

Life is an Adventure for Priscilla Reese

Story by Fiona Green

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*Runner
in
the Spotlight*

While the female winner of the 2nd annual Boopa's 5K run on March 5 has several age group wins to her credit, it was one of the first times she had achieved an overall win at a local race. Because the 5K and 10K started together, Priscilla Reese from Arlington didn't even realize she was in the lead until a spectator informed her of the fact not far from the finish line. Realizing that a younger lady was in hot pursuit, Reese dug deep and held on for the win.



Reese, 53, began running in 1999 after a friend surprised her by signing her up for a team hi-tech adventure race, which also included kayaking and biking at Cedar State Park. When her team placed 3rd in the female division (over 800 teams were entered) she was hooked and for many years was a self-described "off-road junkie," competing in adventure races throughout the state. She excelled at the sport, twice becoming female state champion, twice coed masters champion and USARA national sprint champion.

Reese's athletic achievements don't stop there. She is also a six-time Texas state Tae Kwon Do champion and three-time Senior National champion.

In 2007 she entered her first race at White Rock Lake and caught the road racing bug. While she enjoys competition, she explains that when it comes to road races, she is usually only competing against herself and is striving to become a better runner.

She recently joined the Texas Running Center under the direction of Joseph Boyle, a former West Point running coach and former collegiate champion. The coaching is paying off. On February 12, she won grandmasters at the Haltom Stampede. On January 29, and she won the female master's title at the Lake Benbrook Half Marathon. On Feb. 6, Reese ran the Cowtown 5K and placed first in her age group out of 266 women. The next day, she ran the full marathon, staying motivated by listening to Tony Robbins' ultimate power tapes on her I-pod. Despite never having exceeded 21 miles on a training run prior to the event and pacing herself conservatively for the first half of the race, she placed 4th in her age group. Encouraged by her success, she now plans to run the Ultra 50K next year. Reese's passion for running and her results may be impressive but her modesty is even more so.