



TERRY PIERSON/Staff Photographer

The course's only hill, located on Coyote Road, was work for some runners, but others just took it slow and easy.

Run

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Reverse deja vu at Wildflower

■ Rod Fuhriman is passed at the same point he broke loose in last year's race

By PHIL JENSEN
Sports Editor

Rod Fuhriman experienced an unusual sort of deja vu Saturday in Morgan Hill's 11th annual Wildflower Run.

In last year's Wildflower Run, Fuhriman surged on a straight breezy stretch of Peet Road to win the 10K race. This year, it was Andrew Miller who broke Fuhriman at the same stretch near the five-mile point of the 6.2-mile

race.

"He surged at just the right time," said Fuhriman, a resident of Mountain View. "It's very hard (to run into a head wind)."

Miller proceeded to win the race in 34 minutes, 15 seconds, with Fuhriman exactly one minute behind him. Karen Fogerson of Morgan Hill was the women's champion with a time of 40:54, as 343 participants enjoyed the cool conditions in the 10K and 2K races and the 5K fun walk.

"Morgan Hill is a pretty town, and it has friendly people," said Tony D'Agostino, who ran the 10K race along

with five friends from a Naval post-graduate school in Monterey. "It's a beautiful run."

The 10K course starts and ends at Live Oak High. It is a figure-eight course that takes runners down Coyote Road past Anderson Dam and Coyote River Park, then back to the school.

"It's a good run mentally," said Miller, a native of Fredonia, N.Y., who is stationed at Ford Ord. "It's perfect."

Miller and Fuhriman threw surges at each other throughout the first four miles, including on the course's only hill at the three-mile point. But neither runner budged

before Miller used the long Peet Road to his advantage.

"I didn't think I would lose him," Miller said. "He looked strong. We had a nice duel."

Former Live Oak distance runner Justin Christopher finished sixth in 36:58.

"It was a lot tougher than last year," said Christopher, who placed second last year with a time of 35:25. "It was a faster field."

Fogerson held off Nao Wei for the women's title. The two runners battled until the four-mile mark, when Fogerson picked up the pace and beat

Wei by 22 seconds.

"It's always windy and hard," Fogerson said about the race conditions. "The flats aren't really flat. They're uphill grades."

One problem the front-runners had to deal with was oncoming traffic, as Miller and Fuhriman had to dodge a number of cars on the route. Race director Bob Blaine said he is determined to change that.

"There were difficulties with cars, and I want to make adjustments (for that next year)," he said.

Children 12-years-old and under competed in the 2K race. Stephen Pitts of Panoche Valley was the boys winner in the 2K with a time of 8:02, while Janette Najera was the first girl to cross the finish line(8:18).

The Pitts family was well-represented in the 10K race

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