

Runners conquer marathon

[By Bill Shaw](#)

The Facts

Published January 23, 2006

The 2006 Houston Marathon races drew 14,985 registrants in the marathon (26.2 miles), the half-marathon (13.1 miles) and the 5K (3.1 miles) events. South Brazoria County runners and walkers represented themselves well, with a total of 142 starters.

Six area runners placed in the top 1,000 among the 5,435 marathon finishers. Bryan Arceneaux of Lake Jackson led the way in 3:17:39, a 7:32 mile pace, and finished 333rd overall in male finishers. The other area men in the top 1,000 were Lenord Burns in 3:22:46 (7:44); A.C. Moldenhauer in 3:23:35 (7:45); David Henry in 3:32:18 (8:05); Edwin Quarles in 3:32:42 (8:06); and Tom Young in 3:35:13 (8:12).

Eleven area women finished the marathon in the top 1,000 in their gender, led by Jamie Dalsing of Lake Jackson in 3:57:55 (9:04), followed by Liz Shuster in 3:57:56 (9:04); Dorothy Babbington in 4:06:56 (9:25); Edna Saenz in 4:10:42 (9:33); Shannon Burge in 4:15:21 (9:44), Renee Ladd in 4:15:48 (9:45); Kelly Colosimo in 4:17:19 (9:48); Suzanne Chivari in 4:19:22 (9:53); Terry Allen in 4:24:21 (10:04); Kristina Johnston in 4:24:20 (10:04); and Kelly McClendon in 4:41:32 (10:44).

Sixty area runners, 22 males and 38 females, registered for the half-marathon.

Brazoswood runner Lauren Smith led all locals among the 7,348 finishers in 1:29:44, a 6:50 race pace. The 26th female to cross the line, she placed first in her age group.

The other top five female half-marathoners were Mary Williams in 1:48:23 (8:16), Paula Hart in 1:59:05 (9:05), Jenny Heinlein in 2:00:37 (9:12) and Johanna Alborzi in 2:09:13 (9:51).

In the male half-marathon area competition, Phillip Athey finished three seconds behind Smith in 1:29:47 (6:50) in the top spot. The other area top five finishers were Evan Rogers in 1:33:11 (7:06), Dan Connelly in 1:36:50 (7:23), Joe Longoria in 1:42:35 (7:49) and Ed Madenjian in 1:42:46 (7:50).

Fourth in his age division and the 44th male overall among the 1,995 finishers, Brazoswood cross country coach Devin Theriot of Richwood topped the area 5K

runners in 20:03 (6:27). Other finishers were Raul Barriga in 17:55 (5:45), John Williams in 19:46 (6:21) and Bryant Sutton in 23:04 (7:25). John Trudgeon rounded out the top five 5K local finishers in 25:05 (8:04).

Youngster Sarah Lipp of Lake Jackson led local female 5K finishers in 28:19 (9:06), followed by Naomi Cherian in 28:19 (9:06) and Amy Plander in 28:31 (9:10). The second-youngest 5K runner, Anna Cherian, 9, followed Plander in 29:19 (9:26), along with Lauri Cherian in 29:23 (9:27). Way to go, Cherians.

Kudos to Lake Jackson runners, who made up 49 percent of the local finishers in the three races. Angleton finishers made up 25 percent, and Rosharon fielded the third largest number, 13 percent.

The 30-year-olds and 40-year olds made a good showing in the three races, with 40-year-olds making up 32 percent of area runners; 30-year-olds, 26 percent; 50-year-olds, 14 percent; 20-year-olds, 13 percent; 19 and younger, 11 percent; and 60- and 70-year-olds making up two percent each.

Special congratulations to Brazosport Area Road Runners Association members Susan Walters of Wallis and Sue Wheeler of Houston. Walters finished 29th in the female marathon competition in 3:07:50 (7:09), and Wheeler finished 219th in 3:48:43 (8:43).

Congratulations to all area finishers. I have posted the results of all southern Brazoria County finishers on www.billshawsite.net, along with comments from race participants.

The 2006 area running season begins Saturday in Angleton with the Spectacle Spectacular 10K/5K/5K Walk, with packet pickup and race-day registration at 7 a.m. For information, call (979) 849-5752 or e-mail [phenry\(at\)angletonisd.net](mailto:phenry@angletonisd.net).

See you at the starting line.