

Strange events of the Seventh Maryland Marathon

It wasn't just Satyr Hill, either.

"Heck, by now everybody knows it's there," Foster said. "It was all those other roller-coaster jobs in the reservoir area. It's a great place to run—don't get me wrong—but it's tough."

So tough, in fact, that only Jeff, in 2:19.36, and the runner-up, Guy Crane of Richmond, in 2:21.46, were able to make the qualifying time for next May's Olympic Trials Marathon in Niagara Falls (2:21.54).

"I had heard about this race from a couple of my buddies and really didn't plan on trying to run a qualifying time here," Jeff admitted, "but every place else I showed up, things seemed to go wrong."

"I went to Toledo and it ended up being 90 degrees. I ran back home in Pittsburgh and it was 42 degrees and a freezing rain."

It was getting late, so Foster began looking around for something easier, relatively flat. "I got turned down by the Jersey Shore Marathon (also run yesterday)," he said. "I mean, they were closed and wouldn't even send me an entry blank. They didn't want me."

The Edinboro (Pa.) State grad didn't have to lick his wounds long. "Maryland has more prestige, a better field," he said. "I was sorta glad."

The story of the race for the first 100 minutes was Mike Cotton, a junior out of the University of Virginia. He rolled out to a big early lead and ran virtually alone through much of the first two-thirds of the race.

A cross country runner for the Cavaliers, Cotton hit the 5-mile in 25:45, no great shakes until you stop and consider he was running into a nasty headwind up Hillen road and Perring parkway.

Cotton, in a bid to break 2:20 and qualify for the Olympics, got panicky with the slovenly pace and decided to do it on his own. He hit the 10-mile mark in 51:34, about 2½ minutes ahead of a pack containing Foster, and at 15 miles his lead was eight seconds shy of three minutes ahead. Here, the kid began to unravel.

Ron Hill, who finished fifth (2:23.37), picks up the commentary: "We had got together in a pack of six or so right about the 11-mile mark. We went to the turnaround together and hit that in the high 1:10s. I guess the leader had us by about 2½ minutes at that point."

"We stuck together until about 14-15 [miles] when [Jukka] Toivola picked it up and just disappeared. Foster was the only guy who went with him."

"Just before 15," said Foster, "I felt

myself wanting to apply a little more. It seemed I wanted to do some hard running. I didn't look back, but I knew someone was with me. I figured it was the [favored] Finn [Toivola].

"I never got discouraged with Cotton being out that much on us, because the word we had [talking in the pack] was that this was his first one [marathon]. He must not have anticipated you get tired if you go out that hard."

"I got a kick out of it, running along at 15 miles thinking a guy who has run 2:14 was hanging on my shoulder. I was wondering if he was going to bust another one like that, but I didn't let it bother me."

At about 17 miles, Foster drew away from Toivola slightly and now he set his sights on the leader, Cotton. Satyr Hill comes somewhere in the 18th mile and Jeff was ready. He got to the top, was feeling pretty good and began listening:

"They said I was anywhere from 55 seconds to a minute and a half behind the leader, so I just kept on plugging. Suddenly, I went around a corner and there he was."

Passing by Taylor avenue (about 5.2 miles to go), Foster went by Cotton with

a jump. "He looked really tired. I don't think we said anything. I can't remember," said Jeff.

Cotton, after stopping, slowed down to a crawl and finished 26th and required a lot of medical attention for hypothermia afterwards. He had fallen and had to be assisted to his feet a couple of times in the last seven miles, thus the disqualification.

Crane, running a stride behind the pack containing Foster, Hill, Toivola, Martti Vainio, Bruce Robinson and Dan Rincou through the reservoir area, weaved his way through the pack and grabbed second comfortably, although he wasn't very comfortable (cramps).

Robinson, the best in the state, grabbed the show position in 2:22.19, his same placing as two years ago. In congratulating Foster on his win, Bruce pointed out, "When a guy's running good, it doesn't matter much what the weather is."

Foster agreed it was only the sixth marathon for the victor, "but the fourth one I've run," he said. "Those other ones I kinda messed up, like going out too hard and suffering the last 12 miles."

Are you listening, Mike Cotton?

Bevans' effort to set marathon record fails

By DUTCH SNYDER

Evening Sunpapers Sports Writer

Baltimorean Marilyn Bevans was winded, literally and physically, after she won the women's segment of yesterday's Maryland Marathon with a time of 2:54.35.9.

Gusty winds, ranging from 15-25 mph were the Achilles' heel of all the runners who attempted the 26-mile, 385-yard course.

Bevans was trying to better her MM record of 2:51.18, set in 1977, and improve on her second-place finish last year. The 30-year old was shooting for a 2:48, but fell six minutes short.

"I was disappointed with my time," said Bevans. "But the wind had a lot to do with it."

"I thought the wind would be bad going out [Peece's Plantation is the half way mark], but it also hit us on the way back. On Perring Parkway coming in, the wind was terrible."

Wind or no wind, Bevans grabbed the lead from the other women entered and ran away from them. Her closest rival

was Carol Myers, who finished at 2:57:17.6. Kathy Heckman, last year's winner, placed third at 2:59.19 and Jan Yorke was fourth at 3:00.4.

"I got out front at about the five-mile mark," said Bevans. "I felt strong and relaxed. I had planned to go out slow and come back strong, but everytime I tried to push, the wind pushed back."

"I tried to listen for the women behind me. Usually the crowd cheers for a woman, but I couldn't hear anything."

Bevans had been breezing, so to speak, until she got to Satyr Hill on the return trip. That's that "slight" incline which four-wheel drive vehicles use as a test track.

"I was doing fine going up the hills in the Loch Raven Dam area," said Bevans. "Really taking them strong, until I hit that Hill. I crawled up Satyr Hill and that added some minutes to my time."

"I think I'll try to set my 2:48 on some nice flat course, instead of killing myself on this one."