

Camille Herron wins Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon for record third time

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Women's marathon winner Camille Herron crosses the finish line of the 15th annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon in Oklahoma City on Sunday, April 26, 2015. Herron finished the race in 2:09:47 and it is her third memorial marathon victory. Photo by KT King, For The Oklahoman

Camille Herron and Conor Holt have turned the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon into a power struggle between family members.

Herron now has firm control.

She won the annual marathon for the second straight year and third time overall Sunday, giving her and her husband a total of five titles and both course records in the 15-year history of the race.

"I'm just doing it for inspiration for (my family and friends)," Herron said. "Being a professional athlete, I've always got so many opportunities and this is a race that I do every year now because I know how much it means to everybody."

Herron finished the race in two hours, 54 minutes and 55 seconds, becoming the first ever runner to win the marathon three times. It's also her 18th career marathon victory and fourth in Oklahoma.

"She's a good one," said Holt, her husband who holds the men's course record. "She'll keep rolling along here and hopefully win a few more of these."

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Herron, 33, already has her sights set on becoming the top ultramarathon runner in the world. She recently won the national title in the event and was named to the U.S. National Team.

She said winning that title two weeks ago made Sunday's marathon difficult, even if the weather conditions were better than last year when she won with a time of 2:51.20 following a two-hour delay.

"That was a new challenge for me trying to bounce back from that," Herron said. "I really just tried to make sure I rested from that event. I'm a little bit flatter this year compared to last year. I was a little bit sharper. I just knew I needed to get to the finish line and get that third win. That's what kept me going."

Her desire to be an inspiration and overtake her husband's win totals also helped.

Herron wants to help running expand in Oklahoma and she said she feels like her success is an example that anyone can do it.

"I have a lot of pride being a native Oklahoman," she said. "I hope I can inspire other kids competing at the high school level and beyond to keep going with their running because I'm the only one who's kept myself going."

"I'm doing things far beyond what any other Oklahoman has done. I just really want to inspire the kids from Oklahoma to keep going with their running because it doesn't stop with high school and college."