

## Beach run chock full of local athletes

By Bill Shaw

*The Facts*

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‘You just try to keep up with Mr. Shaw,’ Deena Williams said from behind me in a 5K race a number of years ago. ‘He runs a good, steady pace.’

She was encouraging her youngsters Sarah, Mary and John. Those youngsters grew up and began running ahead of me soon. In the fourth annual Surfside Beach Marathon

/Half Marathon on Feb. 9, John and Mary of Lake Jackson paced their local running peers in the 13.1-mile distance in half marathon. John finished third overall in the male competition in 1:32:59, a 7:05-mile pace; Mary finished first in her 19 and younger group in 1:49:03, an 8:19 race pace.

John and Mary were the youngest of local half-marathon finishers. The oldest was La Verne Lippman, 72, of Lake Jackson who finished in 2:40:56 and first in the female 70 and older competition. Of the 28 local half-marathon finishers — 16 males and 12 females — 32 percent were in the 30 to 39 age group, 29 percent in the 50 to 59 age group and 25 percent in the 40 to 49 age group. The sole 20-year-old finisher was Amie Archibeque of Angleton in 3:17:44.

The top male and female 30-year-olds were Gregory Jones and Teresa Hermel-Davidock of

Lake Jackson, who finished, respectively, in 1:38:47 and 3:17:44. Richard Romero of Lake Jackson finished in 2:00:02 and led the 40-year-old men; Tami Sophia of Brazoria finished in 2:46:15 and led the 40-year-old women. James Citek of Angleton finished in 2:04:14 to lead the 50-year-old males, and Le LeVi of Lake Jackson finished in 2:43:26 to lead the 50-year-old females.

Other Angleton half-marathon finishers were Scott Bogema (1:52:35), Luther Golf (2:46:55) and Wendy Rollins (3:18:27). Spencer Hurley Jr. of Brazoria finished in 2:00:13, Brenda Williams of Clute finished in 2:48:56, Leigh Lintelman of Danbury finished in 3:51:37 and Karin Slough of Jones Creek finished in 2:01:57. Other Lake Jackson finishers were Roger Kuhlman (1:43:42), Hushang Bakhtiari (1:46:37), Doug Heydrick (1:51:28), Armando Caceres Jr. (1:56:35), Peter Noris (1:56:58), Jim Lipscomb (2:27:40), Son Nguyen (2:43:27), Heather and Andrew Dodge (2:38:50), Jeremy Todd (2:59:38) and Kathy Bayer (4:19:05)

Lake Jackson fielded 64 percent of the half-marathoners, Angleton 18 percent and Brazoria 7 percent. The median half-marathon time for locals was 2:27:40, an 11:16 pace.

Lake Jackson also fielded the most 26.2-mile marathon finishers, six out of the 11 — five men and one woman — for 55 percent. Angleton fielded three, Freeport one and West Columbia one. Runners in their 30s made

up 27 percent of the participants. Runners in their 40s, 50s, and 60s made up 18 percent each. Those younger than 19 and in their 20s made up 9 percent each. The median marathon time for locals was 4:49:04.

Jason Culverhouse of West Columbia posted the best time, 4:02:21, a 9:15 pace, just a second better than Paul Johnson of Lake Jackson for fourth and fifth in the 30 to 39 age bracket. Melissa Brown of Angleton was the top local female finisher in 6:38:22, a 15:12 pace. Thelma Perez of Freeport finished in 6:25:07. Judy Lotzenhiser of Lake Jackson finished in 6:25:07 and Carolyn Bowman of Angleton finished in 6:52:38 and second in the 60 to 69 age group.

The third-place area finisher, Ryan Gillis, 17, of Angleton finished in 4:08:23. Paul Gillis was the top area 40- to 49-year-old and finished in 4:39:39. Don Murphy finished third in his 50 to 59 age group in 4:19:52. David Johnson of Lake Jackson finished in 4:49:04. Rodney Bowman finished shoulder to shoulder with his wife in 6:52:38.

Congratulations to the local half-marathoners and marathoners. The final results of the Surfside Beach Marathon/Half Marathon are posted on the Web at barra home.net. If I have omitted anyone or made an error, please e-mail me at runwriter(at)sbcglobal.net.

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