

Angleton native wins Mosquito Chase 5K

By Bill Shaw

The Facts

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CLUTE — Grant Parker of West Columbia led a swarm of 101 runners and walkers out from the Clute Municipal Pool in the annual Mosquito Chase 5K through the second mile, but Bret Ramsey of Richmond caught and passed him at the 2-mile mark to finish the 3.1-mile race route first in 17 minutes and 47 seconds, a 5:44 average mile pace.

"Grant went out, and I just followed him," said Ramsey, 35, an Angleton native. "He

usually does go out pretty fast. There was some guy from Katy up there with him, and I didn't know how fast he was. I thought he would finish first. Grant led for about 2 miles. I figured I was going to make my move. I did and pushed hard as I could and it was enough to win."

Ramsey finished 1:40 short of the contest record established by Houstonian Rudy Rocha in the 2003 contest.

"Three of us were together at the start, Bret, some other guy and me," said Parker, 27, of West Columbia. "At the second mile mark, Bret just blew by me. He's making a habit of

that. He did that at the Firecracker 4 (on July 4). And I ended up second."

Parker finished 13 seconds behind Ramsey in 18:00.

The Katy runner faded, and local Brazoswood runners — Jakob Baumeister, 16, and Lauren Smith, 17, and Xavier Jimenez, 13, of Rasco Middle School — surged to the front of the pack to finish, respectively, third, fourth and fifth overall.

Baumeister finished third in the overall male competition in 18:13. Smith finished first overall in the female competition in 18:21. Jimenez finished first in his 13 to 16 age group in 18:26.



Grant Parker (282) led at the start of the race, but Bret Ramsey, in gray, overtook him to win the Mosquito Chase. Lauren Smith, in green (259), won first overall in the female competition, followed by Parker's wife Wendy on the right shoulder of Ramsey. Jakob Baumeister (301) finished third in the male competition. Photo by Bill Shaw.



Wendy Parker finished second in the female competition. Photo by Bill Shaw.

"I passed the Katy guy and moved into third after 2 miles," Baumeister said. "Grant was about 20 meters ahead of me; Bret was about 400 meters ahead. I passed Lauren with about 800 meters to go. I was happy to finish where I did."

Last year, Smith finished eighth overall and first in the female competition in record time, a sizzling 18:04. This year, she was 17 seconds off her record pace.

"I just tried to stay up with the leaders," Smith said. "I saw Bret the whole race. I might have been slower because of the heat."

Grant Parker's wife Wendy, 30, finished 17th overall and second in the overall female competition in 20:32.

"I had a good pace in the first mile, just under 6:30, where I like it," Parker said. "I never saw another (female) runner; Lauren is always ahead of me, and I never

look behind me. The weather was what it usually is this time of year. I did a slower 5K last week because I was pushing a stroller."

Local runner Abbie Artley, 32, finished 20th overall and third in the overall female competition in 21:20.

"Wendy and I were about the same distance throughout the race," Artley said. "I knew I couldn't catch her. Maybe if she had been pushing a stroller as she sometimes does I could."

Clute Mayor Calvin Shiftlet directed the Chase for the third year.

"It was kind of frantic at first scrambling to get the gates unlocked, but we had plenty of volunteers, and things went great," Shiftlet said. "We are learning how to do this, and we get better year by year."

Complete finishes are at www.barrahome.net.



Bret Ramsey, Lauren Smith and Jakob Baumeister just before the first mile mark. Photo by Bill Shaw.