

RUNNING SHORTS

Huntsville race draws 180 competitors

By Darren Grant

The 39th running of the Huntsville Half Marathon, Quarter Marathon, and 5K Run/Walk took place on Oct. 28. About 180 entrants competed on a chilly morning that was perfect for racing.

Because of construction at SHSU, this year's race started and finished at the Walker County Fairgrounds. The brand new, out-and-back course followed the shoulder of Hwy. 30 into Westridge subdivision, surprising a few residents who weren't expecting cones in front of their yards and traffic monitors on their streets!

In the Half Marathon, the ladies' race was won by Jacqueline O'Brien-Nolen in 1:41:30, and the men's race was won by Dominick Hayes, with a time of 1:22:32. Hayes ran for Huntsville High until his graduation two years ago, and his old coaches were cheering him on as they worked aid stations on the course.

The Quarter Marathon was won by Katerina Savelieva, in a time of 56:03, and Eric Bohac, in 32:59. The 5K was won by Alaina Stephens, in 23:01, and Carlo Deason, in 20:17. O'Brien-Nolen, Bohac, and Deason had won here previously, and keep coming back for more.

The event was put on by the Seven Hills Running Club, generously assisted by the Walker County Fair, the Sheriff's Office, Constable Shane Loosier, HHS Cross Country, Livingston ISD Running Club, and SHSU's Kinesiology, Health, and Recreation Association and Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team.

Past races have given thousands of dollars to many local causes. This will be harder to do this year, as race attendance slipped well below previous years' numbers. The running club will work through this issue on Thursday, when it meets to finalize the race financials.

But Steve Allen, President of Seven Hills, says that some things will remain unchanged. "Our volunteers do the best that they can to help everyone have a good experience at the Huntsville Half. We have wonderful volunteers that every year come out to support us. I cannot thank them enough.

"I look forward to being a part of this race for years to come. Every year we try to put on a good quality race at a low price, and give any proceeds back to the community. We will continue to do that."

(Ken Johnson, who compiles the "Recent Race Results" section of this column, and his wife Marilyn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on race day. Please send your congratulations and race results to him at 1941runner@sbcglobal.net.)

Recent race results:

Texas 10 Series, Katy, Nov. 5

10 Miles

Steve Allen, 45	1:27:07
Patrick Lewis, 52	1:28:18
Steve Bickford, 56	1:28:49
Sharon Valles, 44	1:47:03
Ken Johnson, 76	2:27:55

5 Miles

Cathy Bickford, 55 1:06:07
Ray Sarno, 70 1:06:10
Dianna Sarno, 55 1:06:11

B2B Run for Love Trail Run, The Woodlands, Nov. 4

Gretchen Dixon, 40 27:31
Cindy Pate, 57 55:24
Jessica Twardeski, 37 55:24

Houston Half Marathon (13.1 miles), Oct. 29

Dan Byrne, 59 1:29:59
Forrest Lowe, 24 2:00:12

Huntsville Half & Quarter Marathon & 5K, Oct. 28

Complete race results are at:

<http://7hills.us/hvhalf>

The Colony Half Marathon, The Colony, Oct. 28

Cindy Pate, 57 3:03:26

Marathon 2 Marathon (26.2 miles), Marathon, TX, Oct. 21

Dana Formon, 29 5:08:54

Half Marathon

Christopher Shank, 34 2::51:42

Running in the Pines 10K, Henderson, Oct. 21

Steve Allen, 45 51:47

Willis Volleyball 5K Trail Run, Willis, Oct. 21

Ken Johnson, 76 40:22

Run for Hope 5K, The Woodlands, Oct. 21

Hector Ateaga, 23 28:31
Tori Koerselman, 23 29:34
Maura Hauger, 23 34:57

Ragnar Relay, 124 Miles on the Trails, Texas Hill Country, Oct. 20 and 21.

7 Hills Running Club Trail Blazers 33:37:27

Team members: Cindy Pate (captain), Jessica Twardeski, Hope de Los Santos, Gretchen Dixon, Hannah Gerber, Carlos Parra, Tammy Hodges, and Angelina Santos.

Upcoming races in Huntsville:

November 11 – Race for the Cure 5K

November 23 – Elkins Lake Turkey Trot, 5K.

November 25 – Leftover Turkey Run, 10K, 5K, 1-Mile, Physical Therapy Associates

January 1 – New Years Resolution Run, 10K, 5K, 1-Mile, Physical Therapy Associates

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.