

RunBiTRi Series 2007 Offers A Tundra

By Fiona Green

We all know that running and racing bring many rewards – better health, a sense of accomplishment and the camaraderie of like-minded people. Some races even offer tangible rewards for the top runners -- money, a watch, shoes, hockey tickets.

This year, Big Kahuna Race Productions, in association with Toyota, is offering a very interesting prize for their RunBiTri race series -- a Toyota Tundra.

Every month, the company organizes three events -- a 5K run, a bikeathlon (duathlon) and a triathlon. After each event, points are awarded to the top seven finishers. These points are tallied, and at the end of the year, the 10 highest point earners have a chance to win a Toyota Tundra by picking a lucky key.

While a higher number of points is awarded for the multisport events, top runners also have a chance at winning depending, of course, on who else shows up. Two runners who have an eye on the prize are Ryan Cooper and Amy Anderson, winners of the run event in Keller on April 1. Ryan, 25, whose 17:31 time was a PR, ran track in high school, specializing in the 400 meters. An accomplished triathlete, who last year trained for and completed an Ironman, Ryan decided this year to work on two specific areas -- increasing his speed and having more fun. When asked for his most memorable race moments, he listed completing the Ironman and running last year's White Rock Half Marathon with four other runners dressed as Elvis.

Ryan also enjoys sailing and has recently competed in some adventure races.

Amy Anderson, 30, is no newcomer to running. She ran her first fun run at the age of 7, started racing competitively at age 12 and later ran in college, specializing in the 3000 meters. In those days, her PR for the 5K was 17:46. While she didn't run that time on Sunday, she has been training hard recently and has seen her times start to drop.

Her most memorable racing moment was placing second in the 1996 NCAA Division I Cross Country Southland Conference meet. Amy clearly enjoys multi-tasking and living life to the fullest, balancing a successful career, working out, competing and raising her soon-to-be 5-year-old as a single mom.

Both Ryan and Amy enjoy having a monthly race goal and believe the possibility of winning a big prize is an added incentive not to miss any of the events.

Further information on the race series can be found on the RunBiTri website at www.runbitri.com.