

Lead King 25K 2018 Race Report

Basically, it was a brutal high mountain trail race in the mountains west of Aspen. Race info I found on line prior to registering focused on the first 5.5 miles being straight up climbing from 8K to 11,200 feet. I adjust well to altitude and got some good runs in the days leading up to it. The climb was tough with a fair amount of walking to preserve energy and sanity. The remainder was to have been a gradual descent on a typical gravel surfaced USFS service road. It wasn't. It was laden with rocks of all sizes and deep ruts caused by ATV overuse. Beautiful scenery up there with the aspens in full color but my eyes never left the ground keeping my focus on where my feet would land next. I rolled my right ankle at 8 miles and could only run tenuously from that point on. I finished 4th out of 7 in AG, 70th overall out of 138. I learned from the 3rd place finisher that most of the runners were locals experienced in training and racing in similar conditions. From his responses and those of others I met, they expressed a bit of shock that a flatlander from SE Texas could even attempt, let alone finish, and do so in a respectable time. Frankly, if I knew beforehand of the true conditions I would have stayed in camp.

Dan Byrne