

Familiar faces finish in front of crowded fields in Lilac races

Staff Report • May 24, 2010

Two former Greece residents enjoyed success at Sunday's Medved Lilac 10K and 5K races as Jeffrey Eggleston, now of Flagstaff, Ariz., won the 10K and Steve Strellick, of Allison Park, Pa., placed first in the 5K.

In his Lilac 10K debut, Eggleston, a 2003 Greece Arcadia graduate, covered the course in 30:09, besting second-place finisher Genna Tufa of the Bronx by 20 seconds.

"It was a quick weekend," said Eggleston, who visited family and caught an early afternoon plane, arriving back in Phoenix around 11 p.m. "I was very pleased with my results. This is a race that I've wanted to do for a while."

Salome Kosgei was the first female finisher (19th overall) in 33:44. The race had 1,258 finishers.

As the 10K race started, the lead pack included 10 runners for the first mile. But by the second mile, Eggleston and Jason Lokinatom of Troy, Ohio, had separated and were running side by side.

But Lokinatom started to fall back and that's when Dennis Pollow Jr. of Ransomville made his move and was running with Eggleston.

Once the two runners made the turn on Elmwood Avenue, Eggleston started to separate and had a 10-second lead at the halfway point.

Eggleston then pulled away after the 5K and was able to hold on for the win.

Eggleston, who trains in arid altitude, said it took him time to adapt to the humidity.

"It was a little shock to the system," he said. "It took a little bit of getting used to."

Strellick won the 5K for the third straight year, finishing in 15:37. Strellick, a Greece Athena graduate, defeated Josh Guarino of Bergen by six seconds.

Katie Derusso of Rochester won the women's 5K in 18:39. The 5K had 1,078 finishers.



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Jeffrey Eggleston, a graduate of Greece Arcadia who lives in Arizona, begins his victory celebration as he approaches the finish of Sunday's Lilac 10K race. Eggleston finished in 30:09 to win by 20 seconds. (KRIS J. MURANTE staff photographer)

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Jennie Donofrio, left, and Tony MacHulskis, both of Rochester, push toward the finish of the 10K race. (KRIS J. MURANTE staff photographer)

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