

Merrick And Papsin Prevail In 3.95-mile

MidAutumn Run

ROXBURY – Two-time defending Roxbury Road Race Series season champion Ken Merrick and former University of Connecticut soccer player Leah Papsin were the male and female champions, respectively, at the annual 3.95-mile Bob Lewis MidAutumn Championship.

Merrick, 45, of New Fairfield covered the loop, which included a jeep trail at the three-mile mark, in 24-minutes, 25-seconds – a 6:21-per-mile pace.

Ryan Ripp, 27, placed second in 25:32.

Papsin, 26, who lives in the New Preston section of Washington, placed seventh overall with a clocking of 26:23.

Merrick and Papsin each received a \$10 gift certificate to an area running store.

The series generated \$232 for the Roxbury park improvement fund from the \$5-per-runner entry fees.

The event is named after Lewis, who was head director of the series from 1986 to 2011 and still sets up the mile markers and directional arrows on the courses before he runs them with the other competitors.

The Roxbury Half-Marathon, which is sold out, is slated for Saturday, Nov. 8, at 8:30 a.m. The event usually attracts runners from throughout the area.

The regular series will resume Saturday, Nov. 15, at 8:30 a.m. with a 3.52-mile run down the long hill on Hemlock Road.

The runners also are co-sponsors for the 14th annual Run For A Cure, a 3.0-mile race that will be held Thursday, Nov. 27, at 9:30 at the Roxbury Congregational Church on Route 317. There will be a \$10 entry fee, with proceeds going to the Relay For Life/Shepaug Valley Chapter and the cancer center at New Milford Hospital.

Walkers and strollers will take off at 9:15 and a .7-mile children's event will commence at 9 a.m.

Registration for all three components will be held at the church from 7:30 to 9:20 that morning.

The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

For further information, contact Scott Benjamin, the head director, at BenjaminS@wcsu.edu or (cellular) (860) 354-3521.