



NOTES OF STATISTICAL INTEREST

from the 2006 race

Race analysis courtesy of John Estle, SportAlaska

Registration and Finisher Data - Marathon

After decreasing for three consecutive years, perhaps due to some very smoky summers, registration (380 to 439) and finisher numbers (330 to 379) went up this year. This was the sixth-largest finishing field of the past 25 years. The percent of entrants finishing (86%) was very similar to last year's (87%) and to the long term average. Women still comprise more than half the entrants, but men have increased as a percent of the field for the past three years. The percentage of finishers who were male increased a bit from last year, too.

Registration and Finisher Data - Relay

The relay seems to have settled into the 55-65 team range over the past six years. This year's total of 62 teams was the second biggest group ever. All teams finished for the first time since 1999, when 33 teams entered and finished.

Registration and Finisher Data - Combined

Because of the significant increase in marathon entries, and the stable number of relay entries, the combined registration increased after decreasing for the prior three years from the early 2000's peak.

Winning Times

Mike Kramer's 2:51:25 was the 12th-fastest winning time for men. He was 4:23 slower than his time last year which is the 7th-fastest winning time. This was the 9th straight year that the winning time was under 3 hours. This is the second-longest such streak, after a 12-year streak from 1978 through 1989. Stan Justice and Bob Murphy recorded 11 of those 12 sub-3:00 winning times.

Laura McDonough's 3:50:50 was the 25th fastest of 43 winning times. It was the slowest winning time in 10 years, since Tina Devines 3:57:10 in the "snow-year" of 1996

Victory Margins

Laura McDonough's 46-second margin over Nancy Slagle equaled the 4th-tightest finish ever, matching the 1977 duel between Carol Hogins (1st) and Tasha Thompson (Bergt).

Course Records

Once again, the course record was not broken.

Age-Class Records

No age-class records were set this year. However, the age-class “record book” was rewritten from past years because Running Club North has gone to 5-year age classes in the Flint Hills Cup events. See the age-class records section for the updated list.

Year-by-Year Age Records

Four women’s and seven men’s year-by-year age records were set this year.

For women:

Age 45: Women’s Champion Laura McDonough-3:50:50 (old record: Moon Sun Stone, 3:53:25, 2000)

Age 53: Dorli McWayne, 4th in 4:04:04 (Mary Lindahl, 4:41:38, 2004)

Age 62: Monte Lynn Jordan, 69th in 5:29:16 (Doris Cooper, 5:54:32, 1999)

Age 71: Phyllis Church, 128th, 7:03:38 (Ruth Knapman, 10:02:08, 2003)

For the men, there was lots of action in the late-40-mid-50 ages, involving the “usual suspects:” Wayde Leder, Rocky Reifenstuhl, and Jim Decur, gaining and/or losing records.

Men’s Records:

Age 38: Men’s Champion Mike Kramer-2:51:25 (Stan Justice, 2:52:25 [1st place], 1987)

Age 48: Roger Sayre, 6th in 3:10:47 (Wayde Leder, 3:12:45, 2005)

Age 49: Wayde Leder, 4th in 3:09:48 (Rocky Reifenstuhl, 3:18:40, 2001)

Age 54: Rocky Reifenstuhl 10th in 3:20:40 (Jim DeCur, 3:27:20, 2004)

Age 59: Pat Kalen 55th in 4:04:45 (Tom Wickwire, 4:15:50, 2003)

Age 68: Jim Madonna 59th in 4:07:43 (Ed Mighell, 4:53:20, 1997)

Age 69: Dale Guthrie 183rd in 6:49:29 (no prior age 69 record-holder)

100 Fastest Women’s Times

Only Laura McDonough’s winning time of 3:50:50 was good enough to get into the women’s top 100.

Nancy Slagle’s runner-up time of 3:51:36 placed her 101st of all time.

Bumpees from the women’s 100 list

Jane Lanford	1988	3:51:37	5 th
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100 Fastest Men’s Times

Only the first two men made the top 100 list. Kramer’s time is the 17th-fastest ever, and his 6th mark in the current top 100. Saari’s second-straight (and second overall) sub-3:00 run was the 23rd-fastest.

There is a tie for the 100th-fastest time, so this year there are 101 times on the “Fastest 100” list. Harlow Robinson, who owns three top 100 times, missed posting a fourth top-100 by 39 seconds: 3:05:16 vs. the 3:04:37 threshold.

Bumped from the men’s 100 list was 1996 champion Bill Gardner’s 12-year-old mark:

Bill Gardner	1994	3:04:51	2 nd
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Sub 3:45 / Sub 3:00 Clubs

There were no new inductees into the women’s sub-3:45 club or the men’s sub-3:00 club.

25 Fastest Men and Women

There were no changes in 25 Fastest Men and 25 Fastest Women lists

Multiple and Consecutive Winners

Mike Kramer did a little re-writing of this section in 2006. Mike joined legends Stan Justice and Bob Murphy (both 6-time winners) and Kevin Brinegar (5-time winner) as one of four runners to have won more than three Equinox Championships. In addition to that, he recorded his third consecutive win, matching Brinegar 1999-2001. Both Mike and Kevin are one short of Stan Justice's record of four straight wins from 1984 through 1987.

Who Da Man? / Who Da Woman?

Laura McDonough moved up from a rank in the 30's to a tie for 11th place, with five two-time winners (Sue Chapman, Nancy Felix, Carol Hogins, Mary Shirazi, Julie Udchachon) and Michelle Mitchell. A top three or top four finish next year for McDonough could bump her up into the top 10.

Among the men, Mike Kramer remained ranked fourth, but with 51 points is now closer to third-ranked Kevin Brinegar (55) than to fifth-ranked Chris Haines (33). Matias Saari's runner-up finish moved him up from a 10th-ranked tie with Harlow Robinson to an eighth-place tie with Bill Gardner. Robinson remains in 10th. Wayde Leder's fourth-place finish moved him up from 20th to 14th.

New Legends?

There were no runners whose performances this year put them in the rarefied atmosphere of "legend" or near-legend status. McDonough, Saari and Robinson all have multiple top-3 and top-4 finishes, but McDonough has the only victory among the three. Multiple victories are the ticket to "legend" status.

Oldies But Goodies

This year's "special section" for statistical esoterica is called "Oldies but Goodies." It is dedicated to the runners who have had the most outstanding records after reaching age 40. There's much more text in that section, so there's not much need to go into detail here. However . . .

Jim Decur, Andy Holland, Rocky Reifentstahl (10 straight Equinox runs each) and Wayde Leder (eight straight) have run 38 Equinox Marathons in the past 10 years. Out of those 38 races, they have recorded 10 top 5's, 20 top 10's and 34 (of 38) top 15's. That is an amazing record. In addition, they hold eight age records and two age-group records between them. Holland, Reifentstahl and Leder also have several finishes among the top five and top 10 in which they were among the oldest ever to achieve that placement. That's a pretty good record.

Other notes

Last year's special section was "Close but no Cigar, the Best Runners Never to Have Won." Among the runners prominently featured in that article was Laura McDonough, this year's champion. Next time we run that article, she will not be present!