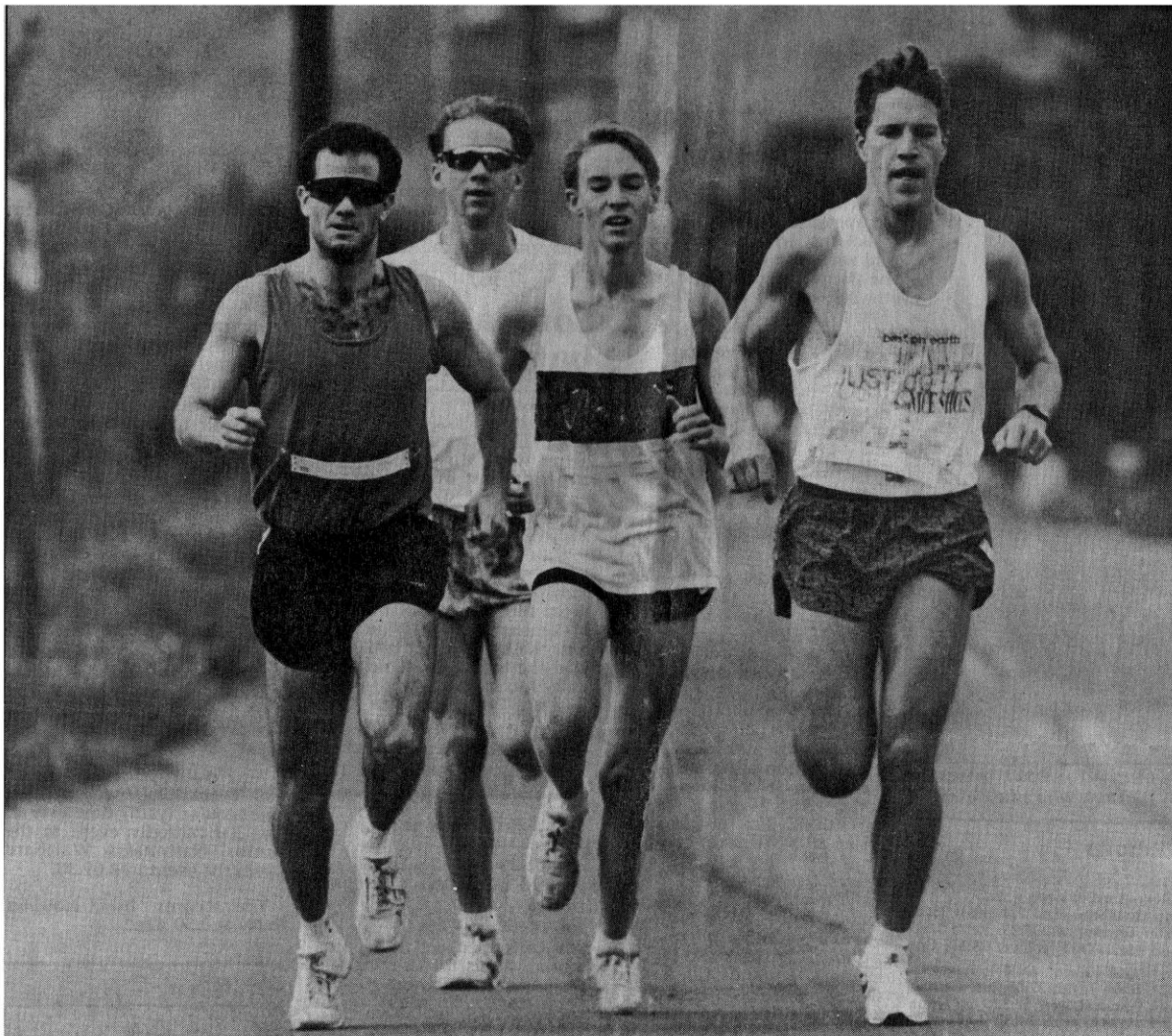


# Wildflower Run blossoms in MH



DENIS McELROY/Staff Photographer

Eventual 10K race winner Grant Fehrman, right, and Live Oak senior and runner-up Justin Christopher, second from

right, eventually pull away from the pack in the second mile. Jay Johannson, second from left, is another Acorn student.

