Butte to Butte goes back to basics

☐ Twentieth running of 10K road race will traverse original uphill start

By Carrie Vincent

It seems like such a pleasant neighborhood, with beautiful greenery and lovely homes. But this Sunday, the residents along 43rd Avenue and Donald Street will once again host the grueling, steep uphill of the first mile of the 20th annual Butte to Butte road race.

After a four-year hiatus on a flat course, the 10-kilometer race is returning to its original course.

"The reality of the race is back," said Janet Heinonen, who has run this race every year except 1974. "I like the tradition and the character of the old course. I'm glad

The "new" original course begins at 43rd Avenue and Donald Street, at the base of Donald Street Hill. After the tough first mile, the course remains relatively flat until the finish on 5th Avenue between High and Willamette streets.

Every year the race is scheduled for the Independence Day weekend, and this year it will actually occur Sunday. July 4.

Heinonen, a long-time resident of Eugene, said she believes this is the oldest race in Eugene.

"I'm happy to see it's still here. It's an important fixture on the race scene in Eugene," she said.

Tom Jordan, co-race director with Barbara Kousky, said he has not heard one negative comment about the conversion back to the old course.

There was a real good initial surge to sign up and I think we can attribute it to the change back to the original course," he said.

Jordan anticipates a turnout of 1,800 to 2,000 runners. which is a slight increase over last year. There is also a 4.2-mile Mayor's Walk, but the number of walkers for that event has not yet been estimated.

At the height of the popularity of running, Jordan said the course easily accommodated the 3,000 or more runners that participated, but he is pleased with the size (and manageability) of the race now.

This is the first year Jordan and Kousky have actually coordinated the race, although they have both been involved in many other capacities as course volunteers, start and finish line officials and administrative assistants. Jordan and Kousky, as part of Northwest Event Management, were also co-directors of the U.S.A./Mobile Track and Field Championships here two weeks ago.

The idea behind switching back to the original course was that past race directors thought that a flat course would fast and appealing," Jordan said. "But running the tough hills is what makes the race unique, and that's why people wanted to run it - it was challenging.

Gary Trigueiro, a certified public accountant in Eugene, will be running the race this Sunday for the 15th time. He likes to participate in the event for slight-

'It's a good excuse to drink beer on the Fourth, and it's a great way to start the holiday," Trigueiro said. "I feel a little more justified doing that after I've had a good race."

Jordan said much of the credit for the fun aspect of the race and for its 20-year tenure in Eugene can be attributed to the volunteers

Jordan expects that more than 200 people will volunteer for this year's race. In part, this is a necessary function to fulfill police requirements, which demand at least two volunteers directing traffic at every inter-

The race will begin Sunday at 8 a.m. The Mayor's Walk will also start at that time and follow the race course, with the exception that it does not go up Donald Street Hill

Registration is still possible in person at the Butte to Butte office at 203 Oakway Center, Eugene, through Thursday, July 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is also possible to register the day of the race at the start.

College presidents snub football tourney

 Presidents Commission declines to put football playoff proposal on January NCAA convention ballot

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Advocates for a college football playoff were thrown for a loss Wednesday.

The Presidents Commission said it will not put a question on the ballot at January's NCAA convention asking schools if they want to pursue a football play-

Other groups could do so, but the lukewarm response by the powerful commission is not good news for playoff proponents.

"It's fair to say there's no great enthusiasm for (a playoff)," UCLA chancellor Charles Young said at a news conference following the commission's summer

At the urging of Dick Schultz, the NCAA's lameduck executive director, the commission listened to a 70-minute presentation on playoff possibilities Tuesday and agreed to discuss the concept Wednesday.

Some presidents had speculated they might ask

schools to indicate at the January convention if they wished to pursue a playoff. A similar question at the 1988 convention received a resounding "no.

"There is no plan to put an action item on the agenda," Young said. "On the other hand, there was no feeling that it's not something we ought to continue to examine, to take a look at."

The presentation by Nike, Inc., and Creative Artists Agency of Hollywood promised the presidents about

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