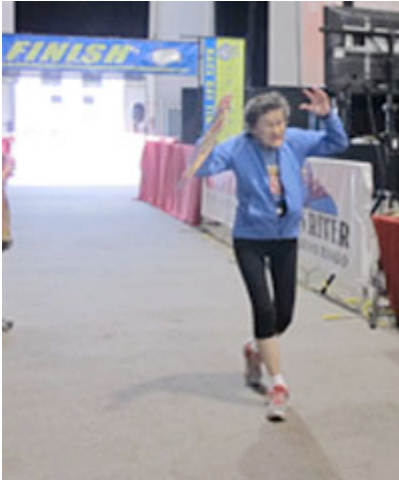


Age is No Deterrent in Mesquite Marathon-Slideshow

Posting Date: 11/21/2011



Proving age is no deterrent to running races, 86 year-old Dorothy Neary crosses the 5K finish line at the 3rd Annual Mesquite Tri-State Marathon, Nov. 19. Photo by Barbara Ellestad.

Over 400 runners, men and women, participated in the Third Annual Mesquite Tri-State Marathon, Saturday, Nov. 19.

Marathon runners from across the country participated in the race that charted a course through three states. Beginning just north of the Utah/Arizona state line outside of Beaver Dam, AZ, the runners made their way through the countryside on hilly Route 91, entering Mesquite on Hillside Drive.

Runners participating in a shorter 5K race began at the Arizona/Nevada border and made their way through Mesquite.

All runners ended in the CasaBlanca Event Center where family and friends were waiting out of the cool morning air.

David Giammar, a 39 year-old physician from Columbus, OH, won the full Marathon with a time of two hours and 40 minutes. "It's a beautiful day in the mountains," Giammar said. "I love the West. It's just gorgeous out here and cold back in Ohio."

"I've never been here before," Giammar commented as he described his first visit to Mesquite. "I will be back though. There's a lot of talk about this race in professional magazines and I have run in marathons in St. George before. I'll be back next year to break my time."

Leon Durbin, the cross-country and wrestling coach at the Virgin Valley High School won the men's 5K race. "The teams I coach weren't practicing today so I thought it would be fun to enter the race," Durbin said as he wiped the sweat from his forehead moments after besting all others in the shorter course.

Mary Spear, also from Mesquite, won the women's 5K race. The 47 year-old woman explained that she normally runs two half-marathons, a couple of 10K races, and six or eight 5K races each year.

Winner of the Half-Marathon, 13.1 miles in length, was Dennis Simonaitis from Draper, UT. The 49 year-old commented after the race that "the running gods were looking down on me today. My mother-in-law's fettucine is what helped give me the lead in the race."

Mary Ann Schauerhamer, 34 years old, from Provo, UT won the women's Half-Marathon. "I run for the Utah Elite Racing Team and train with the BYU runners," she commented.

Proving age is not a deterrent to running foot races, 86 year-old Dorothy Neary finished the 5K race Saturday morning in chilly temperatures that hovered in the high 50s. "I had a better finish time last year. I must have been a year younger," Neary joked after the race. "All my buddies were ahead of me. It's okay to be last," the woman from Dillon, CO, remarked.

Margaret Garcia, a 70 year-old woman from LaSal, UT finished the 5K race in 40 minutes, 44 seconds. "This is my fifth race. My kids just started me running. I walk about five or six miles every day and two days a week I run five miles," Garcia said.

The runner who traveled the farthest to participate in the race was Jim Madonna from Fairbanks, AK who ran the half marathon in one hour, 56 minutes. "I left Fairbanks Sunday and drove straight through to Mesquite. I got here Thursday," Madonna said as he cooled off after the race. "After I retired from the University of Alaska after 26 years, I could go fishing or go running. I decided to go running. It let's you free your mind. I feel bad once the race is over. I've worked so hard and now it's done."

"This is the third year for the CasaBlanca to hold this event. We used to do it years ago and then it faltered. This is a dynamic area that people can run through three states in one race," Christian Addelson, event manager for Mesquite Gaming explained.