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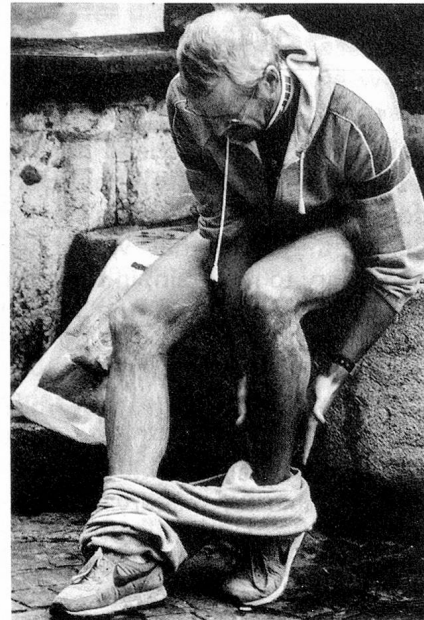
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The «Murtenlauf»

Photos: Andreas Blatter

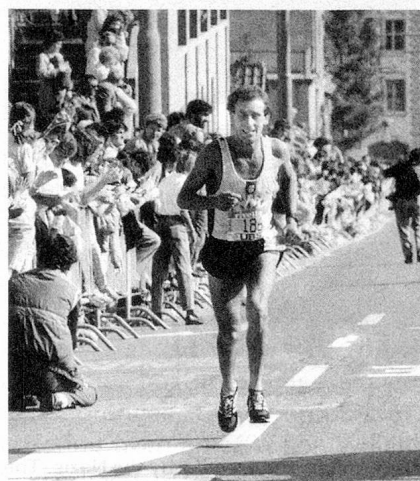


This year the Murten Run took place on the first Sunday of October, for the 53rd time. Its origin is very much like that of the marathon race: a Greek messenger, a runner, in the year 490 BC, brought the news of the victory over the Persians in Marathon to Athens, some 26 miles distant; and in 1476 a Confederate, a Swiss, bore the tidings of triumph over Charles the Bold of Burgundy in the Battle of Morat (Murten) to Fribourg, just over 10 miles away. As the legends would have it, there, as in Athens, the messenger died from exhaustion after the fulfilment of his duty.

The Murten-Fribourg commemorative race was held for the first time in 1933. Much has changed since then: after Marijke Moser «cheated» in 1971 by entering the race against the competition rules, an increasing number of women followed her example, so that, since 1977, the organizers have allowed women to take part. And since then, juniors could also run in the race. Before this, however, in 1974, the present world-class long-distance runner, Markus Ryffel, caused something of a sensation because, as a nineteen-year-old and thus ineligible to start, he en-

Some 30 000 feet trotted from Murten to Fribourg

The race is got by running – and rubbing



Winner Manuel de Oliveira at the finishing line

Cooling down at the finish

tered the race under the name of his elder brother Urs – and came third. Since then he has won the «Murtenlauf», in which today some 15,000 runners take part, eight times; only Werner Dössegger, with his nine victories, has had greater success. This year, victory in the Murten Run went to Manuel de Oliveira, in the absence of Ryffel who had to give up participation because of a leg injury. The woman winner was Martine Oppliger.

Marco Diener, *Berner Zeitung*