■ Approximately 520 take part in the event, and the 10K includes close finish

By **PHIL JENSEN**  
Sports Editor

Grant Fuhrman planned to run the Wildflower Run in Morgan Hill Saturday, rain or shine. Justin Christopher didn't know he was going to run the 10K race until one half hour before it started.

But both runners toed the starting line at Live Oak High at 9 a.m. Saturday and proceeded to battle for four miles before Fuhrman pulled away for a win in the 6.2-mile event.

"I turned into the wind and figured I'd surge on him and see if he would surge," said Fuhrman about his race strategy. "This is a great race. It's real beautiful, and the scenery kept the pain to a minimum."

Approximately 520 people participated in the Wildflower Run, which also includes a 2K race and a 5K walk. The 10K run, which drew 248 people, starts and finishes at Live Oak and winds around the campus before looping near Anderson Dam on Coyote Road and Peet Road.

Fuhrman, a former cross country and track runner at Brigham Young University who now lives in Mountain View, won the race in 35 minutes, 15 seconds. Christopher, a senior at Live Oak, set a personal record of 35:25 with his second-place finish.

Karen Rowen of San Jose was the top female finisher, as she placed ninth overall with a fine time of 37:52.2.

A pack of six runners raced through the first mile together, but Fuhrman and Christopher dropped the rest of the pack during the second mile, which they crossed in 11:16.

Fuhrman and Christopher

# Run

• Continued from page B1

stayed together despite encountering a stray dog on Coyote Road. The lone 150-meter hill near the three-mile point, which has been a key spot to make a move in the past, had no effect on either runner.

"(Christopher) was smooth, and I knew that this wasn't his first race," said the 26-year-old Fuhriman. "I expected a sprint to the finish."

But as Fuhriman made a left turn onto Peet Road at the 4½-mile point, he threw in a surge against the wind. Christopher was unable to respond. "When we turned (off) Cochrane, he put 10 feet on me and got me down Peet," said Christopher. "I just tried to stay ahead of the other guy."

The other guy was Keith Medlund, who placed third in 35:41. Don Jedlover was fourth in 35:59 and Gordon Travis finished fifth in 36:16.

Rowen ran alone throughout the race, and said that a 15-hour work day Friday drained her of energy Saturday.

"I'm tired, but I wanted to run," said Rowen, who works as a printer for the Palo Alto Medical Foundation. "The people are always friendly here."

Debbie Holst, a local chiropractor, was the second female finisher in 39:27. Holst, who won the Big Basin half-marathon only a week before, decided to run the Wildflower Run instead of defending her title in the Capital 10,000 in Austin, Texas.

## • Results

### 10K (6.2 mile) race

**Top finishers**—Rod Fuhriman 35:15, Justin Christopher 35:25, Keith Medlund 35:41, Don Jedlover 35:59, Gordon Travis 36:16, Dale Hatakeyma 36:21, Blake Taylor 37:00, Jose Casillas 37:40, Karen Rowen 37:52, Jim Hone 37:54, Javier Chipres 37:57, Bill Bengiveno 38:12, Rudy Ortiz 38:17, Dave Slowthower 38:36, John Mendoza 38:41, John Hyun 38:52. Other top females: 20. Debbie Holst 39:27, 27. Nao Wei 40:41, Marla Pleyte 40:47.

### 2K run

**Top boy finishers**—Jacob Sylliaasen 8:58, John Dutra 10:10, Brian Mullins 10:13, Steve Smedley 10:27, Saul Casillas 10:57, Luis Casillas 10:58, Michael Kinsman 10:59, Francis Nairn 14:35.

**Top girl finishers**—Angela Savaso 7:35, Katie Hotchkiss 8:11, Elyssa Lynn Xavier 8:12.8, Camille Wittenbrook 8:58, Zerlina Casillas 10:33, Cameron Blair 10:47, Esther Casteneda 10:51, Sarah Wood 10:55, Lisa Wada 11:15.



DENIS McELROY/Staff Photographer  
Lori Davis finishes the 10K with her partner, who's fast asleep.