

Air Force Marathon
Saturday, September 15, 2012
Dayton, Ohio

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Dayton, the birthplace of aviation, is the 6th largest city in Ohio. The first Air Force Marathon was held on 9.20.1997, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force & since then it has been held on the 3rd Saturday in September. Each year one aircraft is featured & this year's was the B-2 Spirit stealth bomber which was displayed on all official marathon gear. The flyover by one at the start of the marathon was eye-catching indeed.

I flew into Dayton on Thursday & checked into a motel close to the airport. I then went to Wright State University's Nutter Center for the packet pickup, which was very efficient. Each runner received a nice short-sleeved technical shirt, a runner's cap, & a few other goodies. The Sports & Fitness Expo was quite good too. On Friday, there was a Breakfast of Champions at Holiday Inn in Fairborn & Gourmet Pasta Dinner at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

Race morning temperature ranged from high 40s to low 70s. It was sunny & wind was not a factor. The start & finish lines were at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. There were 3 entrances into the two parking lots; be prepared for a long walk to start/finish area. Marathon & 10K started at 7:30 AM; half marathon at 8:30 AM. The scenic course was within the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. There were a couple of hilly sections around miles 1 & 21. There were sufficient water/sports drinks stations, sports gels, food items, & wet sponges throughout the course, as well as musicians who entertained us. There were pace teams. Splits were displayed digitally. Finisher's medal was really nice. There were plenty of recovery food items & drinks (beer too!) at the finish area. In short, it was a first class running event & I liked it a lot.

There were 3298 (2233 males, 1065 females) finishers in the average time of 4:46:14. The winning times were 2:28:58 (overall male), 2:37:45 (masters male), 3:01:09 (overall female), & 3:17:07 (masters female). There were 5449 (2991 females, 2458 males) half marathon finishers. There were 1233 (711 females, 522 males) 10K finishers. There were 1443 (813 females, 612 males) 5K finishers.

I ran the first half in 2:04:06 (9:28 pace), finished in 4:17:06 (9:48 pace), didn't walk any, & felt comfortable throughout the run. This was my 95th marathon & I ran it in memory of Jim Kee, my friend & fellow marathoner, who had died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest on 9.4.2012. This one was for Jim.

