

For Immediate Release

Contact: Scott Benjamin

ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com

(v/m) (860) 354-3521

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Wylden Abraham Outruns Mendoza over 5.7-mile Loop

ROXBURY – The runners stride along paved roads, dirt roads, rocks, small stumps and gravel on a warm - but not to the point of hot, hazy humid – morning with green trees and shrubs in full bloom in a town that treasures open space.

With the colonial houses along the loop you know that it is New England.

At least two of the competitors at the Roxbury Road Runners Club series 5.7-mile race wear shirts purchased two weeks earlier when Massachusetts-based TrackSmith, the premium running gear store, made a visit to the community park near where the weekly races start and finish.

The shirts read, “Summer Roads Race Series Connecticut.”

Actually Roxbury has 36 races, stretching from late winter when there is still snow on the ground until early December with the holiday shopping season well under way.

The Roxbury series started in 1977 as a model of the summer series in Westport. The Westport runs began June 27. Roxbury held its 17th event of the season.

Wylden Abraham, 17, of Roxbury will be a freshman in weeks at Gettysburg College, but has already made his mark on history at Roxbury.

He has won the last four times he has run in the series, where his father – former New Milford High School cross-country coach Mike Abraham – has been the season champion the last two years.

Wylden Abraham held a slight lead over Fernando Mendoza, 45, of Danbury along River Road - more than four miles into the jaunt.

He held on – including having to navigate the Horrigan Trail – where you need agility to avoid tripping over small stones of all configurations that dot a .2-mile path that appears more challenging than climbing a catwalk.

Wylden Abraham was clocked in 39-minutes, 19.75-seconds – a 6:54-per-mile pace.

Mendoza placed second in 39:26.93. He won a 6.2-mile event on June 13 at Roxbury.

Wylden Abraham was All-Berkshire League last fall for Shepaug Valley-Washington High School and posted personal bests of 4:37 at 1,600 meters, 10:15 for 3,200 meters and 10:53 for the 3,000-meter steeplechase this spring in track for the Spartans.

Chris Deming, 59, of Danbury, who leads the season point standings, placed third in the June 27 race with a time of 42:50.

Donna Lesch, 59, of Southbury topped the women's leader board and placed ninth overall in 50:14.

On Saturday, July 4, there will be no race since the Stephen Reich Freedom Trail five-kilometer (3.1-mile) race will be held at Steep Rock in Washington, sponsored by that town's Recreation Department. There is no entry fee.

On Saturday, July 11, the Roxbury series will resume at 8:30 a.m. with a 3.0-mile race that will start and finish at the Roxbury Land Trust's River Road preserve. The race is dedicated to Bill Burley, who launched the series in 1977.

Registration is available through [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).

Runners should arrive early and check in so that they are logged into the computer system.

The series will return to the community park on Saturday, July 18, 8:30 a.m. with a 6.2-mile race.

There also will not be a race on Saturday, July 25, since the New Milford Parks & Recreation 8-mile and 3.1-mile events will be held.

Current and former military personnel, current and former first responders and youth entrants should inquire about discount fees. The general charge is \$45 for a season pass and \$10 for the weekly waiver.

The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, usually start and finish near the Everett B. Hurlburt community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

For more information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com, (v/m) (860) 354-3521 or access the Roxbury Races Facebook page, www.roxburyraces.net or [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).

Full results from the June 27 race are available via [Roxbury Road Runners Club](#).

