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Ohio surgeon tops tri-state marathon

Theresa Worthington
Desert Valley Times

A light breeze and clouds on the Utah side of Highway 91 were welcomed by more than 400 athletes on Saturday morning for the Mesquite Tri-State Marathon, half-marathon and 5K races.

Surgeon David Giammar of Columbus, Ohio, placed first in the marathon, running it in two hours and forty minutes.

"He runs about six marathons a year," said family physician Tish Lange, Giammar's wife. "He runs to work every day, so when he says he is running into the hospital, he is literally running into it."

The pair came down on vacation with their two children, Matthew, 10, and Sarah, 7, and have been hiking the Grand Canyon and Zion National Park, and headed to Death Valley after the race.

Eric Larson of St. George, Utah, placed second, while Mesquite resident Daniel Ramirez placed third in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

The tri-state races brought participants from as far as Canada, some because of their love of the sport, others bring stories of inspiration and some are just marathon junkies.

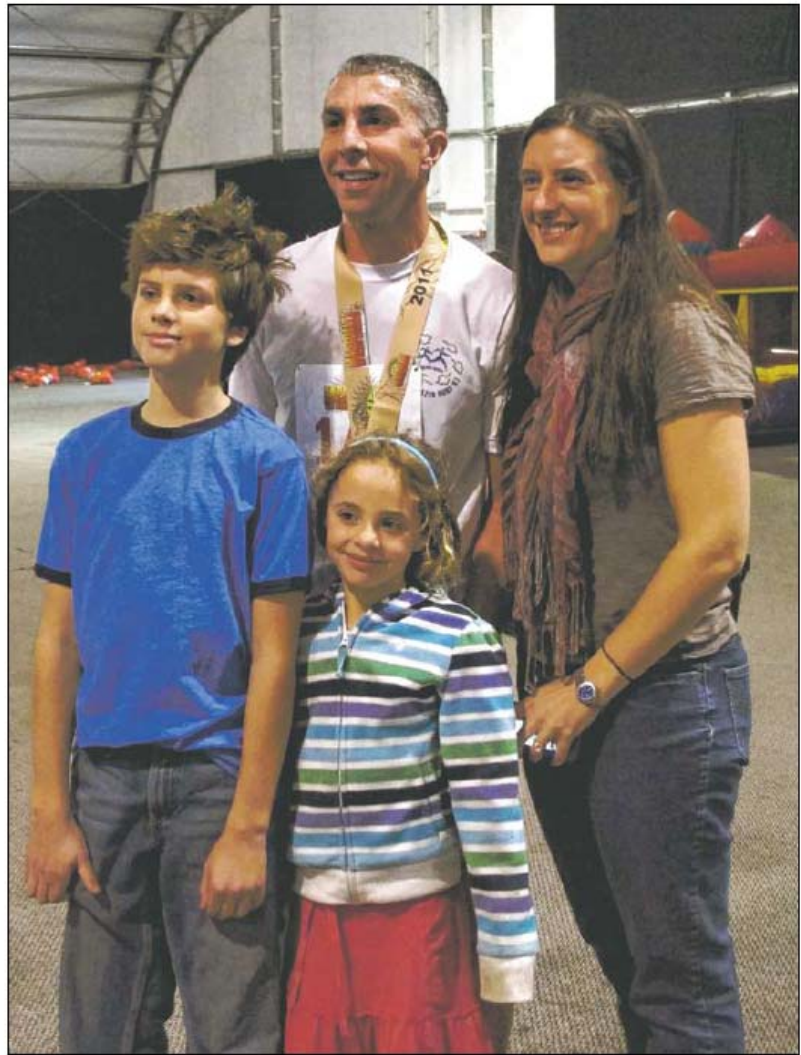
"This was my first trip to Mesquite," said Cyndie Merten, a 55-year-old software engineer who works in Eugene, Ore., "and it's rainy and very cold in Seattle, so I appreciated the dry sunshine. And besides, there were a lot of desert flowers out today."

For Merten, the Mesquite Tri-State Marathon marked her 53rd marathon in a year. She moved onto the Valley of Fire Marathon on Sunday, and will run four more marathons this weekend in Seattle.

"Together they call (it) the Quadzilla," said Merten, "and I'm ready for it. Just doing two of them this weekend is no big deal."

Merten has ranked as a

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Photos by Theresa Worthington / Desert Valley Times

TOP LEFT: Daniel Ramirez placed third overall in the mens division of the Mesquite Tri-state Marathon on Saturday. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Eric Larson, of St. George, placed second in the race. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The winner of the marathon, David Giammar, poses with his wife Tish and children Matthew, age 10, and Sarah, age 7.

