



Results from
The JPL Running Club's
1983 MAY MADNESS MEDLEY MATCH RACE TOURNAMENT

At the last minute, one extra element of madness was added to the first running of the May Madness Medley Match Race Tournament. Temperatures shot up to 90 degrees, and smog enveloped us for the first time all year. Despite these conditions, twenty-five hardy runners turned out to participate. All of these runners are to be commended for their dedication. Special thanks go to Tom O'Hara, who saved the day for the Women's Division. The women needed one more contestant to make a three-round tournament possible, and Tom graciously accepted an invitation to compete in their division.

Awards were won by the following runners:

	WOMEN'S DIVISION	MEN'S DIVISION
Tournament Champion	- Kim Lievense	- Len Efron
Runnerup	- Tonja Harris	- John LuValle
Double Winners	- Maryé Leslie - Kathy O'Hara	- David Hansen - Frank Malinowski - Paul Stella

A complete list of results is attached. A runner's overall tournament standing is based first on number of wins, then on the three-digit number representing his/her 1st, 2nd, 3rd round finish places (lowest numbers are best). Included in the data are each runner's three match assignments, three finish places, three race times (for 1 mile, 1.5 miles, and 1/2 mile), two rest periods between races, and cumulative time for 3 miles (not counting rests). The timing data has no bearing on the tournament standings, but it is included for the runners' general information.

The race data is broken down by runner, rather than by match. However, all of the information is there, if you wish to determine how any individual match turned out. Just locate all the runners with a given match assignment number, and compare their times. For example, in Match I in the 1st round of the Men's Division, David Hansen finished 1st with a time of 5:42, Frank Malinowski was 2nd at 5:45, and Paul Stella and Gary Kunstmann both placed 3rd with times of 6:27 and 8:28, respectively. (This was one of the matches in which last place and next-to-last place were equivalent.)

The race results illustrate some nice features of the match race tournament format. First of all, this format greatly multiplies the number of opportunities for runners of all abilities to actually finish 1st in a race. In a regular race, all runners but one trail the winner across the finish line --- often many minutes behind. In our May Madness Tournament, we had 30 separate matches and thus 30 separate winners. Twenty of the 25 runners got to experience the "thrill of victory" at least once. The five non-winners missed out by scant margins ranging from 0:14 to 1:20. The tournament also produced a fair number of really close contests. Seven of the 30 matches were decided by less than 5 seconds per mile, including one exciting, absolute dead heat.

Another nice feature of the May Madness Tournament is that it contained a few elements of randomness --- not enough to dramatically change the standings, but just enough to cloud over the competitive issues that might otherwise detract from a match race format. There were several variables affecting the race outcomes that had nothing to do with the runners' abilities, e.g., race strategies, rest periods, and identity of previous opponents. As a result, nobody can claim superiority over another runner on the basis of either the overall tournament standings or individual match outcomes. At the same time, though, the random effects were minor enough that successful runners can still feel justifiably proud of their accomplishments.

I hope there's something good in the results for everyone. Some of you finished a little higher than you would in a normal race, and that's great! For those of you who finished lower than you usually do, there's probably a good explanation (or excuse!) to be found by comparing your match assignments, race times, and rest periods with those of the other runners. Next time you'll probably have better luck of the draw. And don't overlook the importance of strategy in a contest like this. Notice that in both divisions the person who ran the fastest 3 miles did not win the tournament championship!

Finally, I really want to thank the crew of officials whose combined efforts helped make this race possible: Ed Rinderle, Rich Brace, Duncan McCornock, Mark Gatti, Lesley Ibaven, Jeff Osman, and our friends from the Radio Club, John McKinney, Jim Lumsden, and Bruce Beaudry. This was a very complicated race to conduct, and the data collection and processing requirements were monumental compared to anything we've ever done before. We had to make 75 match assignments and record 75 finishing places sorted by match. And we managed to write down all 30 match start times and all 75 runner finish times. Great job, everyone!

If you have any comments on this year's tournament, or suggestions for improvements in the future, I'd appreciate hearing from you.

Sam Dolinar

1983 MAY MADNESS MEDLEY MATCH RACE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

WOMEN'S DIVISION		Finishes by Rounds			Matches by Rounds			T I M E S					
Name	Wins	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	1 mile	Rest	1.5 mi	Rest	1/2 mi	3 miles
Kim Lievens	3	1	1	1	I	1A	11	8:15	3:30	12:55	2:15	3:49	24:59
Tonja Harris	2	1	1	2	III	1B	11	9:12	2:28	12:30	1:45	4:04	25:46
Maryé Leslie	2	1	2	1	IV	1A	12	7:43	2:32	13:24	3:41	3:54	25:01
Kathy O'Hara	2	2	1	1	IV	2A	21	7:43	3:09	12:19	3:29	3:42	23:44
Tom O'Hara*	1	1	2	2	II	1B	12	8:42	3:28	12:32	3:38	3:56	25:10
Elaine Hemenway	1	2	1	2	II	2B	21	9:13	3:17	13:28	1:42	4:13	26:54
Leticia Montañez	1	2	2	1	I	2A	22	8:19	4:03	13:58	6:40	6:25	28:42
Jacqui Horner	0	2	2	2	III	2B	22	10:55	1:05	17:52	2:08	6:39	35:26

* Women's Division entrant by special invitation

MEN'S DIVISION		Finishes by Rounds			Matches by Rounds			T I M E S					
Name	Wins	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	1 mile	Rest	1.5 mi	Rest	1/2 mi	3 miles
Len Efron	3	1	1	1	IV	1B	11	6:14	3:01	9:16	2:59	2:21	17:51
John LuValle	2	1	1	2	II	1A	11	6:07	2:53	8:44	5:46	2:40	17:31
David Hansen	2	1	2	1	I	1A	12	5:42	4:18	10:08	8:12	2:31	18:21
Frank Malinowski	2	2	1	1	I	2A	21	5:45	5:30	9:39	4:21	2:36	18:00
Paul Stella	2	3	1	1	I	3A	31	6:27	7:18	9:45	3:40	2:40	18:52
Steve Stedry	1	1	2	2	V	1B	12	6:15	2:00	10:58	5:07	2:33	19:46
Joe Ferrall	1	1	2	3	III	1A	12	7:08	0:52	10:55	7:25	2:45	20:48
Dave Bell	1	2	1	2	V	2B	21	6:47	2:29	10:29	1:30	3:00	20:16
Charles Voge	1	2	2	1 ⁺	IV	2A	22	6:39	1:36	10:03	7:22	3:01	19:43
Bill Mandeville	1	2	2	1 ⁺	II	2A	22	6:48	3:27	10:05	7:20	3:01	19:54
Sergio Villanueva	1	3	1	2	V	3B	31	7:09	3:36	10:59	1:26	2:46	20:54
Rich Benson	1	3	2	1	II	3A	32	6:56	5:49	10:37	3:38	3:09	20:42
Bud Storck	1	3	3	1	IV	3A	33	7:49	2:56	12:29	4:51	3:29	23:47
Ted Meyer	0	2	2	3	III	2B	22	7:52	3:24	11:34	3:30	3:30	22:56
Fred Rosenblatt	0	3	2	2	V	3B	32	7:53	2:52	12:14	1:01	3:53	24:00
Gary Kunstmann	0	3	3	2	I	3A	33	8:28	5:17	13:04	4:16	4:02	25:34
Ken Bartos	0	3	3	3	III	3B	33	8:54	3:51	14:04	2:16	4:49	27:47

⁺ dead heat