

Area runners brave stiff wind for Jesus

By Bill Shaw

The Facts

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DANBURY — Brett Puderbaugh's surge strategy against a stiff 15-mph wind in the first mile of the third annual Community Baptist Church Run for Jesus 5K enabled him to cruise to a decisive victory on an almost perfect day for racing.

Puderbaugh, 48, of Surfside finished the 3.1-mile course through residential Danbury in 19 minutes and 12 seconds, a 6:11 average mile pace. He led second-place male finisher Greg Jones, 32, of Lake Jackson by 1:08.

"When we took off and made the first turn in the race, I felt the wind and wanted to make a good first mile and put it on cruise control," said Puderbaugh. "I tired myself going into that wind on the first mile, so it was good I could cruise through the rest of the race."

"I hung with Brett for about three-quarters of a mile," said Jones, who finished in 20:20. "Close to the mile, he started pulling away. After that I tried to keep him in sight, but my pace started fading."

Scott Bogema, 36, of

Angleton finished third overall in 21:26, 1:06 behind Jones.

"Into the wind, they (Puderbaugh and Jones) started pulling away," said Bogema.

Though Puderbaugh won first overall, his 19:12 counts as a masters (40 plus) record since he is 48. Puderbaugh broke the previous record set by a male masters runner by 51 seconds.

Running for only about a year, Jackie Moore, 37, of Lake Jackson finished 11th overall and first in the female competition with a personal best 27:36, an 8:54 race pace.

"I was in mid-pack in the first mile with quite a few ladies in front of me," said Moore. "My nephew and I passed that group of ladies, and I ran with Stephanie Purnell. I pulled ahead and ran the last mile by myself. It was a good run and a beautiful day."

Purnell, 13, of Angleton, who placed third in the female

competition in the Gator Gallop last Saturday improved her 5K time by 31 seconds to finish 13th overall and second in the female competition this week in 28:16.

"I was with the leaders in the first mile, but they were not in sight at the end of the race," said Purnell.

Judy Lotzenhiser, 51, of Lake Jackson finished 14th overall in 28:19 to win third-place honors in the female competition. Lotzenhiser ran with Cindy Volk, 47, of Lake Jackson, who took a wrong turn on the course and "disqualified" herself from the competition because she did not finish the full 5K distance.

"Cindy and I ran together for the first mile; then I pulled ahead," said Lotzenhiser. "She missed the turn somewhere behind me. Marilyn (Koons) was right behind me. I knew she was back there, and I was trying my best to stay ahead of her."



Run for Jesus 5K Winners, front row, from left to right, Brett Puderbaugh, first overall male; Jackie Moore, first overall female; Greg Jones, second overall male; Stephanie Purness, second overall female; Scott Bogema, third overall male; and Judy Lotzenhiser, third overall female. Second Row, first female master (40 plus) female; Guillermina Silva, second female masters; Daryl Beatty, second male masters; Raymond Caliko, Sr., third male masters; and Judy Richards, third female masters. Not pictured is Gary Todd, first male masters.

Koons, 60, of Alvin trailed Lotzenhiser by 15 seconds and finished 15th overall to garner the female masters (40 plus) title in 28:34, a 9:13 pace. Ironically, Lotzenhiser, like Puderbaugh a masters runner, broke the female masters record set by Koons last year by 22 seconds.

Danbury homeboy Gary Todd finished fourth overall and first in the male masters competition in 23:24.

“I was in fifth place in the first mile but moved up to fourth place at about the one mile mark,” said Todd. “I stayed that way: I didn’t get passed and didn’t pass anyone.”

Daryl Beatty held his position in the pack after Todd passed him to finish fifth overall and second in the male masters competition in 24:17.

“I felt like I was going too fast in the first mile and fell behind someone to slow myself down,” said Beatty. “I did better than usual. It doesn’t get any better than this; the weather feels like July in Colorado.”

Raymond Caliko, Sr., 45, finished 6th overall in 24:42 to win third place in the male masters competition.

Guillermina Silva, 48, finished 17th overall and second in the female masters competition in 33:47 despite an errant turn on the race course. Silva and Judy Richards, 64, of Angleton ran off course together.

“She got farther off course than I did, and she came back and caught up with me and beat me,” said Richards, who finished 12 seconds behind Silva in 33:59 to win third in the female masters competition.

“We had a good day for the families to come out, and we had good community support,” said Amy Plander, church race director, who was pleased to see the participants grow from 65 last year to 80 this year.

“The run was a great success,” said Fran Turnipseed. “I’m still not sure of the exact figure we made on the race until the treasurer and I get together. I can say that the amount raised this year is very close to last year’s figure (\$4,031).”

Overall race results and age-group winners are posted on www.barrahome.com.