For Immediate Release

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Abraham Returns To Winners Circle; Lesch Scores Second Consecutive Victory In Women's Field

ROXBURY – Running on a route that featured a hill summit that more resembled Alaska than Connecticut, Wylden Abraham returned from historic Gettysburg and needed just over an hour to post his eighth victory in his last eight starts in the weekly Roxbury Rord Runners Club series.

Donna Lesch accelerated through the final six miles of the 8.2-mile jaunt to tally her second consecutive win in the women's division.

Abraham, 18, had won seven consecutive races from June 20 – the week after he graduated from Shepaug Valley-Washington High School - through August 15, before he departed for Gettysburg College.

He celebrated the extended Christopher Columbus Day weekend by holding off a challenge from the improving Stephen Roszko, 39, of New Fairfield.

Abraham was clocked in 1:00.53 – a 7:26-per-mile pace. He is currently the seventh best runner on the Gettysburg cross-country team.

Roszko placed second in 1:01.25, narrowing the gap over the second half of the loop, which included a trip up the steep hills on Mallory Road, which go on for more than a mile. The course, which is new to the series, ranks along with the 11-mile Botsford Hill route and the 9.9-mile Moosehorn Run as among the most challenging events in the 36-race series.

Roszko took up running after graduating from the University of Arizona. He begam competing at Roxbury this spring and scored his first victories in the previous two races over 4.3 miles and then the October 3 2.4-mile staggered start event.

Lesch, 59, of Southbury has placed multiple times in the top six in the Roxbury season standings. The Brookfield High School science teacher most recently took sixth place in the 2023 standings. She trains about 20 miles a week and completed the 2024 New Y ork City Marathon.

Lesch was timed in the Saturday, October 10, event in 1:13.40. She had prevailed a week earlier in the staggered-start race.

Jenny Cardoso, 72, of New Milford placed second among the females and 15th overall with a 1:29.16 clocking.

With six races remaining in the season, Chris Deming, 59, of Danbury tops the overall standings. Miriam Acevedo, 49, of New Milford leads the women's division for the 2026 campaign.

The series will continue on Saturday, October 17, 8:30 a.m., with a 4.2-mile race that will include a trip up and down Hemlock Road.

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

Registration is available through Roxbury Road Runners Club.

Runners should arrive early and check in so that they are logged into the computer system or sign the entry sheet near the staring area.

The series will collect non-perishable goods for the Roxbury Food Pantry at the Church of Christ in Roxbury during the races from October 24 through December 5.

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 Roxbury Fall Classic, which includes a 50-kilometer race, marathon and half-marathon, is scheduled for Saturday, November 14. Registration is available at https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Roxbury/RoxburyMarathonHalfMarathonand50k.

The ninth annual Roxbury Thanksgiving Day Charity Race is slated for Thursday, November 26, 9 a.m., over a 3.1-mile route.

Registration can be accessed via https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Roxbury/RoxburyThanksgivingDayCharityRace.

The fee is $10 plus a $1.60 handling charge – for a grand total of $11.60. Race-day registration of $15 per runner – plus a $1.90 handling fee for a grand total of $16.90 - - will be available November 26 at the pavilion to the community park from 7:30 to 8:50 a.m.

If you are interested in working as a registration table attendant or course marshal for the Thanksgiving Day race, please contact Scott Benjamin at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com or (v/m) (860) 354-3521.

Additional information on the series is available via the Roxbury Races Facebook Page.