

Texas Marathon
Kingwood, TX
Sunday, January 1, 2012
8:00 AM

Kamiar Kouzekanani

Texas Marathon is the brainchild of Steve & Paula Boone, the founders of the 50 States Marathon Club. The two of them have run more than 800 marathons. 2012 Houston Marathon would be Steve's marathon #500! The 13th edition of Texas Marathon showed that they certainly know how to organize a marathon run. If you decide to run it, sign up early as it sells out quickly.

Packet pick-up was on Saturday afternoon/evening. Each runner received a long-sleeved cotton T-shirt, a duffle bag, & a laptop computer bag.

Race day temperature ranged from low 60s to high 70s. It was sunny. Wind was not a factor. The marathon started at 8:00 am; the half marathon at 8:15 am. We ran the same flat 6.55-mile out-&-back route, which included a loop, on concrete greenbelt trails 4 times (half marathoners ran it twice). Although it was scenic, running the same route 4 times can be monotonous. There were water/sports drink stations at approximately every 1.5 miles. There were snack items at the end of each leg of the run. As expected, there was no crowd support, but race volunteers were cheerful & due to out-&-back nature of the course, runners were cheering each other.

Each finisher received a nice multi-colored & heavy (weighing nearly 3 pounds) medal & a pink pig! There were plenty of recovery food items & drinks in a picnic-type atmosphere.

There were 221 (131 male, 90 female) marathon finishers in the average time of 5:07:11. The winning times were 3:10:59 (overall male) & 3:13:23 (overall female). There were 345 half marathon finishers, & the winning times were 1:18:43 (overall male) & 1:34:50 (overall female).

This was my 7th marathon in 12 weeks & it turned out to be a humbling experience. I ran the first leg in 1:03:09 (9:38 pace) & the 2nd leg in 1:08:47 (10:30 pace). I ran out of fuel by the time I began the third leg (the second half of the marathon). My knees & back of the neck were hurting. I ran/jogged the 3rd leg in 1:21:24 (12:25 pace) & "barely" managed to walk/jog the 4th leg in 2:06:00 (19:14 pace). My finish time was 5:39:45 (12:57 pace) – a personal worst! I was glad that I crossed the finish line, though, & recorded Texas Marathon as my marathon #89!

