

Crowd's cheers helped Murphy women take Komen North Texas Race for the Cure title

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By DEBBIE FETTERMAN / Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

PLANO – Robin Ritchey of Murphy credited cheers of encouragement with helping her capture the breast cancer survivor title at Saturday's 20th Komen North Texas Race for the Cure.

"I didn't know if I could keep running," said Ritchey, 43, who usually takes walk breaks when she runs. "Everyone helped me along the way. There's so much support for survivors."

Ritchey was among more than 11,000 runners and walkers, including approximately 800 survivors, participating in the Komen for the Cure events, which raise money for and awareness about breast cancer.

A thick cloud cover, brisk winds and high humidity created challenging conditions and resulted in slow times for those running the flat five-kilometer course.

Ritchey needed 29 minutes, 20 seconds to finish. Her time was slower than last year, but she was excited to capture the survivor title.

Last year, Ritchey was undergoing radiation treatment and finished behind Dr. Elizabeth Jekot, who won her sixth consecutive title. This year, Jekot came out to support the cause. She had hip replacement surgery late last month and didn't run.

"It's awesome," Ritchey said. "I ran this race for Dr. Jekot. She diagnosed me. She gave me a chance to live."

Men's champion repeats: Chris Strait of McKinney finished his spring racing season by repeating as the overall men's 5K champion. He finished in 17:04, which was one second faster than last year.

Strait was challenged by 15-year-old Hebron cross country standout Robert Domanic, who finished in 17:08. Domanic took off hard and built an early lead but slowed during the second mile.

Strait caught up to Domanic and ran with him until there was less than a half mile to go. Then, Strait surged and hung on for the title.

Strait said he runs the Komen events in memory of his grandmother, who died of breast cancer when he was 7.

Prosper's Shea claims women's title: Laurie Shea of Prosper, a relative newcomer to road racing, is quickly making a name for herself. She won the women's title in 18:44 and placed sixth overall in the timed 5K. Her nearest women's competitor was soccer standout Krista Steinbeiser, 16, of Allen. Steinbeiser finished in 19:23, placing eighth overall.

Briefly: Honorary race chair Cristina Barbosa-Young, wife of Rangers third baseman Michael Young, fired the gun to start the competitive 5K. "I wanted to get involved as a mother, as a daughter, as a sister and as a friend," said Young, who donated \$10,000 to the cause and put together a team of more than 30 participants. She "walked briskly," pulling her 4-year-old in a wagon. ... Peggy Plaisted of Dallas, 54, placed second among survivors in 29:43. It was her first North Texas Komen race. She's entered the Dallas Race for the Cure eight times.

NTX KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE

(At Plano)

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

SURVIVOR RESULTS

1. Robin Ritchey, 29:20
2. Peggy Plaisted, 29:43

3. Lynn Ford, 29:58

MASTERS WINNER

1. Pamela Nix, 29:47

SENIOR WINNER

1. Eva Clift, 32:53

MEN'S OVERALL

1. Chris Strait, 17:04

MASTERS WINNER

1. Charles Lee, 19:55

SENIORS WINNER

1. Tony Colon, 20:12

AGE GROUP WINNERS

14-under—1. Aaron Mead, 20:53

15-19—1. Robert Domanic, 17:08

20-24—1. Ken Mizuno, 18:54

25-29—1. Josh Allen, 17:42

30-34—1. Shawn McCawley, 19:57

35-39—1. Evan Parsons, 17:43

40-44—1. Davin Lattin, 20:43

45-49—1. Mark Artigues, 20:50

50-54—1. Randi Gaddy, 25:48

55-59—1. Don Kyle, 22:04

60-64—1. Doug Carfrae, 24:07

65-69—1. Wally Capps, 22:53

70-over—1. Gabe Abene, 30:54

WOMEN'S OVERALL

1. Laurie Shea, 18:44

MASTERS WINNER

1. Tami Darlington, 21:32

SENIORS WINNER

1. Latralle Thompson, 26:35

AGE GROUP WINNERS

14-under—1. Emma Blair, 22:09

15-19—1. Krista Steinbeiser, 19:23

20-24—1. Allison Daus, 21:49

25-29—1. Natalie Merrill, 20:13

30-34—1. Alison Cross, 20:47

35-39—1. Roxana Wroblewski, 19:39

40-44—1. Tamara Linkfield, 22:51

45-49—1. Sherri Stallings, 22:41

50-54—1. Randi Gaddy, 25:48

55-59—1. Lori Eckert, 29:57

60-64—1. Ann Bennett, 36:00

65-69—1. Susan Fortin, 36:03

70-over—1. Bettye Haynes, 39:52