



Halloween Hustle 5k Race Report

10/20/12

It is impossible to share all of the fun and interesting moments from the Halloween Hustle 5k, a fundraiser for St Jude, but here are just a few.

The idea of costumes and running was a neat twist and seemed to have brought out a younger crowd. We saw many runners disguised from the blind replacement ref, the runaway bride, Luigi, Super Girl, to toddlers and tiaras, Cavemen, Cougars, Bees....and then there was Nestor! He showed up in shorts and a dry fit shirt claiming that he didn't feel well and had somewhere else to be shortly after the race. Then as the race instructions were being conveyed....in the distance of the crowd of about 160 runners, I saw poking above all, the ugliest witch's NOSE I've ever seen. And now looking back at the amazing race photos captured by Frank Barrett it is obvious that The Witch was making her way to the front in an effort to get a fast start in the race. I said to myself "this has to be the winner of the Best Costume" and still had no idea who was behind the mask. The race was an out and back and it was really neat to be motivated by the signs and ghostly encouragements along the race route such as "Run Faster someone's chasing you" ... "BOO..." "Keep Ghouling"... "Creep on Running!!" And they even thought about a small, but funny (or not), idea of placing the Tombstones at the finish line. Not to mention the other runners dressed in various costumes. As I made the turn and headed back to the finish line, there she was!! Riding her broom, in her black dress and long black hair.....as I approached her the mask was being removed to reveal none other than, NESTOR RAUL ANZOLA.....saying "I can't breath under here....it's too hot!!" At that moment, for the first time in my running career, I realized I had passed and was running ahead of The Fastest Colombian from Colombia. He, or she, still managed to cross the finish line RIDING HER BROOM in under 25 minutes. And for the first time in 6 years, I set a new PR thanks in part to my new running shoes, Sir Isaac Newton's!!

So many other stories to share about this race, the cancer survivors that ran, a few who had even been prior patients at St Jude Children's Hospital, and numerous members of the Magee family who is who TEAM MAGEE will represent as they run in their honor on Dec 1 in Memphis. It was neat to also see a FEMALE win this race who was in town visiting family and

was from Knoxville, TN. Many merchants in town donated amazing gifts, Runner's High, Soccer Locker, and Robert's Company....and many others. The location at Epley was very adequate for a run and a little different portion on the Longleaf Trace than most of the 5k events in this area. And the way the team came together and the hard work that was done to make this event so well organized and fun. Race start was 8am, with 158 runners, and a fun run to follow. Even with numerous door prizes, and awards, participants were in there cars leaving the event before 10am and I was running back to Clyde Depot where I had parked that morning. Dee Shows and Christy Turner did an amazing job organizing the event and had many volunteers and helpers, Robert Shows, Anna Grace Shows, Lanan McNelly, Connie Sims, Michelle Hartfield, Jane Stansell, Wendy Pipkins, Bayleigh Pipkins, Brantley Pipkins, Rhonda Styron, Shelley Gendusa, Patricia Brownlee, Frank Slow Poke Barrett, and Runnelstown Beta: Jeanette Goodin (Sponsor), Shelby Shows, Christopher Brownlee, Madison Shoemake, Ashley Styron, and Ally Stansell. In my opinion, the MVP award, at least for this race, goes to Christy Turner. Her experience and connections with resources brought everyone and everything together at the right time to make this FIRST Halloween Hustle a huge success. I didn't hear any complaints or negative comments made and best of all, over \$2300 was raised for Team Magee who will run the half marathon Dec 1 and donate all monies raced to St Jude Children's Hospital.

~ Andy Maxwell

