

## Area runners race in Gator Gallop

By Bill Shaw

*The Facts*

Published April 6, 2008

LAKE JACKSON — Carlo Deason of Houston set a fast pace early in a gusty Gator Gallop 5K around the campus and running trail of Brazosport College to finish first in the 28th annual contest in 17 minutes and 38 seconds, a 5:41-mile pace.

Early in the race Deason, 38, and Grant Parker, 26, of West Columbia ran together with youngster Xavier Jimenez, 13, behind but closing in.

“Grant was beside me until the mile mark when I started pulling away,” Deason said. “I got stronger and stronger and kept the lead from that point on.”

“I tried to stay with Carlo, but after the first mile, he slowly pulled away,” Parker said. “I was tired at about 2 miles, so I didn’t try to catch up with him.”

Jimenez, about 60 yards behind Deason and Parker in the first mile, made his move to take second place in the second mile.

“Grant started slowing down, and I started getting closer,” Jimenez said. “I passed him using my speed. Carlo was about 80 yards ahead of me. I didn’t think I could catch him, but maybe next year.”

Jimenez finished second overall in the Gallop in 17:58, 28 seconds behind Deason. Parker finished third overall in 18:27, 29 seconds behind Jimenez.

Parker’s wife, Wendy, 30, finished 11th overall and first in the female competition in 20:52, a 6:27 pace. She finished 23 seconds faster than her second-place finish in last year’s Gallop.

“I was about right on schedule with a first mile of 6:30,” Parker said. “I didn’t have any other woman pushing me, so I started slowing down in the second mile.”

Parker’s closest competition, Karin Slough, 37, of Jones Creek was slowed by a chest cold but finished 26th overall and 6:16 behind Parker in 27:08 for second in the open female competition.

“I almost didn’t run today because I’ve been sick,” Slough said. “I didn’t expect to win anything, so I didn’t push myself.”

Stephanie Purnell, 13, finished 34th overall and third in the open female competition in 28:47.

Returning to racing after a five-year hiatus and just four months of training, local Brett Puderbaugh, 49, thought he had the Gallop male masters (40-plus) title wrapped up through the third mile of the 3.1-mile contest.

“When I made the last turn, I saw a red shirt in my peripheral vision,” Puderbaugh said. “Steward (Crouch) beat me at the clock. He ran through the finish line, and I just ran to it.”

Crouch, 46, finished fifth overall in 19:16 to win the male masters title. Puderbaugh finished sixth overall in 19:17 to take second. Both had a 6:15 race pace.

Hugh Leidlein, 44, finished eighth overall and third in the male masters competition in

19:47.

Kelly Colosimo, 42, of Lake Jackson finished 16th overall in 23:41 to claim the female masters title. Colosimo placed third in the female masters competition last year with a slower 25:50, a 7:38 pace. She improved her 2007 Gator time by 2:19.

“I was more consistent in this race than the last, and that was good,” Colosimo said. “I’m going to be faster this year because of my training for the Houston Marathon.”

Rounding out the female masters competition, Judy Lotzenhiser, 51, and Robin Crouch, 43, finished, respectively, 33rd and 35th overall, in 28:37 and 29:18 for second and third. Lotzenhiser improved her last year’s Gallop time by 23 seconds.

“I was a little faster this year because of the Houston Half Marathon (13.1 miles) and the Surfside Beach Marathon (26.2 miles),” said Lotzenhiser, who has been running a little more than a year. “The weather was cool and crisp and energizing. I’m having a good time with running.”

In an earlier 1-mile contest, Brazoswood junior Lauren Smith, 16, added the Gallop 1-mile record to the Gallop 5K record she set last year. Smith finished the mile in 5:25, six seconds faster than the 1996 previous record set by Melissa Hurta of Jones Creek in 1996. Smith did not compete in the 5K this year because of a sore ankle.

Ian Harris, 17, also a Brazoswood junior, finished first in the male mile competition in

5:14, short of the 4:37 contest record posted by Randall Krauskopf in 2004. Gregory Jones and David Alvarado finished second and third in the male mile competition in 5:44 and 5:49.

Wenda Parker and Kallon Viktorin finished second and third in the female mile competition in 6:14 and 7:12.

In a BASF-sponsored, non-competitive Kids Run between

the 1-mile and the 5K, 86 children 12 and younger received T-shirts and finishers' medals.

"The race was great this year," said Leslie Carter, Brazosport College coordinator of student affairs and intramural programs. "The students worked hard to get everything set up early. BASF always contributes generously to the Gallop and allows us to have a successful race with generous awards. The Brazosport Area

Road Runners Association and Park Place also provide support for the contest. I am always proud of the student volunteers and the good number of runners that turn out."

Complete overall Gator Gallop race results are posted on the BARRA Web site at [www.barrahome.net](http://www.barrahome.net).