

Pikes Peak Bulletin – August 25, 2011

Still king of the hill

Carpenter captures 12th Pikes Peak Marathon victory, two other Manitou runners finish in top 10

By and photos Larry Ferguson

The Pikes Peak Marathon is looking more and more like a competition among hometown runners.

Paced by Matt Carpenter, who captured his 12th marathon title and his sixth consecutive win, Manitou Springs runners claimed three top-10 finishes in last week's 26.2-mile race to the 14,110-foot summit of Pikes Peak and back.

Earning second-place honors for the third straight year was Manitou's Daryn Parker while another local runner, Brndon Stapanowich, finished seventh. More than 500 runners were entered in the men's competition.

"It's really cool that we had three runners in the top 10," Carpenter said after his first-place finish in a time of 3 hours, 48 minutes and 8 seconds. "It's always a tough race when you bring in this many top runners from throughout the nation."

He went on to say that while this year's event posed no special problems for him, he hadn't spent as much time preparing for it because he was spending more time with his family.

Carpenter's win Sunday brings his total Pikes Peak victories to 18, including six Ascent titles. He also has two "double" victories winning both the Ascent and Marathon in 2001 and 2007.

The winner of the women's competition was Joanna Masloski, 33, of Highlands Ranch, a first-time competitor on Pikes Peak who turned in a time of 5:09.38.

"It was fantastic," she said. "There are a lot of amazing people both running and volunteering. And the weather was great."

For Carpenter, 47, the 3:48.08 clocking was about 10 minutes slower than his first victory in 1988 when he was 24 and considerably slower than his record time of 3:16:39 set in 1993 at age 29.

But it was about 13 minutes faster than his closest competitor Sunday.

"I wanted to challenge Matt but today wasn't the day," said Parker, 30, who crossed the finish line in 4:01.46. "I thought I started well but something went wrong. I was in a lot of pain. On the way down I experienced cramps and I took a fall.

"But while it was definitely a 'suffer-fest' for me, just getting through it was almost as good as winning."



Above, Manitou Springs' Matt Carpenter heads down Ruxton Avenue near the finish line enroute to his 12th Pikes Peak Marathon victory last Sunday. Carpenter, 47, has won first-place honors for six consecutive years.

Last year, Parker came close to dethroning Carpenter but was about a minute and a half behind.

Coming in third in the men's competition Sunday was Bernie Boettcher, 48, of Silt, Colo., with a time of 4:23:07, followed by Samuel Malmberg of/Eaton at 4:23:40, William Dillon of Colorado Springs at 4:29:56, and Corey Dobson of Aurora at 4:33:44.

Stapanowich took seventh place with a time of 4:36:31.

Masloski's winning time in the women's competition was more than a half-hour slower than that posted last year by Keri Nelson of Moab, Utah, who did not compete Sunday. In second place was Maria Petzold, 29, of Eldorado Springs at 5:12:07 while third place went to Andrea Williams, 30, also of Eldorado Springs, with a 5:21:10. The women's marathon featured 187 competitors.

The oldest male runner to race to the summit and back was Robert Bell, 75, of Germantown, Ohio, with a time

of 9:27:38. The oldest female runner was Donna Messenger, 68, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, who covered the course in 8:51:13.

Saturday's Pikes Peak Ascent men's competition was won by Mario Macias, 29, of Alamosa with a time of

2:08:57, while Cynthia Arnold, 27, of Glenwood Springs won the women's race with a time of 2:48.21.

The elevation gain from the starting line in Manitou Springs to the summit of Pikes Peak is 7,815 feet.

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