

RUNNING SHORTS

Time for two biggest races of year

By Darren Grant

Fall has always been Huntsville's busiest racing season. That is more true than ever this year—to my knowledge, no races are scheduled here for this upcoming spring. So you better get out and run these two great races that are coming up this fall.

On Sunday, Sept. 30, the Texas 10 Series returns to Huntsville. The signature ten-mile distance is the most popular, but there is a 5 mile and a 1 mile as well. The race starts and finishes in front of Bowers Stadium, and travels along Bearkat Blvd., Sycamore St., and some of the avenues north of the university.

This series, once offered in ten cities across the state, has downsized and focused on its metropolitan Houston core. Huntsville has always been a popular place for this crowd to run, so it remains on the docket.

There will be an interesting twist this year, as Sam Houston State University has scheduled a 5K race, the Bearkat Bolt, for the same morning as the Texas 10. Their courses overlap and intertwine. Though the two races don't begin at the same time, there still may be some people running right next to each other—in different races!

That is another special thing about Huntsville that you will find nowhere else.

On Saturday, Oct. 20, the Seven Hills Running Club puts on the Huntsville Half Marathon, Quarter Marathon, and 5K Run/Walk. It starts and finishes at the Walker County Fairgrounds, on a course resembling last year's (with a few minor changes).

This is the race's 40th anniversary, making it one of the oldest Half Marathons in the state. Race Registrar Jessica Twardeski tells me that the number of entries is trending ahead of last year, and is on track to reach 300 by race day.

That would be welcome news. Many longstanding Texas races, including the Huntsville Half and the Texas 10 Series, have seen their numbers drop in recent years. An uptick in entries is a hopeful sign that this is starting to turn around.

(You can register for the Texas 10 at www.texas10series.com, and for the Huntsville Half Marathon at www.7hills.us/hvhalf.htm. Ken Johnson compiles the race results for this column. Send him yours at 1941runner@sbcglobal.net.)

Recent race results:

Toughest 10K (6.2 miles), Kemah, Sept. 16

Lorie Cross, 57 1:08:54

Ken Johnson, 77 1:32:53

Brain Power 5K, Cedar Park, Sept. 9

Gene Gaskins, 59 34:32

Run Wild Run Free 5K, Tomball, Sept. 8

Art Morgan, 53 24:20

Gretchen Dixon, 40 27:00

Gruene 10K, New Braunfels, Sept. 8

Ken Johnson, 77 1:30:48

Upcoming races in Huntsville:

September 30 – Texas 10 Series, 10-Mile, 5-Mile, 1-Mile, SHSU campus

September 30 – Bearkat Bolt 5K, SHSU campus

October 20 – Huntsville Half & Quarter Marathon, 5K, Walker Co. Fairgrounds

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.