

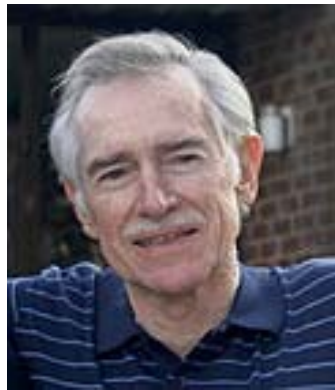
Area runners earn top honors

By Bill Shaw

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Tomorrow night, the Brazosport Area Road Runners Association presents the Runners of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards. BARRA recognizes the top male and female runners younger than 39, the top masters runners (40-49) and the top veteran runners (50 and older). Runners receive the awards based on their performance points in local races.



Today, I announce the Bill Shaw All-Brazosport Area Runners of the Year. I, too, developed criteria based on a point system: five points for finishing first in open or masters competition, four for second and three for third, with a five-point bonus for breaking a race record.

Brazoswood graduate Weston Caceres, now a freshman at Texas A&M, is the top male runner of the year in the younger-than-39 category. He finished seven of the 10 local races. Caceres finished first overall in the January Spectacle Spectacular 5K in 17:15 and first in the February Surfside Beach Half Marathon in 1:21:12. His first-place 18:09 finish in the April

Run for Jesus 5K in Danbury broke the race record by 4:41. Caceres finished first in the May Brazosport Regional Health System 5K in 17:22, the July 4 Firecracker 4 in 23:11, and the October Monster Dash in 16:14. He finished second overall in the July Mosquito Chase in 16:28.

Brazoswood junior Lauren Smith earned top honors in the female 39-and-younger category. Smith finished first overall in the female competition

in all five local races she entered: the Gator Gallop 5K in 18:32, the BRHS 5K in 18:44, the Firecracker 4 in 24:31, the Mosquito Chase 5K in 18:04 and the Monster Dash 5K in 17:49. She

broke the record in the Gallop by 1:13. Her best 5K time was only six seconds off the Dash record she set last year.

Smith also won the Class 5A state cross country meet in Round Rock in November, a 2-mile romp in 15:40, a 5:38 mile pace. On Nov. 24 in the Foot Locker South Regional in Charlotte, N.C., she finished the 5K distance ninth in 17:32. Saturday Smith finished 17th overall in 18:01 in the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championship 5K on the Balboa Park course in San Diego. She missed making All-American by two places.

Kevin Regis of Lake Jackson wins male masters honors. Regis finished six of the

local races; he placed second in the Spectacle Spectacular 10K masters competition in 39:45, second overall in the April Freeport Flapjack 5K in 19:02, third overall in the BRHS 10K in 39:53 and first in the male masters competition in the June Race for the Cure 5K in 18:53 and the Firecracker 4 in 25:14. He broke the record in the Race for the Cure by 1:37.

Kelly Colosimo of Lake Jackson takes top honors in the female masters category. Colosimo finished three of the area races: third overall in the Gator Gallop 5K in 25:50, second in the female masters competition in the Flapjack 5K in 25:54 and first in the female masters competition in the BRHS 10K in 54:17. She broke her own record in the BRHS 10K by 23 seconds.

Bob Bowden of Lake Jackson, top male veteran, finished second in the masters competition in the Flapjack 5K in 19:50, first in the masters competition in BRHS 5K in 20:32 and third overall in the Race for the Cure in 20:39.

Another Lake Jackson runner, Susan Lorms, takes top female veteran honors with a third-place female masters finish in Flapjack in 27:13 and a second-place masters finish in the BRHS 10K in 59:21.

Congratulations, runners. It's an honor to shuffle in behind you.

Bill Shaw's running column appears in The Facts every other Monday.