

Roadrunners Win NJCAA Title

By **BILL TEMPLETON**
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Frederico Moreno Saturday went from being an "unknown" freshman distance runner at Southwestern Michigan College, to a national champion, in just over 2 1/2 hours.

Armando Garza competed in his second NJCAA National Marathon Championships, and now ranks as the premier back-to-back finisher in the event's 10-year history.

And Ramon Llorens ran with determination, patience and raw guts, finishing the 26-mile, 385-yard race when the sun and heat was causing others around him to falter, fade or fail.

Moreno, Garza and Llorens paced the host Roadrunners by finishing 1-2-8, respectively, and combined to produce SMC's second national championship in the Marathon in 10 years.

"Fantastic," beamed veteran Roadrunner coach Ron Gunn after his squad had won the team title with a scanty nine markers. "This was definitely one of the toughest national championships that we have ever earned, and was a super way to end the year.

A native of La Grange, Ind., Moreno hung back with the "second wave" of runners through the first 15 miles, before finally passing leader Garza near the 23-mile mark. He then coasted home from that point to win the grueling test of endurance with a time of 2:30:48 in his first-ever marathon.

Moreno's victory was termed an "upset," of sorts, by Gunn, in light of the fact that Moreno did not even make the Roadrunner cross country team last fall, and was the last Roadrunner to pick up his number (171).

"That was the most pleasant surprise of my coaching career," said Gunn about Moreno. "It was an outstanding feat for Fredrico, who was running his first marathon. He trained very hard for the race and it paid off for him."

Garza, who finished as the runner-up to Brevard College's Mike Peveto in the NJCAA event last June, was considered the favorite when the 67-member field left the Mathews Road starting line at 8:05. and through the first half of the race he ran as such, before crossing the downtown Dowagiac finish line with a time of 2:32:49.

The St. Louis, Mich., native took Mohawk Valley's Ed Bruni and Lansing's Craig Higby with him in the early stages of the race, and the threesome set a blistering pace for almost eight miles, before Higby faded and dropped back of the co-leaders.

Golden Valley Lutheran (Minn.) was the runner-up for a second straight year in the team standings with 24 points, and was led by third-place finisher Alemayeha Tulu, who was clocked in 2:33:46. Oakton Community College (Ill.) was third with 25 points, and was led by fourth-place finisher Steve Rosenblum, who broke the tape with a time of 2:34:15.

Also earning NJCAA All-America kudos were Mitch McClure of Parkland College (Ill.), who was fifth (2:36:28), and Kevin Hanson of Macomb Community College (sixth, 2:37:08).



Kimberly Swedberg, of Southern Idaho, winning the Women's 1983 NJCAA Marathon title.



Frederico Moreno, of Southwestern Michigan, winning the 1983 NJCAA Marathon.

The first woman across the finish line was Kimberly Swedberg of the College of Southern Idaho. She was clocked in 2:53:29, and was the 26th finisher, overall.

Swedberg, who won the NJCAA individual cross country championship last fall in Utica, N.Y., and both the 3,000- and 5,000-meter races last month at the outdoor track championships in San Angelo, Tex., ran her first-ever marathon.

"I had one really slow mile when I slowed down to an eight-minute pace," said Swedberg, who has been running for just a year and a half, "but I just took a couple of deep breaths and started going for it again."

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

	Time
1. Fredrico Moreno, Southwestern Michigan	2:30:48
2. Armando Garza, Southwestern Michigan	2:32:49
3. Alemayeha Tulu, Golden Valley Lutheran	2:33:46
4. Steve Rosenblum, Oakton	2:34:15
5. Mitch McClure, Parkland	2:36:28
6. Kevin Hanson, Macomb	2:37:08
7. Jim Keesling, Butler County	2:39:00
8. Ramon Llorens, Southwestern Michigan	2:40:26
9. Timo Mostert, Parkland	2:40:48
10. Robert Tite, Macomb	2:41:34
11. Mike Harrington, Oakton	2:42:34
12. Bruce DeRunte, Spoon River	2:42:45
13. Garth Wilson, Univ. of MN/Waseca	2:42:55
14. Bob Savage, Alfred State	2:42:56
15. Mike Dimler, Golden Valley Lutheran	2:43:03
16. John Stinger, Alfred State	2:43:10
17. Dave Scrabeck, Golden Valley Lutheran	2:44:07
18. Ed Bruni, Mohawk Valley	2:44:33
19. Jeff Fredrickson, Triton	2:46:08
20. Neil McConnell, Danville	2:47:14
21. Jesse De La Fuente, Oakton	2:48:03
22. John Zimmerman, Univ. of MN/Waseca	2:48:17
23. Jeff Bristown, Schoolcraft	2:48:39
24. Keith O'Dea, Lansing	2:51:34
25. Craig Higby, Lansing	2:53:16
26. Kimberly Swedberg, Southern Idaho	2:53:29
27. Steve Smith, Spoon River	2:53:37
28. Bill Hodges, Florissant Valley	2:54:31
29. Mike Payne, Pima	3:00:35
30. Brian Lenz, Dodge City	3:03:00

TEAM SCORES — MEN

	Points
1. Southwestern Michigan	9
2. Golden Valley Lutheran, MN	24
3. Oakton, IL	25
4. Macomb, MI	43
Univ. of MN/Waseca	43
6. Lansing, MI	56
7. St. Louis/Florissant Valley, MO	59
8. Danville, IL	63
9. Florida Junior College	82