

# Runners Gallop to finish line

By Bill Shaw

The Facts

Published April 9, 2006

LAKE JACKSON — Houstonian Carlo Deason surged to the lead at the quarter-mile mark of a gusty Gator Gallop 5K on the campus of Brazosport College, finishing first for the second consecutive year in the 26th annual contest.

At times facing north wind gusts of 20-25 mph, Deason galloped the 3.1-mile race in 17:23, a 5:36 average mile pace that stretched his lead to a decisive 1:15 over the second-place finisher Grant Parker.

"Grant was in front until we got out to College Blvd.," Deason said. "I just pulled away and was all by myself. I couldn't get warmed up until the third mile, and I could have run faster if I had someone to push me."



Angleton High School senior Krystal Lux finished first in the Gallop 1 mile in 7:34 and first in her age group in the longer 5K in 26:33. Photo by Bill Shaw.



Grant Parker of West Columbia took the lead from the start in the Gator Gallop 1 mile and finished first in 5:43. He later ran in the 5K race and placed second overall in 18:38. Photo by Bill Shaw.

Parker, 24, of West Columbia warmed up by running the earlier 1-mile Gallop and finishing first in 5:43.

"I stayed with him (Deason) for the first third of a mile, and he took off and kept the lead," said Parker. "I was happy with what I ran today; it was good to have a decent, blood-pumping run."

Parker finished the 5K in 18:38 and had a comfortable lead himself over Angleton freshman runner Evan Rogers, 15, who finished third overall in 19:13, just seconds behind Parker.

"I was about fifth overall after the first 100 yards; the leaders were going out too fast," said Rogers. "I pulled up to third about 1.5 miles into the race and held it."

Fourth overall and just one second on the heels of Rogers, Brazoswood freshman Lauren Smith, 15, finished in 19:13, a 6:12 race pace, to garner first place in the overall female competition.

Like Deason, Smith took the lead early in the race and had no close challengers.

"I started off fast but not

as fast as usual," said Smith. "I had a good pace."

Not to be outdone by her husband, Wendy Parker, 28, finished second in the female competition in 20:35, 1:21 behind Smith.

"She (Smith) was way up there," said Parker. "Someone was right with me until College Blvd., but I pulled away and held on to second."

Sue Wheeler, who, missed a turn in the third mile, trailed Parker and came in third in the overall female competition in 24:09.

Phillip Athey, 43, of Lake Jackson led the tight pack of male masters runners to finish sixth overall and first in the masters (40-plus) competition. Athey held on at the finish to edge second-place male masters runner David Alvarado, 42, of Orchard by five seconds.

Athey finished in 19:14, a 6:12 mile pace; Alvarado finished in 19:49.

"I was about fifth all the way; I don't think anyone passed me after the first quarter mile,"

**Continued on the next page**

said Athey. "I knew the guy behind me was gaining, but he ended up behind me."

Like Grant Parker, Alvarado ran the earlier 1-mile Gallop. He finished second in the shorter race in 5:59 and might have tired himself.

"I never got my legs going after I ran the one mile," said Alvarado.

Edwin Quarles, 40, of Angleton trailed Alvarado in the Gallop 1-mile and finished the shorter race in 6:07 to place third. He also had to settle for third in the male masters competition, again trailing Alvarado, this time by 18 seconds in 20:07.

"I was close enough to see him (Alvarado), and he had a good pace, and I knew I didn't have enough to pass him," said Quarles. "The second loop on the running trail running into the wind felt like I was running into a wall."

In the female masters competition, Kelly McClendon, 46, of Lake Jackson took advantage of initial leader Marilyn Koons, 58, of Alvin when she stopped for water near the first mile.

"I caught Marilyn at the first water station when she stopped for water and held my position after that," said McClendon.

McClendon finished in 27:02, an 8:43 pace; Koons finished in 27:23, an 8:50 pace. Janice Moody, 45, of Freeport finished third in the female masters competition 30 seconds behind Koons in 27:53.

"She was way ahead of me," said Moody. "I tried to stay up, but I can't compete with her."

The weather conditions might have slowed the runners in both Gallops because the top finishers were well short of contest records.

The top three male and female finishers in the Gallop 1-mile and the top three male and female finishers in the overall and masters competition in the 5K received trophies, as did the top three male and female finishers in seven age groups from 13-19 to 70-plus. Youngsters 12 and younger participated in a non-competitive, BASF-sponsored Kids

K and received T-shirts and medals.

The top finishers in the one mile for the males were Grant Parker (5:43), David Alvarado (5:59) and Edwin Quarles (6:07). The top finishers in the one mile for the females were Krystal Lux (7:34), Kim Lopez (7:37) and Adriana Castaneda (7:50).

### **5K Age-Group Winners**

#### **13-19 Male**

1. Cliff Wittig 19:37
2. David Henry 20:06
3. Kasey Crabtree 23:52

#### **13-19 Females**

1. Krystal Lux 26:33
2. Jenny Gustin 33:47

#### **Male 20-29**

1. Michael Richards 34:38

#### **Female 20-29**

1. Christen English 35:20
2. Belinda Ramos 35:38

#### **Male 30-39**

1. Jason Culverhouse 20:27
2. Jorge Jimenez 24:05
3. Aaron Sanders 25:20

#### **Female 30-39**

1. Abbie Artley 24:15
2. Karen Slough 25:07
3. Kim Rose 26:12

#### **Male 40-49**

1. Armando Caceres Jr. 24:01
2. Steve Hahn 24:02
3. Stewart Crouch 24:07

#### **Female 40-49**

1. Janneke Maas 24:57
2. Robin Crouch 33:44
3. Jannett Hernandez 35:20

#### **Male 50-59**

1. Paul Cooley 20:40
2. Lenord Burns 20:45
3. Ralph Corry 23:05

#### **Female 50-59**

1. Susan Lorms 28:02
2. Fermina Sutter 30:24
3. Mary Deason 36:19

#### **Male 60-69**

1. Larry Lindeen 23:09
2. Roger Newcom 25:10
3. Bill Shaw 31:06

#### **Male 70 and Over**

1. Cliff Wilson 28:00

**For complete results of the 1-mile and 5K Gator Gallop, see [www.billshawsite.net](http://www.billshawsite.net).**