

## *Dadfest was fun day*



*One of the several waves of children 5 and younger, who ran the 50-yard dash as part of the Dadfest, June 17, in Frisco.*

FRISCO -- Overcast skies, cooler temperatures (mid to high 70s) Olympic gold medal gymnast Mary Lou Retton and high humidity greeted the participants at the Dadfest, June 17, at the Pizza Hut Park in Frisco.

Retton, who won her medal in 1984, was the 5K official starter. After the race, Retton, 38, talked to the crowd and signed autographs. Corey Kellam, a cross-country runner at UT-Tyler, won the men's 5K in 16:38, beating Michael Richards of Plano by six seconds. Dawn Charlier won the women's division in 19:09, beating Riva Rahl of Dallas by 10 seconds. Rahl is a past champion at the White Rock and Cowtown marathons.



Besides the 5K, the morning kicked off with a kids' 50-yard dash. Several waves of the children, 5 and younger, participated, though a few of the younger ones had to be coaxed. After the 5K and Retton's talk, the annual Diaper Dash was conducted on stage with toddlers having to crawl from mother to dad on a square blanket. Most made it, though sometimes a pacifier had to be used as a lure. Dad just wasn't enough.

Other activities for children included project tables at the Home Depot area (though it appeared the parents were doing most of the work),

football toss, basketball toss, soccer kicking, arm tattooing (not permanent), and balloon sculpting.

Race founder and director Lewis George said the event, which moved this year to the Pizza Hut Park, was one of the more successful. Most runners had favorable comments about the mostly flat out-and-back course, though a headwind after the turnaround made it a more difficult return to the finish.

## *Dadfest gallery*



Toddlers needed to go to their dad to complete the Diaper Dash ``race'' at the Dadfest, June 17, in Frisco. The Dash was conducted after the kids' 50-yard and Dad's Day 5K races.



Oops, tumbling at the start.



Sometimes the toddlers had to ask for directions to find dad.



Spectators offered encouragement.



Mr. and Mrs. Seuss, no doubt.



Sometimes 50 yards can seem like a long way.



Latching onto help in the 50-yard dash.





Some of the activities included Home Depot projects, throwing footballs, and throwing basketballs and kicking soccer balls at the Tiger Land play area. Youngsters also could get temporary tattoos and receive sculpted balloons.

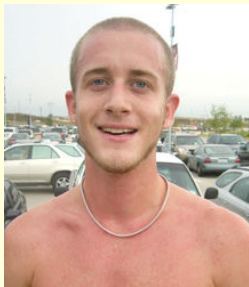
Dadfest had Mary Lou Retton as the official starter, and many activities were available for the youngsters at the Pizza Hut Park in Frisco.



Runners line up for the Dad's Day 5K, June 17, at Pizza Hut Park in Frisco.



Mary Lou Retton, center, was the official starter for the Dad's Day 5K, June 17, at Pizza Hut Park in Frisco. Retton, who won the all-around gymnastics gold medal in the 1984 Olympics, also gave a talk and signed autographs. Retton became the first American woman to win the all-around gold medal. She also won five medals that year, the most of any athlete.



Corey Kellam, a 20-year-old sophomore at UT-Tyler won the Dad's Day 5K, June 17, with a 16:38 on the overcast, cool (mid 70s), but humid morning.



Some of the other finishers in the Dad's Day 5K. A few definitely seemed ready for the 3.1-mile race to end. Is fun run an oxymoron?



Mary Lou Retton speaks to the Dadfest crowd.