

Family Fun at the Firecracker 5000

By H.B. Wise



About 500 hardy souls gathered Monday morning for the 8th Annual Firecracker 5000 on July 4. The run was delayed about 40 minutes after Mother Nature provided a lightning show and a good old-fashioned Texas gully washer. The delay gave the course through Trinity Park in Fort Worth some time to drain, but there were still a few spots on the course that provided impromptu steeplechase water features.



The field featured several speedsters that ran excellent times despite the conditions. The top eleven places all finished in under 19 minutes.

Chris Wallace from North Richland Hills took the overall male honors with a chip time of 16:12.5 and a pace of 5:13 per mile. The top female was Elizabeth Northern of Fort Worth. She ran a pace of 6:24 for a total time of 19:54.2. This was all the more impressive as she was running for two and is about half way through her pregnancy. She mentioned that she was about three minutes slower than her usual time for the 5k.



The second annual Texas visit from the Haukoy family of Sandsli, Norway included speedy performances from the entire family. Hans-Magnus, 14, was second overall and first in his age group with a time of 16:35.3. Dad, Inge, was the overall Male Masters winner with an 8th place overall finish. His time was 18:18.8. Mom, Marianne, was the Female Masters winner with a time of 21:32.7 and an 18th overall finish. Even the youngest son, Jon-Anders, got in on the action by finishing first in the kids fun run.

The weather was hardly ideal during pre-race registration with the aforementioned driving rain and lightning. Those that toughed it out got treated to cooler temps. The Firecracker 5000 continues to prove to be a family event with kids of all ages participating. The youngest participant was Hudson Krummell, 3, who posted the amazing time of 36:03. We suspect there may have been some stroller riding involved

with that time. On the other end of the age spectrum 97 year-young Ernest Lacroix made his annual appearance. His time of 1:05:15 was equally impressive.