1; 33. *George Hernandez (Unat., Reno) 40:49.0; 34. Mike Conroy (Excelsior TC, Daly City) 40:50.9; 35. Rick Batha (Aggie Running Club, Davis) 40:54.8.

36. Steve Palladino (Camino West, San Mateo) 41:09.6; 37. Web Loudat (New Mexico TC, Albuquerque) 41:14.0; 38. Dennis Tracy (West Valley TC, Hayward) 41:16.8; 39. William Marly (Dallas Cross Country Club) 41:22.6; 40. Ivan Keats (G&M, Auckland) 41:32.2.

41. Greg McKinstry (Merced TC) 41:37.3; 42. Michael Lennemann (Fresno Pacific TC) 41:37.8; 43. *Edward Kelley (Sacramento TC) 41:39.6; 44. Jerry Hall (Unat., Stanford) 41:40.7; 45. Joseph Hurd (Unat., San Francisco) 41:53.3.

46. Andrew Eskin (Las Vegas TC) 41:53.7; 47. Jeff Mellow (Fresno TC) 41:54.8; 48. Gary Porteous (Merced TC) 41:58.3; 49. Hank Lawson (Camino West, Pittsburg) 42:05.5; 50. Steve Ottaway (Great Britain) 42:07.5.

51. Ned Elliott 42:09.1; 52. Don Chapin 42:16.7; 53. C. Hans 42:17.7; 54. Jeff Julian 42:19.7; 55. Andy Sawyer 42:20.8.

56. Timothy Morse 42:21.2; 57. Dennis Reager 42:21.9; 58. Jerry Emory 42:23.0; 59. Steve Lorenz 42:23.8; 60. Greg Hodson 42:24.6.

61. Kim Osborne 42:28.9; 62. Keith Gleason 42:31.6; 63. Rick Tinko 42:36.1; 64. Mike Brisbin 42:37.3; 65. Jon Brendel 42:40.3.

66. Rae L. Clark 42:44.5; 67. Bill J. Merryfield 42:47.4; 68. Gregg Hubbard 42:52.5; 69. Anthony C. Stagliano 42:53.0; 70. Gary H. Alderman 42:53.5.

71. Bob Braseseo 42:56.4; 72. Marshall Spalding 43:00.5; 73. Karl Machscheles 43:03.4;

74. Steve Clark 43:06.1; 75. Laurie Binder 43:07.6.

76. Clivis Speere 43:08.2; 77. Dan Harvey 43:12.1; 78. Andy Tahaha 43:18.8; 79. Darnel Cop 43:26.9; 80. Raoul Kennedy 43:29.7.

81. Mike Gaven 43:30.5; 82. Chris Johnson 43:31.3; 83. John Ortega 43:31.9; 84. Tom Bennett 43:33.0; 85. Harrison Gunther 43:34.9.

86. Judy Fox 43:36.5; 87. L. Malloves 43:37.8; 88. Frances Byrnes 43:39.1; 89. Bennett Gershman 43:40.1; 90. Jim O'Neil 43:41.0.

91. David Amster 43:43.0; 92. Bob Manninga 43:45.2; 93. Tommy Zamot 43:49.9; 94. Steve Ferraz 43:52.5; 95. Ray Hoster 43:52.5.

96. James Simcox 43:54.0; 97. Chris Lucas 43:58.9; 98. Don Ardell 44:00.2; 99. Steve Hyland 44:02.0; 100. Edwin Jerome 44:03.9.

101. Ty Rousseau 44:05.9; 102. Walt Basinger 44:09.9; 103. Bill Jensen 44:10.9; 104. Todd Watkins 44:16.5; 105. Michael Roof 44:18.7.

106. Masafuma Mori 44:19.8; 107. Russell Cohen 44:23.2; 108. Stephen Sidney 44:24.7; 109. Ray T. Bonner 44:28.9; 110. Steve Sabotnick 44:29.5.

111. John Leeming 44:30.1; 112. David R. Hildebell 44:30.4; 113. Dan Rusk 44:33.1; 114. Steve P. Lyons 44:38.2; 115. Ken Ganezer 44:41.6.

116. Laurence Sims 44:42.1; Gregory A. Peechia 44:42.4; 118. Stephen J. Penner 44:44.1; 119. Joe Gallagher 44:44.6; 120. P. Russell Kiernan 44:46.4.

121. George E. Hirsch 44:47.9; 122. Jon Halperin 44:48.5; 123. Ronald R. Bottano 44:48.9; 124. Douglas E. Rader 44:49.6; 125. Andrew Barrow 44:49.9.

126. J.P. McCarthy 44:50.4; 127. Harry Genant 44:51.1; 128. Tom Castle 44:51.8; 129. Charles K. Wake 44:52.4; 130. Ian I. Pearce 44:52.8.

131. David Maldonado 44:56.7; 132. Luis Torres 44:57.8; 133. Dan Alarid 44:59.6; 134. Carol Urish 45:00.0; 135. Marco Martin 45:01.8.

136. Dave Houston 45:04.8; 137. Cortes Roy 45:06.0; 138. Raoul Hernandez 45:07.1; 139. Rey Burrows 45:10.3; 140. Robert A. Gehl 43:13.4.

141. Gus Ortega 45:14.5; 142. Paul T. Farren 45:14.8; 143. Gene Commore 45:15.2; 144. Justin Wilson 45:18.9; 145. Jim Raymead 45:19.7.

146. Steve Carlson 45:20; 147. Lance Gent 45:20.6; 148. Matt Frome 45:26; 149. David Drechsel 45:28; 150. Peter Mithoefer 45:29.

