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AMANN, BITTICK WIN 8th ANNUAL HUNTSVILLE 10 THREE RACES REMAIN IN 2020-2021 TEXAS 10 SERIES SEASON

HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS (March 29, 2021) – To say that today’s hilly eighth annual Huntsville 10 course is a favorite of Conroe’s **Mark Amann** might be an understatement. Most of the remainder of the field, meanwhile, may still be mumbling under their breath at the “Toughest 10-Miler in Texas”.

The 31-year-old Amann recorded his fourth career Texas 10 Series victory – and second straight at Huntsville – with a winning time of 56:35 on the double-loop course.

Amann’s win comes almost two years to the day of the last running of the Huntsville 10 on March 31, 2019.

The 2020 edition was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, Amann and men’s runner-up **Dr. Dustin Joubert** both wore the orange-and-white of Sam Houston State University.

“As a Sam Houston State alum, I kind of consider this my home course,” Amann said. “It brought back a lot of memories being on these roads (this morning).”

Amann said he and Joubert, 35, were able to catch up before the race and out on the course, but Joubert was not able to get close enough to push Amann during the race.

“I saw him at the turnaround past mile one,” he said. “There was already some separation, so I did my own thing.”

And that included even pulling back a bit, he said.

“I tell myself to slow down actually,” Amann remarked. “Even if I am caught, I know I have enough to have a kick at the end.

“But I stayed in control and ran my own race.”

Joubert went 58:50 to beat his pre-race goal of under an hour while Pearland’s **Jeff Short**, 39, rounded out the men’s Huntsville 10 podium with a time of 1:02:01.

Former Texas A&M Aggie Amanda Jenkins, 31, remarked similarly about effort on a hilly course, even with Seabrook’s **Melissa Bittick** always a look over the shoulder away.

“I took it a little easier than I would on a flat course,” said the head girls cross country and track and field coach at Cypress-Fairbanks High School. “I stayed a little bit more reserved in the beginning and then it was just about your mental state on the last lap.”

While Jenkins crossed the line first, she said “a little bit of a sprint to the finish” allowed Bittick on “overall time” to “probably get me”.

Given the Series’ COVID-19 “Return To Run” racing protocols, even though Bittick lined up 20 seconds back, her chip time was the fastest of the morning and was declared post-race as the overall winner in 1:06:24.

It was Bittick’s first ever Texas 10 Series win.

Jenkins, who won Huntsville in 2017 and 2019, was second in 1:06:35, while Marquez's **Amber Burlison**, 36, completed the women's top three with a time of 1:08:28.

Keeping his hold on the 2020-2021 Texas 10 Series men's master's division was Tomball's **Steve Sievert**, 52, who posted nearly a three-minute advantage over Lufkin's **Armando Bocanegra**, to win his fourth straight masters title with a fourth-overall time of 1:02:52.

The Woodlands' **Darren Hadden**, 46, was 14 seconds behind Bocanegra to finish third.

Adding to her women's master's wins at College Station 10 and Bridgeland 10 at Conroe on Sunday was 56-year-old **Eugenia Carter** from Pasadena.

Carter was the sixth overall female with her master's winning time of 1:14:29.

A pair of Volte Endurance Training teammates – Houston's **Erika Sampson**, 47, and Conroe's **Mayra Caamano**, 43 – claimed the next two spots in second and third, respectively, in 1:16:00 and 1:17:14.

Spring's **Patrick Wills**, 50, captured the overall five-miler title in 29:54 – easily outdistancing runner-up **Miguel Varnado** of Palestine by more than two minutes.

It was just the fourth sub-30 minute time of the first four races of the 2020-2021 Texas 10 Series season.

Varnado crossed the finish line in 31 minutes even, defeating Conroe's **Roger King**, 39, by nearly a minute, who stopped the clock in 31:56.

Houston's **Guadalupe de Paz**, 32, was the first female across the finish line in 38:56, even though Spring's **Victoria Smith**, who started nearly 11 minutes after the starting gun went off, had a faster overall time of 38:47.

Franklin's **Sara Huggins**, 43, was third in 41:41.

It was de Paz's third women's five-mile win, including Katy in 2019 and College Station in 2020.

Conroe's **Michael Sparks**, 43, and Katy's **Isabella Castillo**, 13, were the Bearkats 5K winners in 19:24 and 22:54, respectively.

Sparks held off Kingwood's **Norman Marin-Astorga**, 47, by 11 seconds for the victory.

The final three races of the 2020-2021 Texas 10 Series come on three consecutive Sundays in April – Katy 10 on April 11, Sienna 10 on April 18 and Cypress 10 on April 25.

Sienna 10, which had been moved to the University of Houston campus in Sugar Land, was originally scheduled for Sunday, February 21, 2021 but was cancelled due to the winter weather event earlier that week.

Online registration for all future events, results from past events and details of the Armadillo and Stretch Lab Cup competitions is available at www.texas10series.com.



About Texas 10 Race Management, LLC

Founded in 2012 and located in The Woodlands, Texas 10 Race Management, LLC, combines the talents and expertise of some of the best event producers in the nation. Texas 10 Race Management, LLC continues to provide local running communities with a premier running event and series. Our mission is to promote the advancement of running while supporting the community with positive economic impact, healthy initiatives, and educational benefits.

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BRIDGELAND 10 Miler



COLLEGE STATION 10 Miler



CONROE 10 Miler



CYPRESS 10 Miler



HUNTSVILLE 10 Miler



KATY 10 Miler



SIENNA 10 Miler