



Keith Pierce of Krum passes a couple of half-marathon participants as he heads to the finish line to win the Cowtown Marathon in 2:30:23.2. The former Rice runner was about 12 minutes in front of runner-up Mark Miller, who finished in 2:42:37.

Local flavor at Cowtown

Cowtown's philosophy regarding its marathon has been to cater to the good, local runners. Cowtown doesn't offer prize money in an effort to lure elite runners.

That hometown philosophy paid off a windy, humid and relatively warm Saturday (Feb. 24) as Keith Pierce, a Krum High School coach and former Rice runner, ran away from the field to win the men's title in 2:30:23.2. Mark Miller of Carrollton was second with a 2:42:37. Much decorated ultramarathoner Siri Terjesen, a soon-to-be Fort Worth resident, won the women's title in 3:05:29, and runner-up was Holley Sweeny of Fort Worth, 3:14:23. (Read more about Siri on Side Trips)

Following Pierce were several area runners, including runner-up Mark Miller, a former Boyd resident and locals Gary Anderson, Todd Reynolds, David Corley and Robert Rose.

Anderson, 45, won his second consecutive men's masters title with a 2:53:20. Then an outsider, Richard Mendoza of San Antonio, finished fifth while James Mutrie of Dallas and David Corley of Fort Worth came in sixth and seventh at 2:57:41 and 2:57:49, respectively. Rose, a prominent runner in the area for several years before moving out of state, moved back to Fort Worth in the summer and ran a 2:59:04.

Miller, who has won several local events in the past several years, said about the only time he had Pierce in his view was at the start. "I never saw him again," he said.

Miller's time was only about a minute slower than his best time, but the results were different. His 2:41 at White Rock in 2005 was good for only 26th place rather than second. "That's the difference in offering prize money and not," he said. White Rock offers cash prizes to lure elite runners. Cowtown awards the men and women winners airfare, lodging and some spending money at either Boston or New York. Everyone else gets a medal and pat on the back.

Cowtown also has a half marathon, 10K, marathon relay, and adult 5K and student 5K. The local flavor was evident in those events, too, as Coby Bullard of Keller won the men's 10K for the second consecutive year in 33:26, and Megan Nedlo of Fort Worth repeated as the women's champion with a 39:19. In the half marathon, Lori Stitch Zimmerman of Cedar Creek won the women's title in 1:22:05 while Todd Blanchard of Dallas breezed to the men's race in 1:14:54. Lori Stitch won the Cowtown Marathon women's title in 1995, 1998 and 1999. Her best time was 2:56:39 in '99. In the 5K, former TCU runner Kip Kangogo of Fort Worth won in 14:50.4 while Betty Hernandez of Bowie won the women's title in 19:12.

Other laps: It had all the makings of a great day for three-time **Cowtown Marathon** winner **Ricky Cox**. He was going to run the marathon with his 21-year-old son **Demery** and try to guide him to a sub-3-hour effort. However, Ricky failed to finish while Demery went on to post a respectable 3:19:01 clocking in his marathon debut. **Robert Rose**, the eighth place finisher said he saw Ricky about mile 13 and "he was almost walking." Ricky already had told another runner that he wasn't feeling too good after seven miles. Don't know when he dropped out, but it had to be a disheartening moment for Ricky.... Women's marathon winner **Siri Terjesen** told quite a story after her victory. She had been diagnosed with cervical cancer 41 days ago. And she ran the marathon just 21 days after surgery. She was feeling very fortunate, she said, because the cancer was caught in the early stages. She also had quite a trip to Cowtown. She left Brisbane, Australia at 3:30 a.m. Friday (Thursday night here), flew to Sydney, then a 12-hour flight to San Francisco and finally to DFW. After about 30 hours, she arrived in Fort Worth about 13 hours before the marathon. Other stuff she didn't tell included that she had been diagnosed with scoliosis (curvature of the spine) when she was seven and wore a full brace for nine years. When it became evident that wasn't working, she underwent surgery and had two steel rods implanted from the top of her neck to her tailbone. Despite that, Siri has gone on to run more than 85 marathons and ultras and was named the British Ultrarunner in 2003 even though she is an American (she was born in Akron, Ohio). Some of her achievements include being a USA team member at the IAU 100-kilometer World Championships, winning the Australian 50K championship and winning more than 30 titles in marathons and ultras in Spain, Belgium, Australia, the UK and the U.S. She'll be teaching at the TCU Neely School of Business starting in August.... Women's 10K winner **Meagan Nedlo** and **James Newsom**, winner of several area races, are scheduled to be married on April 21 after running Seven Mile Bridge Run in the Florida Keys. Any children should inherit some speedy genes... **Doug Jones** of Dallas, who won the 10K in

2003, won the 10K masters title with a 36:27, only 32 seconds slower than his 35:55 winning time in '03....I had to look again when I saw **Bill Ramsey** listed at 99 years old and finishing the 5K in 30:42.2 at Cowtown. That would have to be some kind of record. However, the timing company had placed him at that age because he had not included his age on the registration form. It was their way of having him separated until placing him in the no-age category. But he was overlooked when the results were posted, so, no he's not 99....Oops, earlier I had **Brad Gardner** winning the 5K men's masters title. That honor went to **Jay Kizer** of Fort Worth.

It Was a Super Half Marathon



These super costumes helped give Amy Patterson, Whitney Ellis and Jennifer Barter enough strength to finish the Cowtown Half Marathon.

about?

``Well, after we sent skiing, we were drinking some beer and reading Runner's World and it said among the top 10 things all runners should do is to wear a costume. So, we're like ``Cowtown, we're doing it," Whitney said.

They also agreed the super costumes helped them finish the half because of the people cheering for them along the way.

The three super women who ran Cowtown's Half Marathon on Saturday (Feb. 24) admitted there might have been a few beers involved before agreeing to wear costumes for the 13.1-mile race.

The super women were Amy Patterson of Fort Worth, Whitney Ellis of Fort Worth and Jennifer Barter of Colorado.

So, how did the idea of donning the Batwoman, Super Girl and Wonder Woman costumes come