

RUNNING SHORTS

Stephens and Haavikko prevail at Huntsville Half Marathon

By Ken Johnson

Amanda Stephens, 28, and Olli Haavikko, 40, both of Houston, were the overall winners in the 36th Annual Huntsville Half Marathon on Saturday.

Stephens, an attorney, completed the 13.1-mile hilly course in 1 hour, 36 minutes and 58 seconds. It was her first Huntsville Half Marathon and she plans to run the New York City Marathon in two weeks. She trains with Team Green Running in Houston.

Haavikko, a Special Ed school teacher in the Aldine Independent School District, originally from Finland, completed the course in 1 hour, 26 minutes and 45 seconds. It was also his first time to run the race. He is a sub-3-hour marathoner and is training for the USA Fit Marathon in Sugar Land in January.

In the Quarter Marathon race (6.55 miles), Jane Pay, 31, of Houston, was the fastest female. She completed the course in 53 minutes and 16 seconds. Pay is an architect, who moved to Houston from Australia just five weeks ago.

Stephen Dunn, 23, of Huntsville won the male division of the Quarter Marathon. He finished in 41 minutes and 29 seconds. Dunn is a graduate of Texas Tech University.

In the 5K race, Blake Thomason, 15, of Huntsville won the female division. She finished the 3.1-mile course in 21 minutes and 33 seconds. Thomason is a standout on the Huntsville High School cross-country and track and field team.

Carlo Deason, 45, of Houston won the male division with a time of 18 minutes and 5 seconds. Deason has won this race 9 of the 18 years the race has been held.

The Huntsville Half & Quarter Marathon & 5K is an annual event of the Seven Hills Running Club. Darren Grant was the Race Director. Nearly 400 runners from all over Texas participated in the race, which started and finished in front of the Health & Kinesiology Center on the Sam Houston State University campus.

Congratulations to all runners and walkers who participated, especially to those who ran their first half marathon, including April Russell, Clayton Heald, Julia Buck, Michael Browning and Sara McCullough. They can now proudly display those "13.1" stickers on their vehicles.

Recent race results:

Huntsville Half & Quarter Marathon & 5K, Oct. 18

Complete results at <http://www.7hills.us>

Toughest 10K (6.2 miles), Galveston, Oct. 18

Sherry Sheppard, 34 1:03:22

CASA Superhero 5K, The Woodlands, Oct. 18

David Oglesby 23:00

Josh Oglesby 23:01

Texas 10 Series Fort Worth, Oct. 12

10 Miles

Jose Torres, 21 1:06:58

Steve Allen, 42 1:18:29

Ken Johnson, 73 2:07:25

5 Miles

Haley Torres, 19 59:22

10 for Texas, 10 Miles, The Woodlands, Oct. 11

Jose Torres, 21 1:09:40

J. C. Guzman, 42 1:10:19

Kate McCallum, 29 1:17:10

Danny Thach 1:17:42

Darryl Shreves, 54 1:25:07

Amber Prichard 1:35:54

James Ashworth, 28 1:47:41

Morgan Ashworth, 26 1:47:42

Clayton Heald, 44 1:50:17

Jan Parks, 57 1:56:27

Jasmin Kolaja, 32 1:58:56

Ken Johnson, 73 2:07:12

Anna Shreves, 54 2:11:42

Turn the Town Pink 5K, Mont Belvieu, Oct. 11

Kelly Bielamowicz, 39 32:31

Upcoming races in Huntsville:

November 1 – Rocky Raccoon 50K, 25K, 10K Trail Run, Huntsville State Park

November 22 – Texas Trail Endurance Runs, 50-Mile, 50K, 20K, Huntsville State Park

November 27 – Leftover Turkey 10K, 5K, 1-Mile, Physical Therapy Associates