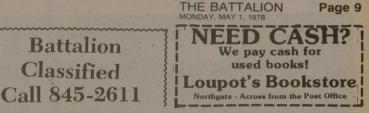
sports



# Aerobics teacher wins marathon

wer a thousand contestants jam-ming the streets of the campus. The over. Runners could run either a event, sponsored by the Health and Physical Education Department, began shortly after 7:30 a.m. when

Dr. Carl Landiss, head of the de-partment, fired the gun signaling in cardiac rehabilitation at Texas Murray, a

A&M. The 26-year-old from League runs 10 miles a day during the week search scientist in the oceanography The second annual Texas A&M The event had men's and wo-Marathon was run Saturday with men's competition in age groups around and through the A&M cam-City ran the course, which wound pus, in a time of 2:41:22.4.

quarter, a half or a full marathon, which was 26 miles and 385 yards. The winner of the marathon was Murray, an aerobics teacher who

and 20 miles on either Saturday or department at Texas A&M, also ran Sunday, said he just tries to concen- in the marathon but did not finish trate on running when he is compet-

ing. He described the race as "nice and scenic but a little windy." For Murray, it was his second win in a marathon and a happy one as it was his first race since he was hurt earlier in the year.

"David always beats his father," said

all of the fuss being made over him

in the event with the youngest being a six-year-old girl and one of the oldest being a 62-year-old man.

In all, 939 people finished the

Coming in second in the marathon was 49-year-old Al Becken from San Antonio. He was also the winner of the 49-54 age group. Becken, who runs with the San

Antonio Road Runners track club, came in some nine minutes behind There were also some strange sights

Murray with a time of 2:50:51. It was Becken's fifth marathon of the year and 37th of his career. He marathon in a mask and two others said although he usually runs in the who fought off the boredom of the 2:40s, he enjoyed the race and the long distance race by wearing head course. "It was a good course and phones one of the best monitored and race with 192 completing the full 26 marked courses I have ever run on,"

### he said.

Becken, a Civil Service employee at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, runs seven to eight miles a day. He credited his sons with getting him started in running. His sons ran track in high school and college and he said that got him interested.

"I have been at it six years," he said, "and, at my age, my problem

isn't endurance, it is speed." The first woman to cross the finish line in the marathon was also a member of the Road Runners. Maggie Rust, a 26-year-old radiology technologist, had her best time ever as she was clocked at 3:23:29.

She said she has been competing for a year and this was her fifth marathon. Rust also said she runs between 75 and 80 miles a week.

Drawing more attention than any of these people, however, was nine-year-old David Reyna. The youngster, running in his third marathon, had his best time as he Battalion staff photo crossed the finish line in 3:21:27. David's father, Eddie Reyna, a re-

Tinker Murray first to finish 26-mile marathon.

## A runner experiences marathon

#### By DOUG GRAHAM **Battalion Staff**

There is a lesson to be learned when you have been smoked by a 9-year-nylon color combinations of shoes and shorts, but I wore a rabbit's foot when a kinny little girl wearing glasses lows you into the weeds. You arn, when a host of people pass ou, that marathon running isn't for e proud.

It is not for those who subscribe the "Win" ethic, either.

It is for the competitively intro-verted who compete for love of sport, not the glory of defeating ri-sport, not the glory of defeating ri-That was the attitude I had to

ing the race, so no matter how unorthodox I looked, I wore what I ake. Since I had not trained for the ace, I had to depend on two princiwanted les: there's no alternative to finishing, and if you must do it, then

and full-marathon runners around enjoy doing it. That was it. There was no way I ould frown at and intimidate those dry 26 miles before me. I had to quarters of the marathon. I was a bit time. I crossed the pedestrian loke, laugh, and play with the dis-bloated from drinking that full quart oke, laugh, and play with the dis-

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tance I was covering until, at the end, I was finished. Most of the runners looked professional in odd most 15 miles. muscles were knotted in cramps, or most 15 miles. muscles were knotted in cramps, or whose ankles were so swollen they could feel it rise until I covered al-After the first 5 miles, everything

settled into place. Feet, knees, and heart and lungs started working together; I had found my pace. Meanwhile I made dumb wisecracks or withdrew into my head to play electric green running shoes com-forted my feet, and I was fortified tunes or think. with my patented orange juice and

It was peaceful, the continual running. On and on and on. The worst section was near the Swine Center because way off in the dis-tance you could see exactly how far you had to run. That was depress-

After returning from the leg out to the Swine Center, the crowd was time thinned out. Most of the half- and quarter-marathoners were finished, leaving the field to the rest.

me. We whooped at the gun, and I ran with a friend for the next three-mile mark, as I sought to better my

I finally hit the "Wall" at about 22

miles. It did not hit me suddenly, rather it was a realization that whereas, before I was feeling pretty good, and was capable of moving along, suddenly I had to grind it out and push myself. In short, I had run out of gas.

But I kept pushing. On and on, so slow it almost hurt, I kept going, up and over the overpass. I broke into a slow-motion sprint, probably finish-ing in the lower 50 percent of my class with a 4 hour and 3 minutes

I had lost.

But I sure remember thinking I had won as I walked from the finish line. I was like so many others, HAVE LUNCH ON US ... FREE!

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half-a-jar of honey breakfast.

I only wanted to finish.

Though the breakfast served to

Feeling good was the key to finish-

So did all of the quarter-, half-,

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and began to experience some of the loneliness of a long distance runner. I finally started overtaking people. They were the broken people, the walking, who were mentally defeated, or those whose

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walking like an arthritic old man. The next morning, still a little sore, I woke up with no ribbon for victory, or newspaper clippings to keep in a scrapbook. I had not won anything, but I think I won a bit of self-knoweledge about what it is

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