

HIT THE BRICKS

Hit The Bricks winner Clint Bell had a big lead after covering a little more than 1 mile and a half of the 5K run. Some of his closest pursuers were coming down the last hill on the brick-covered Camp Bowie Blvd. before going downhill to Farrington Field, off Lancaster. It was futile trying to catch Bell, who won in 15:24, but runners still were racing and jockeying for age-division award positions. Once inside Farrington Field, runners circled the outside of the stands before coming onto the track and then making almost a full circle to the finish line.

It's more fun downhill!

By Charles Clines

FORT WORTH -- Any road race that has more downhills than up has to be high on everyone's favorite events. So, how about those bricks? The Campbell family of Ridglea Hills -- Sean, Pamela and Erin -- say the point-to-point downhill Hit The Bricks 5K is indeed No. 1 on their race list.

"I love this race," Pamela said after the April 1 race that includes the brick-paved Camp Bowie Blvd. before turning onto Lancaster Ave., and then to the finish on the track inside Farrington Field.



"There aren't a lot of turns, it's straight downhill and I think it's fun to finish inside the stadium."



It also is where she beat 27 minutes for the only time when she ran a 26:50 three years ago as she and Erin picked up age-division trophies. Pamela, now 49, was third and Erin, now 10, placed second.

"I've been running for 25 years," Pamela said. Husband Sean said he is more or less a newcomer to road racing, and this was his second Hit The Bricks. He especially likes the aesthetics of the course when it's on the red-brick Camp Bowie.

Shaun Gerner of Hurst and Joe Corricelli like the downhill challenge, too, though Shaun said course knowledge might have helped him near the finish.

“It was my first time to run it. I was aware of the hills on the first mile because we saw them from the bus,” he said of being shuttled from Farrington Field to the start. “However, I wasn’t ready for the inclines when we got inside the stadium and ran around (the outside of the stands),” he said. The course is pretty fast. I ran it in 25 minutes, which is my fastest 5K.”



Joey, of Saginaw, had run the race before, so he knew the course.

“I know where the hills are,” he said. “I’ve had my best time here (a 25:32), but I was two minutes slower today because I haven’t been running much. This is my third race of the season.”

Although the temperature was a little warm, nearing 70, an overcast day helped prevent excessive heat. Besides it was kinda cool going downhill. And men’s winner Clint Bell breezed to victory in 15:24 and Cindy Dietrich won the women’s title in 17:24.