

April 23-24 Highlights

By Charles Clines

I often write about how close some of the races are to determine overall and male and female awards. But this time I'm going to note how many families are taking to the roads together. I've run with my kids, grandchildren and son-in-law, and these were special moments. And siblings running either together or at their own paces can be fun to watch for parents. I'm sure that's the way these families feel as well. Obviously I can't mention all the families, but here are a few of them. (I will be guessing at the relationships.)

* A couple of the younger siblings were **Jaxson**, 11, and **Jeni Sabin**, 7, of Grand Prairie. Jeni won her 10-14 female age division at the **Domino's Pizza 5K** in Grand Prairie. with a 38:09.1 and Jaxson placed third in the boys 10-14 division with a 37:59.6. Other families in the same race included **Miranda Strickland**, 31, and **Bret Strickland**, 35, of Arlington (28:50.6 and 35.41, respectively). **Gail Strickland**, 62, of Lancaster is possibly related (32:52.1). **Victor**, 48, and **Marissa Portillo**, 11, came from Lubbock to run the race and finished with 54:30.7 and 54:31.1. At the **Spartan Run** in Dallas, **Chris** and (assuming) son **Seth** finished together at 28:55 and 28:46. Then **Maryjane** and **David Brezette** of Dallas (27:45 and 27:46), **Isabella** and **Barret Bruce** of Dallas (27:58 and 28:00); b and **Reece Mattorano**, of Dallas crossed the line together at 30:55; husband-wife **Harold** and **Patricia Kamara** of Murphy were timed at 34:20 and 34:21. Also, mother **Erin** and son **Owen Kane** of Dallas (34:01); mother-daughter **Landy** and **Callan Fox** of Dallas came in with 34:56 and 34:48 times. And **Dennis** and **Deborah Webb** (probable husband-wife) of Dallas had 45:40s; while mom-son **Sheila** and **John Sheley** finished with 48:01 and 48:28.

* A few relatives finished together at the **March for the Purple 5K** in Frisco, including three from the **Kemppainem** family -- **Tealia, Taylor** and **Lisa**. And the three young **Williams** finishers -- **Connor, Emily** and **Corinne** possibly are family members. **Cade**, 15, and **Blake**, 13, **Baumann** of Arlington won their respective age divisions at the **One Ale of a Trail 5-miler** in Fort Worth with 32:51 and 33:28 times. Also, **Susan** and **Michael Fortin** of Arlington, both in the 70-74 divisions, finished at 1:12:14 and 1:12:16. Susan was first in the female division and Michael was second in his division. And noting close finishes, **Cory McAnelly**, 30, of Dallas edged **Cole Norvell**, 14, of Flower Mound by six seconds to win overall with a 31:40. The 10-mile race also was close as **Joseph Tiller**, 14, of Argyle beat **Lucas Marlar**, 15, of Fort Worth and **Lowell Koppel**, 43, of Flower Mound with times of 1:01:56, 1:02.11 and 1:02.41, respectively. And **James**, 45, and **Debbie**, 49, **Frazer** of Little Elm finished with 1:44:19s. Debbie was second in the female 45-49 division.

* Top family members at the **Denton Dash for Public Schools** were **Dashiell**, 10, and **Isabel Browne**, 11, of Lantana with 21:39.2 and 21:43.1 times. Dashiell was first in the male 9-11 division and Isabel was second in the female division. **Sidney**, 11, and **Jonathan Holt**, 38, of Argyle finished almost together with times of 21:47.3 and 21:51.2. Sidney was second in the 9-11 division and Jonathan won the 35-39 division.

Also at the **Denton Means Business 5K**, **Mia Hoang**, 13 of Flower Mound won the female overall title with a 22:15.3 and sister **Emma**, 10, took first in the female 14-under with a 23:15.3. Also, male winner **Jason Williams**, 39, of Argyle (19:42.1) apparently has two sons, **Evan**, 8, and **Chase**, 9, who came in first and third in the 14-under division with a 30:55.7 and 37:33.2. In the male 12-under division, **Will**, 10, and **Caleb Turner**, 8, finished one-two with times of 18:56 and 19:54. Also, **Ben**, 14, and **Joe Turner**, 13, of Aledo were second and third in the 13-15 division.

* The previously mentioned families were just some who ran together. There were many others, such as **Denise**, 40, and **Paul Banks**, 44, of Grand Prairie (28:33 and 28:34) at the **Get Fit Run for Shelter 5K** in Grand Prairie, but space won't allow mention of all the families in all the races. For example, there were several in the **Colt Stampede** in Arlington, including **Emma**, 10, and **Sam Stewart**, 42; **Brian**, 43, and **Brianna Brasher**, 14; **Zihang**, 7, and **Junping Wang**, 43; **Michael**, 37, and **Dylan Sharp**, 6; **Aaron**, 7, and **Moses Garay**, 32, ; **Brennan**, 11, and **Damon Gaffney**, 41; **Denton**, 6, and **Jamey Binford**, 40; and **Matthew**, 29, and **Lauren DelloRusso**, 23.

* A close race unfolded at the **TABC Running for Mercy 5K** in Fort Worth as **Jared Gallagher**, 13, held off **Juan Monojaras** to win 16:43 to 16:51.

* The **Komen Greater Fort Worth Race for the Cure**, always a race to bring out some of the faster runners, was won by **Jonathan Swiatocha**, 23, of Keller with a sizzling 15:49, almost a minute in front of **Graydon Morris**, 14, of El Paso. He posted an impressive 16:47. **Elizabeth Northern**, an Olympic Trials competitor and who completed a sweep of all the Cowtown distances in February, won the female award with a 19:16, good for third overall. Just a side note, there was a **Megan Southern** in the field. She also took home a first-place award with a 25:10 in the 30-34 division. There were, alas, no one with West or East last names.

* The most successful father and son combos was at the **Heels and Hills 4-Mile** in Keller on Sunday (April 24). 12-year-old **Jonathan Meath** carried off the overall male award with a 28:32.2 and dad **Scott**, 44, followed him with a 28:43.2, good for second overall and the masters award.. In the 8-Mile competition, Renee Machell, 39, of Lantana led the female field and finished with a 57:48.2. Masters winner Susan McCloud, 44, of Fort Worth was next with a 1:03:10.1.