

## Jimenez, Smith finish ahead at Monster Dash

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LAKE JACKSON — Lake Jackson Intermediate student Xavier Jimenez and Brazoswood senior Lauren Smith ran almost shoulder to shoulder Saturday early in the annual Monster Dash 5K and finished first and second overall in the male and female competition.

From the starting line at the Lake Jackson Recreation Center around the athletic fields and down on to the Bottomland Trail and back, Smith and Jimenez exchanged and fought for the lead in the first mile of the 3.1-mile contest. Between the first and second mile, Jimenez surged ahead.

“I drafted on Lauren early in the race but decided to take the lead and try to hold it,” Jimenez said.

Jimenez crossed the finish line in 17 minutes, 42 seconds, a 5:42-mile pace, with a 24-second lead over Smith. Last year, Jimenez finished the Dash fifth overall and first in his age group in 18:22 — he knocked 16 seconds off his 5K time. He fell 1:30 short of the 16:10 record mark posted by Sweeny runner Randall Krauskopf in 2005.

Smith finished first in the female competition for her third consecutive Monster Dash win in 18:04, a 5:49 race pace.

Smith posted the contest record, 17:43, in 2006 and finished in 17:49 last year. She fell six seconds short of her record

last year because of an errant turn coming off the Bottomlands Trail. Her time this year was 21 seconds off her record mark.

“It was a little cold, and my legs were tired,” Smith said.

Brazoswood runner Josh Raymond, 15, finished third in the male competition in 18:52, a 6:05 pace. Freeport Intermediate teacher Troy Latiolais, 25, finished third in the overall male competition in 20:24, a 6:35 race pace.

Tiffany Whipple, 28, of Lake Jackson finished second in the overall female competition in 22:47, followed by Kelly Colosimo, 42, in 23:12 for 7:29 mile splits.

Tiffany didn’t worry as much about Colosimo on her heels as she did trying to keep up with her husband Nathan, who eventually surged ahead to beat her by a minute in 21:47.

Michael Bayer, 53, of Lake Jackson finished first in the male masters (40 and older) competition in 26:51, a 7:04 pace.

“I ran a long run of 10 miles this morning and had my best 5K of the year,” said Bayer. “Go figure.”

Armando Caceres, 50, of Lake Jackson finished second in the male masters competition in 23:27.

“I injured myself almost a year ago and have been running 16-minute miles with my daughter,” said Caceres. “This is the first 5K I have run in a year. I am really surprised and pleased with my time.”

Max Royalty, 73, held back and tried to beat Ralph Corry, 60, at the fin-

ish line to grab third place in the male masters competition.

Royalty liked Corry’s pace and thought if he stuck close behind him, he could kick ahead at the finish line.

“He came out of nowhere near the finish,” said Corry, “and I had to kick hard to beat him.”

Both Corry and Royalty finished in 24.48 for an eight-minute flat race pace, but Corry had the edge and placed third in the male masters competition.

Laurie Fisher, 44, finished 28th overall in 28:29, a 9:11-mile pace, to garner first place in the female masters competition. Jeanne Schroll, 47, finished 39th overall in 31:59 for second in the female masters competition, a 10:19 race pace. Renee Cooper, 43, finished 40th overall in 32:06 for third with a 10:21 race pace.

Three-year race director Michelle Parrish of the Lake Jackson Recreation Center was grateful for the perfect weather and the turnout of more than 60 participants in the 5K.

“Our race seems to grow every year,” said Parrish.

In an earlier noncompetitive BASF-sponsored Kids Run, 32 youngsters 12 and younger finished varying routes based on their ages and received T-shirts and finishers’ medals.

Complete overall race results and age-group awards will be posted on [www.barrahome.net](http://www.barrahome.net) and on the City Lake Jackson Web site at [www.ci.lake-jackson.tx.us](http://www.ci.lake-jackson.tx.us).