151. Scott Canizales 45:30; 152. John Geer 45:30.9; 153. Edward Lane 45:32; 154. Skip Swannack 45:33; 155. John Chine 45:34.

156. Edward Lopez 45:36; 157. Geoff Smyth 45:38; 158. Mark Perez 45:40; 159. John Gilberg 45:48; 160. Ed Nunez 45:49.

161. Gary Kaufman 45:50; 162. Robert Seldner 45:51; 163. Joe Intardonato 45:54; 164. Richard Harbaugh 45:57; 165. Diane Riley 45:59.

166. Angus Morrison 46:02; 167. Danny Lee 46:02.6; 168. Eric Edmunds Jr 46:03; 169. Jeff Chinn 46:03.9; 170. F.M. Lorenz 46:07.

171. Marilyn Taylor 46:09; 172. David W. Cox 46:10; 173. Jeff Prevninger 48:14; 174. Richard Craig 46:15; 175. Richard Svendsen 46:15.8.

176. Ralph Whitehead 46:16; 177. Jim Ferris 46:16.7; 178. Ed Ferry 46:17; 179. Eric Pettersen 46:17.5; 180. Jim Cuff 46:18.

181. Jack O. Wheeler 46:20; 182. Ann Forshee-Crane 46:22; 183. Robert Miller 46:23;

184. Frank Allen 46:25; 185. Richard Utting 46:25.

186. Brian Pterson 46:27; 187. Santos S. Reynaga 46:29; 188. Bob Brenner 46:30; 189. Bob Horan 46:31; 190. Jeff Hunter 46:31.7.

191. Joe Anibale 46:32; 192. Steve Tristant 46:37; 193. James Ferguson 46:38; 194. David Gould 46:40; 195. Jon O. Werner 46:40.9.

196. Ken Israel 46:41; 197. Michael Yam 46:41.9; 198. Frank McGuire 46:42; 199. Jim Oury 46:43.0; 200. David Townsley 46:44.

201. Bentley Tor 46:45; 202. Judy Gumbs-Leydig 46:45.9; 203. Mike Beers 46:47; 204. John Swyers; 205. Rick Haas 46:55.

206. Robert Eichstaedt 46:56; 207. Joe Alioto 46:57; 208. Mark Levinson 46:59; 209. Larry Landess 47:00; 210. (Not registered) 47:01.

211. Curtiss Kellogg 47:02; 212. Tom Jacobsen 47:03; 213. (Not registered) 47:03.1; 214. Mike Krivash 47:03.6; 215. Brendon O'Leary 47:03.9.

216. Eric Sommer 47:04; 217. Jim Jacobs 47:04; 218. John LaValle 47:05; 219. Sam Leggett 47:05.7; 220. Tom Moore 47:06.

221. Michael Hinson 47:07; 222. Jim Pawling 47:08; 223. Randall Rattray 47:10; 224. David Wendell 47:11; 225. Alex Lamb 47:11.9.

226. Burke O'Leary 47:14; 227. Mike Brazil 47:15; 228. Terry Regan 47:16; 229. Marty Bannon 47:17; 230. John D. Lawson III 47:17.9.

231. Donald Baca 47:20.3; 232. Lee Broshers 47:20.8; 233. Peter Van Alderivelt 47:21; 234. Mario Estrada 47:23; 235. Rathbun Lyon 47:23.7.

236. Jim Armstrong 47:24.2; 237. Blaise S. Curet 47:24.6; 238. Tom Patton 47:26; 239. Frank Breen 47:28; 240. Rick Allen 47:29.

241. Arnid Olson 47:30; 242. John Murtagh 47:34; 243. Jim Walsh 47:35.1; 244. Phil Humphreys 47:35.4; 245. Tim Peck 47:35.7.

246. Mike Lafricain 47:37; 247. Mark Frankel 47:40; 248. Michael Kinter 47:41; 249. Mike Paulsen 47:42; 250. Russell Bianchi 47:44.

251. Joe Lawton 47:46; 252. Ron Peck 47:48; 253. Jim Waste 47:49; 254. Stephen Durham 47:50; 255. Steven Hopp 47:52.

256. Joe Manolakakis 47:53; 257. Forrest Brakeman 47:54; 258. Thomas Knight 47:57; 259. Tony Zarate 47:58; 260. Thomas Willis 48:00.

261. Dick White 48:00.9; 262. Charles Becher 48:01; 263. Chris Sheffer 48:02; 264. Larry Ketzef 48:03; 265. Diane Killae 48:03.7.

266. Paul McWilliams 48:04; 267. Mike Williams 48:04.4; 268. Pat Shactle 48:05; 269. Bill Dewes 48:05.6; 270. Ron Soshin 48:06.

271. Thierry Dubois 48:06; 272. John Harland 48:07; 273. Doug Kreiss 48:07.8; 274. Peter Fisher 48:08; 275. David Paine 48:09.

276. Tom Durant 48:10; 277. Rob Reed 48:12; 278. Vic McCarthy 48:15; 279. David Honeychurch 48:17; 280. Nelson Noguchi 48:20.

281. David Pursley 48:22; 282. Art Larson 48:26; 283. John Jacobs 48:28; 284. Les Shinozawa 48:29; 285. Bob Sayle 48:30.

286. David Siles 48:31; 287. Mike O'Leary 48:32; 288. Jack Barth 48:35; 289. Paul Carpenter 48:36; 290. Brian Andrews 48:37.

291. Henry Steiner 48:39; 292. Herb Weber 48:40; 293. Tom Morgan 48:41; 294. Jim Marks 48:42; 295. Jeff Gardner.

296. Brian Williams 48:43; 297. Jeff Moore 48:45; 298. Brau Ricardo 48:46; 299. Bill Allen; 300. Mark Bechelli 48:48.