

Winner of the contest is David Martin; he chose the Big D Marathon

The most difficult part of this contest was choosing a winner with a random drawing. I wanted everyone to win. However, only one could win, and so I closed my eyes and picked a name, and that was David Martin. Congratulations David and thanks for everyone who submitted their reports. David said he is training for Boston and used the Big D Marathon today (April 5) as a long-distance training run.

The contest was open to anyone who submitted a report about their most memorable marathon experience. By winning in the drawing, David received an entry into the Big D Marathon.

Those who submitted entries were Jose Lopez, David Martin, Gary Stevenson, Kim Andres, Dianna Sulser, Rachel Harp, Thomas "T.O." Okazaki, Fiona Green, and Bill Berenson, You can read about their experiences by clicking their name or going here.

Also, if anyone would like to submit a marathon-experience report, please send it in. There might or might not be another prize among the ones who submit the reports, including the previous reports. Robert Z. Cunningham has submitted one and his, as the others, is interesting reading.

Shuffling to the finish to help prepare for Boston

By David Martin

The eve before the Big D Marathon, I was checking out the weather, thinking maybe this was not a good idea to do marathon since I am doing Boston in two week . The forecast said sunny with high in the 70s.

Well Sunday, I got up and did my usual routine and head toward the Cotton Bowl in Fair Park. When I got close, traffic was backed up for miles, but somehow I managed to squeeze in line and get in to park.

I put on my sunglasses and turned on my I-Pod and headed toward the starting line. It was still a little cool and cloudy at the start of the race. I was using this race as a long training run to get ready for Boston.

The gun sounded and 3000-plus runners (including the half marathoners) and I were off and running. I started in the middle of the pack so I would not take off too fast. I was cruising at 8-minute pace, feeling pretty good when a short woman almost got run over by tall runner.

When we got to White Rock Lake, the half marathoners split off and marathoners went straight and that was when it started to thin out. I hit the halfway mark at 1:47, still waiting on the sun to come out.

By the 20-mile mark, I was getting a flashback of Cowtown and how lonely it was getting. I had to keep telling myself this is a training run and don't push it. My goal was to run 23 miles and walk the rest of the way. I hit the 23-mile mark and started walking. I made it about 400 yards, thinking to myself this is taking too long, so I put it slow mode and started to shuffle toward the finish line. At the 24-mile mark, I got my biggest cheer from a bunch of bikers.

Out came the sun in time to warm me for the finish. I ended up finishing in 4:05 and received a nice hat and medal. The weather was perfect and the race was well organized. I'll see you again next year.