

Merrick, Masopust Annex Kershner MidSpring Titles

ROXBURY – Ken Merrick and Alison Masopust were crowned as champions of the 24th annual 4.3-mile Larry Kershner MidSpring Challenge Saturday, Apr. 26, at the Roxbury Road Race Series.

Merrick, 45, of New Fairfield covered the layout, which included a trip down the hill on High Bridge Road, in 25-minutes, 39-seconds – a 5:58-per-mile pace.

Merrick won this event last year as he captured the season title at Roxbury for a second consecutive year.

Jeff Sheldon, 33, of Southbury placed second in 26:41.

Masopust, 30, of Morris took fifth place overall with a 28:57 clocking.

It was her first victory this year in the Roxbury series. Her sister, Leah Papsin, has won the female title six times since the season began Mar. 1.

Merrick and Masopust each were awarded a \$10 gift certificate to an area running store.

The race is named after Kershner, a Roxbury resident who was the head director of the series from 1980 through 1985 and developed the revised schedule that expanded the schedule from seven races in the summer to the current 41-race format.

He was chairman of the Science Department at New Milford High School and later taught in the Education Department at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury.

The runners raised \$175 for the Roxbury park improvement fund from the \$5-per-runner entry fee.

They also announced that New Milford High School was chosen as the recipient of \$600 grant that is awarded each year by the series. The Brookfield, Nonnewaug-Woodbury, Pomperaug-Southbury, Oxford and Shepaug Valley-Washington high schools also were invited to submit proposals.

The weekly series will resume Saturday, May 3, at 8:30 a.m. with a 4.2-mile run that will include a trek down the steep incline along Ranney Hill Road. There will be no entry fee.

The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park.

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the head director, at BenjaminS@wcsu.edu, (O) (203) 837-9999, ext. 19825 or access www.roxburyraces.net.