

## RUNNING SHORTS

### Huntsville Steppers running strong

By Darren Grant



Here are a few of the members of the Huntsville Steppers track and field team. Competing in meets all spring long, the Steppers are set to compete in the Region V track and field meet in Waco on Friday and Saturday.

The Huntsville Steppers, Huntsville's youth track team, have been at it again this year. They began practicing in mid-February, meeting in the evenings at the Mance Park Middle School track.

When I spoke with "team mother" Dominica McKibbins back in the spring, she was optimistic about the season, and expected to increase their numbers from last year. I stopped by to visit practice one cool evening in May, and there were children in abundance.

A track is really a nice place for kids to hang out together and practice. It's safe, there's no cars, and you can keep track of everybody. It's pretty, with all the trees around. And it's convenient for the parents to hang out nearby and visit.

While not as nice as the High School track that the Steppers used to be allowed to practice on, the Mance Park track was resurfaced a few years ago, and is fully suitable for training.

The McCall family, who were profiled in this space last month, participated in the Steppers when the kids were younger. It definitely gave the kids a boost. Coach Chris McCall put it this way: "When you enter a program that has had success, it makes it easier for you to have success."

The Steppers began competing in track meets in April, and have done a meet every few weeks. They will cap off their season at the end of this month, by competing in their statewide track meet, the Summer Games of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation.

McKibbins is excited. "I am especially excited this year because these Games will be held close by in Bryan / College Station," she said. "We want to bring home some gold."

(Ken Johnson compiles the race results for column. Send him yours at 1941runner@sbcglobal.net.)

### **Recent race results:**

#### **Sunday Night 5K (3.1 miles), The Woodlands, July 1**

Ken Johnson, 77            41:59

#### **Independence Day 8K (5 miles), Houston, June 30**

David Keithley, 36        56:42

Ken Johnson, 77         1:11:37

#### **Polish Pickle 5K, Bremond, June 23**

Steve Allen, 46            22:55

Donna Freeman, 43        26:19

Danny Freeman, 62        29:08

Ben Johnson, 34          31:33

Steve Bickford, 57        36:22

Cathy Bickford, 56        36:23

Monica Lopez, 35         37:21

Megan Foley, 32          37:39

Ken Johnson, 77          40:16

Heidi Morse, 57          44:39

Cindy Pate, 57            44:39

John Lewandowski, 47    45:36

Patsy Collins, 59         1:05:47

Roger Collins, 61         1:05:48

### **Upcoming races in Huntsville:**

July 7 – Huntsville Diamonds 5K, Hospital area

July 21 – Dog Days 5K & 1-Mile, Elkins Lake Sub-division

August 18 – Heat Wave 5K & 1-Mile, Waterwood Sub-division

For more information about these races and others in the area, visit the Seven Hills Running Club website at <http://www.7hills.us> and click on Race Schedule.