

Cowtown winner Pierce shows his speed in Denton

By Fiona Green

Whenever you see Keith Pierce at the start of a race the first question isn't whether he is going to win but by how much he will win. The second question is whether he will be so far out in front that the rest of the pack will be left wondering where the pace vehicle went....

Despite being a very gifted runner, Keith, a Krum track/cross country coach, remains very modest about his achievements. His incredible time of 15.05 at the Run To The House 5K in Denton on Saturday (March 21) was only a few seconds off his 5K PR and allowed him to finish almost a minute ahead of runner-up Mark Ross. Male Masters winner was 47-year-old Mark Olateju of Garland in 19:39. On the women's side Fiona Green of Keller (this writer) was first overall female, finishing just seconds ahead of 14-year-old Felice Johnson. A "new" area runner, registered under the name Sparkle Plenty, won Masters. Sparkle bore a startling resemblance to Sheila Natho of Dallas, who is currently recovering from a skiing injury.

The inaugural race organized by the Greater Denton Sports Commission benefited the commission's scholarship fund. For a first-time event, it appeared to be very well organized with the 400-plus runners enjoying a slightly hilly, scenic course which looped through one of Denton's new residential areas. Thanks to a 10 a.m. race start, participants were able to celebrate their effort with a refreshing beer without the guilt that occasionally accompanies early morning post-race drinking. Other activities included an untimed 1-mile walk for children.