## Parker, De Marrais Prevail Over 3.52-mile Roxbury Route

ROXBURY – Sean Parker, 16, a runner at Sheapug Valley High School in Washington, captured top honors Saturday, November 21, at the Roxbury Road Race Series and former Princeton University standout Marge De Marrais took the female title over the 3.52-mile layout.

Parker was clocked in 20:37 – a 5:51-per-mile pace – with Eric Vazquez, 16, placing second in 21:15.

De Marrais, a hedge fund manager who lives in Sharon, took 10<sup>th</sup> overall with a time of 25:11. It was her fourth victory in as many starts this year in the Roxbury series.

Following the race, the runners distributed the T-shirts from their 20<sup>th</sup> annual fund-raising campaign. They were designed by Dave Harvey, a former Bridgewater resident who still occasionally runs in the series, with the sponsor art work completed by David McNamara, who runs regularly in the races.

The runners had 48 sponsors who collectively contributed \$2,346 to the campaign. At least \$600 will go toward the high school grants that have been awarded every year since 2000.

The athletic directors at the Pomperaug-Southbury, Oxford, Shepaug Valley-Washington, Nonnewaug-Woodbury, New Milford and Brookfield high schools received letters in September seeking proposals on what they would do with the money to improve their cross country/track & field programs. Those are due by March 31 and a committee will select the winner(s) in early April.

Since the campaign was initiated in 1996, the runners have raised more than \$40,000 for the T-shirts and grants.

The Run For A Cure is slated for Thursday, November 26, at the Roxbury Congregational Church. The road race series, the church and the Roxbury Recreation Commission co-sponsor the 3.0-mile run. The top overall male and female finisher will each receive a plaque.

The children's run starts at 9 a.m., walkers and strollers will take off on the main course at 9:15 and the runners will depart at 9:30.

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

The weekly races will resume Saturday, November 28, at 8:30 a.m. with a 2.4-mile run down the hill on Chalybes Road. There will be no entry fee.

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

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the head director at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com or (860) 354-3521.