

more Marathon ('04)

more Is More

By Candace Karu

As featured in the September 2004 issue of Running Times Magazine

more Marathon

New York, NY

March 21, 2004

History was made on this brisk, early spring day in Central Park: 2,600 women from 39 states and five countries ran the first-ever marathon exclusively for women over 40. The race was conceived and developed by *more Magazine*, a publication that "celebrates the lives of women in their 40s and 50s," with the help of the New York Road Runners.

For an inaugural event, the more Marathon attracted more than its share of luminaries. Among the notables was nine-time New York City Marathon winner Grete Waitz, encouraging newcomers to the sport as well as veteran marathoners. Also on hand was Kathrine Switzer, the first woman officially to run the Boston Marathon. Recalling the Mini Marathon run in Central Park in 1972 which attracted 78 women, an unprecedented number at that time, Switzer marveled at the turnout for this new race.

Sisterhood was indeed powerful on this day, as encouragement and camaraderie within the ranks lightened the spirits and legs of all the participants. More Editor in Chief Susan Crandell welcomed runners at the starting line, saying "I hope you make great friends out there." Runners took her wishes to heart, exchanging life stories, racing advice and support throughout the race.

Jane Hattan arrived at Central Park with 130 of her closest friends, the runners, walkers and coaches of Team Playmakers from Michigan. During the race Hattan told a harrowing tale of her husband, who had been struck by a car in August 2002, sustaining life-threatening injuries and requiring months of surgery. During this difficult time, Hattan's Playmaker teammates supported her in ways big and small and encouraged her to keep training. Hattan, 44, finished her first marathon with a chip time of 4:44:42.

Pacing groups provided mini-communities on the run, headed by pacers who carried clusters of blue and white balloons. Running Times Senior Writer Rachel Toor was tapped to lead the 3:50 group. "The way in which these women supported each other blew me away," said Toor, who brought her ecstatic group across the finish line at 3:49:12 amidst cheers, hugs and high-fives. At one point during the race the runners passed a man holding a sign that said, "You don't look a day over 29." Toor's retort? "Honey, this is what 40—or 48, or 57, or 81—looks, acts, and feels like."

Eighty-one was, in fact, the age of the oldest entrant, ultramarathoning legend Helen Klein of Rancho Cardova, CA, who finished her second marathon in two weeks in 4:49:52. Not bad for a woman who took up running at 55. Klein, a retired nurse, embodies the spirit of the more philosophy, not only participating in sports and life at the highest level, but also giving back to the running community. Along with her husband, Norm, Klein has directed the prestigious Western States 100 and continues to support many other trail races in her home state.

Marie Murphy, a 44-year-old teacher from Sherman Oaks, CA, was the first marathoner to cross the finish line, in 3:04:03, six minutes ahead of Roxie Erikson, also a teacher, from Omaha, NE. Minutes after her victory a jubilant Murphy called to give the good news to her mother in Ireland. In addition to teaching and coaching high school girls' track, Murphy, a 1988 Irish Olympian, is actively involved in raising money and awareness for breast cancer research.

Leading by example was 42-year-old more Publisher Carol Campbell, who ran the half marathon with her 30-year-old teammate Katherine Emanuel in 2:12:15. Though it was her first road race, it likely will not be her last. Campbell has continued training since the race and is considering signing up for the full marathon next year. "We are committed to the race," said Campbell in a post-race interview, "and hope that we can expand to other cities in the future."

Results

Women

Half Marathon

- 1 Catherine Casey (NY) 1:21:51
- 2 Heather May (IN) 1:21:57
- 3 Eleanor Williamson (NY) 1:26:13
- 4 Sue Pierson (WI) 1:26:48
- 5 Stephanie Hodge (NY) 1:27:32
- 6 Yukiko Nishide (NY) 1:27:49
- 7 Lauren Wallack Antonucci (NY) 1:28:22
- 8 Diane Kenna (NY) 1:29:27
- 9 Yayoi Shimada (NY) 1:32:24
- 10 Erica Srebrenick (NY) 1:32:30
- 40 to 49—1. Sue Pierson, 1:26:48; 2. Yukiko Nishide, 1:27:49; 3. Marie Wickham, 1:32:58; 50 to 59—Grace Harrison, 1:37:44; 60 to 69—Laurie Baker, 1:57:48; 70 to 79—Harriet Locke, 2:13:27; 80+—Virginia Forshee, 4:04:14

Marathon

- 1 Marie Murphy (CA) 3:04:03

2 Roxi Erikson (NE) 3:10:18
3 Beth Moras (NJ) 3:11:15
4 Monica Lukas (OH) 3:12:47
5 Susan Skidmore (NY) 3:15:38
6 Yumi Ogita (NY) 3:16:27
7 Patrice Kentner (NY) 3:21:55
8 Corinna Cortes (NY) 3:24:44
9 Susan Gold (CT) 3:25:12
10 Denise Dipangrazio (PA) 3:28:41
40 to 49—1. Marie Murphy, 3:04:03; 2. Roxi Erikson, 3:10:18; 3. Beth Moras, 3:11:15; 50 to 59—Nancy Trammell, 3:36:58; 60 to 69—Helma Clavin, 4:28:24; 70 to 79—Bertha McGruder, 5:47:29; 80+—Helen Klein, 4:49:52

Copyright © 2009 [Running Times Magazine](#) - All Rights Reserved.