



ERIKS PETERSONS PHOTO

FINISH LINE: Don Hebert of Lewiston won the annual Pottle Hill 5-K Road Race with a time of 17:57.

Largest field ever races Pottle Hill

BY ERIKS PETERSONS
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MECHANIC FALLS — Danny Paul, the recently appointed athletic director for Poland Regional High School, won the 17th Annual Pottle Hill 10-K Road Race Saturday with a time of 36:37.

Paul, 45, who will also coach the school's cross-country team, has run the race several times, finishing second several years ago. Although he fell short of the course record Saturday by almost two minutes — largely due to the heat and humidity that took hold early in the day — Paul said he was pleased with his time.

Paul finished 2 minutes and 45 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Toby Scott of Bend, Ore. Dennis McIver of Bridgton finished third.

First-time Pottle Hill racer Ellie Tucker, 44, of Auburn won the woman's division of the 10K with a time of 43:46. Tucker finished 12th overall in the field of 62 runners in the 10K event.

Lewiston resident Don Hebert won the 5K race with a time of 17:57. Hebert said this was his first Pottle Hill run. Hebert, 35, added, "I thought I was bailing out by taking the 5K, but, ah, (there are) still some pretty good hills."

Hebert thought the race was, "very well organized, lots of volunteers, excellent job. I'll be back next year."

Michael Magels of Denmark finished second and Lane Wiggins of Mechanic Falls was third in the 5K event. Wiggins 20, who is a junior at Bryant College, competes in indoor and outdoor track meets. The top female finisher was Faye Gagnon of Minot. Thirty-four runners competed in the 5-K run.

The Pottle Hill run draws a lot of family participation. Jim and Mary Wilkins of Auburn ran the 5K with their son Cross, 14, who finished fifth overall. Their three other children, Alex, Abby and Morgan ran in the 1-mile Fun Run. Wilkins said he and his wife were "going to try and keep up with our oldest."

Ben Cleveland, 10, son of former state Sen. John Cleveland, won the Fun Run. Cleveland's other son, Nathan, 14, ran in the 5K for the second time. Nathan finished 8th. Cleveland said neither he nor his wife runs. He added running was just something Nathan took up and Ben has followed him.

Eight-year veteran of the 10K race, Kirk Lundstrom, of Lewiston brought along his daughter Lisa, 12. Lisa in turn brought a friend along to keep her company in the Fun Run. Lisa finished second. Peary Valeriani of Hebron was third.

According to race coordinators, the 107 runners who competed in this year's events comprised the largest field of runners ever.