

Rounding up the spring's runs

By Bill Shaw

The Facts

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I started this column three miles into a 5.4-miler Thursday morning. I thought about the five local spring races in five weeks, with the last two runs back-to-back.

At the starting line of the San Jacinto 5K on Sunday, April 23 (Shakespeare's birthday), there were 21 of us who had run in the Flapjack 5K on Saturday. Eleven had run two of the spring races, five had run three and I had run four.

Our times were faster in the San Jac 5K, most likely because of the flat race route; the Flapjack 5K features hills and a romp over the Velasco Bridge.

Grant and Wendy Parker won first place overall in the male and female competition in the San Jac 5K.

The Parkers ran four of the five spring races and finished first or second in all four. Wendy finished first in the female competition in the March 25 Run for My Life 5K in 20:42; Grant finished third in the male division in 20:17. Grant and Wendy settled for second on April 8 and April 22 with respective times of 18:38 and 20:35 in the Gator Gallop and 18:48 and 20:52 in the Flapjack.

No runners equaled or bettered overall records. Carlo Deason of Houston ran the fastest 5K, 17:23, in the Gallop. Brazoswood freshman Lauren Smith ran the fastest female 5K time, 19:14, also in the Gallop.

Sue Wheeler, however, broke the female masters (40-plus) record in the Flapjack 5K by finishing third overall in the female competition in 22:07, 49 seconds better than the previous record. In addition, Wheeler posted the

best female masters mark in the inaugural Run for My Life, a faster 22:05. Wheeler missed a turn in the Gallop but still managed to finish third overall in the female competition in 24:09. In the San Jac 5K, she finished second overall in the female competition in 21:14.

In her first two races as a masters runner, Kelly Colosimo placed first in the consecutive Flapjack and San Jac 5Ks, respectively, in 26:54 and 25:07.

Master runner Bob Bowden ran three of the five races. Bowden placed second in the masters competition in the Run for My Life 5K in 20:34, first overall in the Run for Jesus 5K in 20:36 and first in masters competition in the San Jac 5K in 20:10.

Five other male masters runners finished three of the five races: Armando Caceres, best time 23:23 in the San Jac; Steve Hahn, best time 23:34 in the Flapjack; Roger Newcom, best time 24:10 in the San Jac; Edwin Quarles, best time 20:07 in the Gator Gallop; and David Johnson, best time 25:15 in the San Jac.

Two male masters runners, Ralph Corry and Ronald Evans, finished four of the five races. Corry pocketed his best time, 22:04, in the San Jac 5K; Evans posted his best time, 28:00, in the Gallop. I finished all five races, with a best time of 30:50 in the Gallop.

Female masters runners Marilyn Koons, Susan Lorms and Janice Moody finished three of the five spring races: Koons' best time, 26:58, was in the San Jac; Lorms' best time, 28:02, was in the Gallop; Moody's best time, 27:53, was also in the Gallop.

The oldest runner to finish three spring races was Orville Kremmer, 73, his best, 24:50, in the Flapjack.

The youngest runner to finish three races was David Henry, 17, his best time, 20:06,

in the Gallop.

Locals can next test themselves May 13 in the Brazosport Regional Health System 5K or 10K distance. For race information, call (979) 285-1200.

See you at the starting line.