



Run for Jesus 5K Winners, front row, left to right, Weston Caceres, first overall male; Karin Slough, first overall female; Cliff Wittig, second overall male; Kim Forrest, second overall female; Stewart Crouch, third overall male; Marilyn Koons, third overall female; second row, Armando Caceres, first male masters; Jenne Schroll, first female masters; Tracy Schroll, third male masters; Sil Guillermina, second female masters; Robin Crouch, third female masters. Not pictured, Shawn Chase, second male masters. Photo by Bill Shaw.

Records broken in Run for Jesus 5K

By Bill Shaw

The Facts

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DANBURY — On a perfect morning before the wild west wind swept in, Weston Caceres and his father, Armando, posted winning marks in the overall male and male masters competition in the second ever Community Baptist Church Run for Jesus 5K.

Weston ran a contest-record pace. Not to be outdone by their male counterparts, Karin Slough and Jeanne Schroll finished first, respectively, in the female overall and female masters competition and wiped out last year's record marks despite a "long course" because of a misplaced turn marker.

A Brazoswood High School senior, the younger Caceres, 17, won the 24-5A District 800 meters on Thursday and finished the 3.3-mile Danbury course Saturday in 18:09, a 5:30 average mile pace.

The temperature at race time was 64 degrees, and runners faced only a slight wind.

"I came across at about 5:15 at the first mile and hoped to maintain that pace, but my lower leg muscles were not used to the hard pavement," said

Caceres. "But the weather was great, and I enjoyed the water station (at halfway) because the people were so encouraging and very nice."

Brazoswood teammate Cliff Wittig, 17, watched Caceres slowly build his lead when he surged to the front of the pack at the start.

"After a mile, he was about 100 meters ahead of me at the mile, after the two mile about 200 meters and after the third mile about 350 to 400 meters."

Wittig finished second overall in 19:54, 1:45 behind Caceres, who eclipsed last year's inaugural race record mark by 2:27.

Stewart Crouch, 45, of Lake Jackson finished in 21:03 to take third overall in the contest.

"Those two guys (Caceres and Wittig) are in a different category and a different race," said Crouch, who ran with his friends, Christian Samora and Greg Jones. "Christian and Greg were ahead of me, but I passed them at the first mile, and they fell about a block behind me. I knew Christian was there behind me, but I didn't know if he had anything left for the finish line."

Samora and Jones finished, respectively, fourth and fifth overall in 21:49 and 22:06 to take the two top spots in their 30-39 age bracket.

Finishing 13th overall, Karin Slough, 36, of Jones Creek crossed the finish line in contest record time in 25:57, a 7:52 race pace. Slough's pace broke the contest record by 1:24.

Not far behind Slough, Kim Forrest, 34, of Angleton and Marilyn Koons, 59, of Alvin finished 18th and 19th overall in 28:02 and 28:41 to round out the top three overall female finishers.

"I've never run a race before, so I was proud to run an eight-minute mile and finish the race," said Slough. "I ran a lot faster than I thought I could and had a good time."

"I enjoyed the run, going along through the neighborhoods and looking at the pretty yards," said Koons, who had no close competition or anyone pushing her.

Finishing seventh overall, Armando Caceres, Weston's father, posted his first male masters victory with a 24:31 mark, a 7:25 pace.

"Weston put me on a speed work program, and I was trying to break 23 minutes," said Caceres. "It was a beautiful day, and people were so nice along the course, everyone cheering. It kind of makes you feel good to get up on Saturday morning."

Shawn Chase, 43, and Tracy Schroll, 45, rounded out the male masters competition,

finishing, respectively, ninth and tenth in 25:46 and 25:54. Chase was unavailable for comment after the race, but Schroll, like Caceres, placed for the first time in the male masters category. Chase and Schroll ran a close race.

"We were going back and forth," said Schroll. "I passed him halfway through the race, but he passed me before the finish."

Making the masters competition a family affair, Tracy's wife, Jeanne, finished 20th overall and first in the female master's competition in 30:10. Not only did Schroll finish for the first time in the female masters competition, she also posted a female masters record.

"I normally place in my age group but never in the masters. I'm excited," Schroll said. "This is probably my best time yet in a 5K. The lady behind me who placed second helped to pace me."

That second-place female masters runner was Silva Guillermina, 47, who was not available for comment after the race.

Robin Crouch, 42, the wife of third overall finisher Stewart, continued the family theme of the race by finishing 25th overall and third in the female masters competition in 33:51.

The Run for Jesus benefits the Community Baptist Church

building fund and brought an estimated \$4,000 from the sponsors and the participants, according to Amy Plandar, race director. Wells Fargo, CAPS Custom Air Products, Palms Funeral Home, Baldwin Insurance and Hawk Roofing were the major sponsors in the total of 28.

"It think it went great, we were blessed with the weather," Plandar said. "The course was (USA Track & Field) certified, but we missed marking a turn by one block. We want to thank everybody for their support and all the volunteers and, of course, the sponsors."