

# Sprinters shine at Spectacle Spectacular

By [Bill Shaw](#)

*The Facts*

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ANGLETON — Houstonian Carlo Deason finished first for the fourth year in a row and Brazoswood freshman runner Lauren Smith broke the female contest record in the shorter 5K race in the fifth annual Spectacle Spectacular 5K/10K, despite having to fight a stiff wind midway through the course.

Deason, 36, finished the 3.1-mile course around Angleton in 17:17, 19 seconds slower than his first-place finish last year. Deason averaged 7:35 a mile. He fell 1:28 short of the contest record set in 2001.

“My first mile was 5:10, right on point; that’s what I wanted to run,” said Deason. “I was by myself the entire race, but the wind was harsh and slowed my time considerably. Someone said it was 15 mph.”

Listening to country music on her headphones, Smith, 14, concentrated on staying ahead of her coach.

“Coach (Devin) Theriot was right behind me, and I beat him by a few seconds,” said Smith. “It wasn’t my best race; I felt the wind after about a mile.”

Smith crossed the line in 19:52, a 6:25 race pace. She broke the previous contest record by three seconds. Theriot, 41, finished 20 seconds behind her in

20:12.

Members of the Houston Toranados battled over a minute behind Deason for second and third place overall finishes.

Valentino Ochoa, 31, edged Jeff Eisele, 35, at the finish by four seconds for second place in 18:38, 1:21 behind Deason.

“I probably stayed with him (Deason) for a mile and a half at a 5:30 pace; then we hit the wind and slowed down to a 5:55 pace,” said Ochoa. “I didn’t see Jeff sneaking up behind me. I kept turning around to see where he was.”

Raymond Cruz, 42, dropped behind Eisele to finish fourth overall just two seconds behind him and won the male masters (40 plus) 5K competition.

“I did about three surges to drop him, but he wouldn’t drop,” said Cruz. “He had a good kick at the end and passed me.”

The second-place female finisher Felicia Solis, 33, of Houston, finished 4:17 behind Smith in 24:09.

“She was running so fast that I really didn’t know she was ahead of me,” said Solis. “I had a good race despite the wind. I surprised myself: I was going out to have an eight minute pace, and I had under that (7:47).”

Finishing third overall in the female competition and first in the female masters race, Ann Ferguson, 63, of Galveston crossed the line in 25:07, an 8:06 race pace.

“The hard part was finishing against the wind,” said Ferguson. “No other woman

pushed me; my husband came by me, and I stayed behind him and wished I could have caught him, but I couldn’t.”

Ferguson’s husband Richard, 66, finished 18th overall and first in the male 60-69 age bracket in 24:30.

In the longer Spectacle Spectacular 10K (6.2 miles) race, the overall male and female and male and female masters winners successfully defended their titles except for the second-place female.

Houstonian Luis Armenteros, 33, finished first in the pack in 32:15, a 5:12 pace that broke the record he established last year by 10 seconds. Armenteros was not available after the race for comments.

Another Houstonian, Francisco “Indian” Perez, finished second overall and first again in the male masters competition in 35:40, a 5:45 race pace that fell 1:31 short of the contest record pace he posted last year.

Perez hurt his back in the Houston Marathon, which slowed his pace some.

According to running companion Leno Rios, who finished the race eighth in 38:28, Perez ran the first mile with him and no one was behind him, so he just cruised.

Jennifer Brown, 29, another Houston Toranado, finished the 10K race route 22nd overall and first in the female competition in 43:29, a 7:01 pace. Brown fell 2:59 short of the female contest record.

“I was sick last night and debated whether to do the race,” said Brown. “It hit me at about three miles. I was cold and shaky. The wind was tough, and I just put my head down.”

Sue Wheeler, 44, of Houston, finished first in the female masters competition for the second year in a row in 47:44, a 7:42 pace. Wheeler, who was unavailable after the race, ran 1:58 faster than last year but was 4:44 off the female masters

record.

The Angleton Noon Lions hosts the contest, and all proceeds go to the Children’s Eyeglass Program in local Angleton and Danbury schools.

The contest sponsors provide prize money, \$75 for first overall male and female and male and female masters finishers in the 10K, and \$30 for the first male and female and male and female masters finishers in the 5K.

Sixty-eight runners

finished the 5K, 56 the 10K. Participants received T-shirts, and the top three male and female finishers in eight groups from 12 and under to 70 and older received medals; fourth and fifth place finishers received coffee mugs.

“Our turnout was not as good as last year,” said Patrick Henry, race director. “But it was pretty good with the threat of bad weather.”