

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Bell, Danay Wear Crowns As Runners Honor Burley, Roxbury Land Trust

ROXBURY – Post University men’s and women’s cross country coach Dillon Bell sped to his fifth victory of 2024 at the weekly Roxbury Road Runners Club series by vaulting to an early lead on a 3.0-mile route that traveled in both directions along a dirt road and ended in a land trust preserve.

Bell, 25, of Brookfield was clocked in 17-minutes, 53-seconds – a 5:58-per-mile pace at the annual Bill Burley/Roxbury Land Trust race, which was held at the land preserve on River Road.

Jeff Lipchus, 41, of the Sandy Hook section of Newtown was second in 19:28.

Kateri Danay, 26, of Waterbury was the first female finisher and placed eighth overall with a time of 22:25. It was her fifth victory this season in the women’s division.

The race is named after Bill Burley, a former longtime Roxbury resident who initiated the series as eight races in the summer in 1977. It became a nine-month long series in 1986, and now sponsors per year more races than any series in Connecticut.

The race also is named after the Roxbury Land Trust, which received a \$500 contribution from the runners at the post-race ceremony.

The series will continue on Saturday, July 20, at 8:30 a.m. with a 6.2-mile run that will include a trip up the steep incline along Painter Hill Road.

Runners can enter through the \$30 season membership. They also can participate by completing the weekly waiver form and paying \$5. Youth runners and current and former first responders and military personnel can participate for free after completing the weekly waiver form.

There will be no race on Saturday, July 27, because of the New Milford Parks & Recreation 7.8-mile and 3.1-mile events. The series will resume a week later on Saturday, August 3, with a 6.4-mile race at 8:30 a.m.

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 further information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com, (Voice-mail) (860) 354-3521 or access the Roxbury Races Facebook page or www.roxburyraces.net.