

Merrick, Papsin Prevail In Roxbury 3.52-miler

ROXBURY – Two-time reigning point-standings champion Ken Merrick and former University of Connecticut soccer player Leah Papsin were the respective male and female champions Saturday, November 22, over a rolling 3.52-mile course at the Roxbury Road Race Series.

Merrick, 45, of New Fairfield, who is again leading the point standings this year in the weekly series, covered the loop, which included a jaunt up the long hill on Hemlock Road, in 22-minutes-14-seconds, a 6:19-per-mile pace.

Nelson Azevedo, 55, placed second in 22:57.

Papsin, 26, who lives in the New Preston section of Watertown, was third overall in 26:34.

The runners are co-sponsors along with the Roxbury Congregational Church and the Roxbury Recreation Commission for the 14th annual Run For A Cure, which will be held Thursday, Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Day, starting and finishing near the church on Route 317.

The .7-mile children's run will start at 9 a.m., the walkers and strollers will depart on the primary 3.0-mile course at 9:15 and the runners will take off on that loop at 9:30 a.m.

There is a \$10 entry fee which can be paid that morning from 7:30 to 9:20 a.m. at the church. Proceeds will be donated to the cancer center at New Milford Hospital and the Shepaug Valley Division of the Relay For Life of the American Cancer Society.

The top overall male and female finisher will each receive a plaque.

Refreshments will be available.

The weekly series will resume Saturday, Nov. 29, at 8:30 a.m. with a 2.4-mile run that will include a trip down the steep hill on Chalybes Road. There will be no entry fee.

The series will conclude Saturday, Dec. 6, with a run on the 2.4-mile layout in the opposite direction at 8:30 a.m. Runners are encouraged to bring a toy to donate to a needy child during the holiday season.

Also, the awards for the 2014 series will be presented during a ceremony after the run.

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 ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@mail.com or (cellular) (860) 354-3521.