

Posted on Sat, Dec. 20, 2008

Olympian to compete in area 5-mile run

Olympian Amy Yoder-Begley, who competed in the 10,000-meter run at the Summer Olympics, will participate in the eighth annual Manatee River 5-mile run Dec. 27 at Emerson Point Park on Sned Island.

Yoder-Begley will sign autographs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Dec. 26 at On A Shoestring in Bradenton. She will also sign autographs and greet runners before the race.

"It's quite an honor," co-race director Doug Schiller said. "More so, hopefully, it will bring more runners to the event and also having a celebrity like this will help promote running."

Yoder-Begley finished third in the Olympic Trials and 26th at the Olympics.

The Manatee River run is one of the largest races in the area, attracting runners from out-of-state and out-of-country. More than 300 runners are preregistered representing 24 other states as well as Canada, Germany and England.

For more information on the race, go to www.ManateeRiverRun.com.

Motorsports

NASCAR LAWSUIT — The former official who filed a \$225 million racial discrimination and sexual harassment lawsuit against NASCAR is very pleased with her settlement and looking forward to moving on, her attorney said Friday.

Mauricia Grant reached a confidential settlement with NASCAR following 12 hours of mediation earlier this month in New York. The session was suggested by U.S. District Court Judge Deborah A. Batts after the first court appearance in what was expected to be a yearslong battle between the two sides.

Baseball

PADRES — Outfielder Jody Gerut agreed with San Diego on a one-year contract worth \$1,775,000.

BRAVES — Greg Norton and Atlanta agreed to an \$800,000, one-year contract, a deal that keeps the pinch-hit specialist with the Braves.

Braves president John Schuerholz has vowed to never again do business with Rafael Furcal's agents, whom Schuerholz accused in a newspaper interview of conducting "despicable" dealings with the team.

Schuerholz and Braves general manager Frank Wren were quoted as saying the Wasserman Media Group negotiated dishonestly by taking the team's signed terms of agreement sheet for Furcal to the Los Angeles Dodgers, who then reached a preliminary agreement Wednesday to re-sign the shortstop.

ANGELS — Los Angeles and free-agent outfielder Juan Rivera have agreed to a three-year contract.

OBITUARY — Nick Willhite, a hard-throwing left-hander for the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1960s, has died after a battle with cancer. He was 67.

Golf

EUROPEAN PGA — France's Michael Lorenzo-Vera had five birdies in six holes to shoot a second-round 65 and take a two-shot lead at the South African Open.

BALLESTEROS — Seve Ballesteros has returned to his home in northern Spain to begin chemotherapy treatment following recent surgery on a brain tumor.

Soccer

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR — Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard was selected as U.S. football's male athlete of the year and midfielder Carli Lloyd was picked as the top female athlete.

— Herald Staff and wires