



Runners start 7.5 mile race on the Alpenstrasse.

Up and down Alpenfest Run offers challenge and fun for athletes

The 7.5 mile Alpenfest Run has been part of the annual summer celebration for more than half of the festival's existence.

For the first time, the 13th annual run will be hosted by a new sponsor, the Otsego Health Center.

The health center takes over from the Alpine Striders, which organized the race for the past 12 years.

The Alpine Striders folded last year due to a lack of membership and the health center stepped in to save the run.

At its height, in 1980, the run drew over 300 competitors, accor-



ding to Chuck Butcher, a former member of the striders.

The number of participants in the race has tailed off in recent years. Around 90 participated in last year's race.

"People are going for the more challenging biathlons and

triathlons now. Running isn't enough any more," Butcher said.

The 1989 Alpenfest Run will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 22.

The race begins at the County - City Building and follows a 7.5 mile course before finishing at Old Kent Bank of Gaylord.

After the main race is started, a one mile fun run will be held beginning at the County - City Building.

Entry fee for the fun run is \$1 and for the Alpenfest run, \$8.

Late registration for the races may be made at St. Mary High School the morning of the race.

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