

## RUNNING SHORTS

### Huntsville competes in district meet

By Darren Grant

Cross Country is a weird sport. A cross country team has seven runners, and you count the fastest five. Add up their finishing places and you have the team's score. The lowest score wins!

The weird thing is that this scoring system emphasizes the depth of a team, rather than the speed of its fastest runner. If the fastest runner really speeds up, he or she might gain a couple of places, and lower the score by two or three points. There just aren't that many runners up front.

But there are a lot of runners in the middle of the race. So if a team's fourth or fifth runner really speeds up, they can lower their team's scores by ten or fifteen points, instead. Depth matters most.

This season, Huntsville High School didn't have the depth. It was a re-building year, with lots of freshman and sophomore runners. That showed in the district meet, which was held last Thursday afternoon at Kate Barr Ross Park.

Out of ten teams in the district, the boys' team finished sixth, with 177 points. The team was led by senior George Thuita, who finished the 5K course in a time of 17:35. Thuita finished fifth overall, which qualifies him to run in the regional meet to be held next week.

Rounding out the team were Naftali Kungu, with a time of 19:57, Dylan Gruber (20:01), Max Mundorff (20:27), Diego Tapia (21:16), Xavier Barahona (21:25), and Robert Wessels (21:45). Most of these runners will return next year, giving the team the depth it will need to compete more successfully.

On the girls' side, the team finished seventh, with 182 points. Freshman Jenin Borbor led the way, finishing the 5K course in 24:09, followed by Fargo Wells (24:13), Savanna DelaFuente (25:16), Alexis McKnight (26:16), Samantha Grubbs (27:15), Lilu Garza (27:23), and Ashleigh Hall (28:32). Most of these runners will also be back next year.

(Don't forget--the Huntsville Half Marathon, Quarter Marathon, and 5K Run/Walk is coming up on Saturday! Register now at [www.7hills.us/hvhalf.htm](http://www.7hills.us/hvhalf.htm). Ken Johnson compiles the race results for this column. Send him yours at [1941runner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1941runner@sbcglobal.net).)

#### Recent race results:

#### Texas 10 Series, Cypress, Oct. 14

##### 10 Miles

Steve Allen, 46	1:21:45
Steve Bickford, 57	1:25:36
Angelina Santos, 53	1:39:13
Sharon Valles, 45	1:52:20
Kathy Lehman, 43	1:57:07
Ken Johnson, 77	2:31:43

##### 5 Miles

David Keithley, 36	53:12
Cindy Pate, 58	59:32
Cathy Bickford, 56	1:01:26
Dianna Sarno, 56	1:03:21
Ray Sarno, 71	1:03:21

**Shiitake Mushroom 5K, Madisonville, Oct. 13**

Steve Bickford, 57 23:15  
Darren Grant, 53 31:47  
Cathy Bickford, 56 34:39  
Cindy Pate, 58 34:44  
Marsie Grant, 56 38:30

**10 for Texas, 10 Miles, The Woodlands, Oct. 13**

Dan Byrne, 60 1:07:36  
Pamela Walton 1:14:49

**Bulldog Dash 5K, Iola, Oct. 13**

Ken Johnson, 77 38:48

**Space City 10-Miler, Houston, Oct. 7**

Ken Johnson, 77 2:32:38

**Paint Palestine Pink 10.5-Mile Run, Palestine, Oct. 6**

Steve Allen, 46 1:30:40

**Badges & Bases 5K Run, Houston, Sept. 29**

Reagan Derossett, 19 50:02  
Michael Knight, 20 50:03

**Upcoming races in Huntsville:**

October 20 – Huntsville Half & Quarter Marathon, 5K, Walker Co. Fairgrounds  
November 24 – Leftover Turkey 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.