

Oak Hall road race makes run to the top

RUNNING

BILL LEVY NEVER expected to be the sponsor of Memphis' largest road race.

"We're not necessarily trying to be the biggest," said Levy, director of the Oak Hall Run for St. Jude. "We just wanted to raise a lot of money for St. Jude (Children's Research Hospital)."

Tomorrow's 10th anniversary of the three-mile run that loops Audubon Park could prove to be both the city's biggest race as well as one of the nation's largest fundraisers for a charity. "Last year we had 2,900 entries and 2,450 finishers," said Levy, an accomplished marathoner. More than 2,100 persons have registered and entries will be taken until 1 p. m. tomorrow.

Some people enter, simply because of the good cause, and don't race, run, jog or walk. A souvenir T-shirt is enough for some entries. Hundreds of others solicit pledges for St. Jude for each mile completed.

The Memphis in May River Races, which usually assemble more contestants for a format that includes a 10K, corporate relays and two-mile fun run, are generally regarded as the city's largest event. The River Races' featured 10K attracted about 2,250 entries this year and had 2,008 finishers.

"We expect to have another heavy turnout of participants," Levy said, "but the money is still our primary objective."

Last year's race raised more than \$57,000 for St. Jude, bringing the nine-year total for the race to more than \$500,000. Ages of participants ranged from 18 months to 75 years. Officials said 40 percent of the runners were age 19 or under and one third of the runners were women.

The race also attracts many doctors, nurses and employees of St. Jude. Hospital patients and family members of patients also run.

"When people see the great work being done at St. Jude, they



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Staff Reporter

ask, 'What can I do to help?'" Levy said. "A lot of people know that this (race) is a great way to do it. This is a vehicle... raising money through pledges."

Levy said 100 percent of the money raised goes to St. Jude. The 1985 race raised \$85,000. The race is scheduled to start at 2 p.m. at the corner of Perkins Ext. and Southern. Registration will continue today at the two Oak Hall stores, Perkins Ext. and Poplar, and Park Place Mall. Tomorrow's registration will be at the Oak Hall location at Perkins Ext. and Poplar from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Next year's Memphis in May Races may have to find a new sponsor if the event is going to observe its 11th birthday. It is understood that officials of Methodist Hospitals, sponsor of the race day activity for the past four years, soon will review commitments and priorities to the event.

The hospital spends in the \$80,000-\$90,000 range on the races, an official said, and receives about \$40,000-\$45,000 from entry fees, etc. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Memphis, which sponsored the first six years of the races, withdrew its support after the 1983 event, citing financial reasons.

Under the sponsorship of Methodist, the 10K race began offering prize money — \$5,250. Some appearance money, reportedly about \$6,000 in 1985, was paid to standout runners. But starting with the 1986 race, officials decided to do more to make the day a "peoples event" and refused to pay appearance money.

MSU third in Metro golf

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dividual standings.

March has a two-day total of 141 to lead Nolan Henke of Florida State going into the final day

Matinee Today

SOUTH

GREYHOUND

Fun on

Greyhound racing at the greyhound facility.

Matinee
Post Time

Evening performances on Mondays.
Matinees on Saturdays.

1-40
West Memphis, Ar



THE M
'87 Cad
Ent
By Popu

\$100
FAC
INV

DeVille —
Eldorado
Bro
'Til J