

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Runners compete Saturday in the Champs 10 kilometer run which benefits the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Best race speed 30 minutes in Champs benefit for MDA

By DAINAH BULLARD
Staff Writer

Two Texas A&M University students placed first in their divisions at the Champs 10 kilometer race to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association Saturday.

Arturo Barrios, a senior mechanical engineering student from Mexico City, was the overall winner in the men's division. Barrios, who was escorted across the finish line by bicycle rider Tim Stephens, placed first with a time of 30 minutes, 21 seconds.

Leslie Sandt, a senior exercise technology major from Midland, Michigan, was the overall winner in the women's division. Sandt won her division with a time of 40 minutes, 37 seconds.

Richard Dardenne, manager of Champs Sporting Goods, said about 185 people ranging in age from 12 to 62 years old participated in the race. The contestants were divided into 14 divisions based on age and sex, with first, second, and third place prizes awarded in each division, he said. The race began and ended at

the south end of Post Oak Mall, near the Sears Service Center. Three aid stations were set up along the race course, and officials "called splits," marking the one, three, and five kilometer points for runners who wanted to pace themselves, Dardenne said.

In addition to the aid stations, emergency medical technicians from Texas A&M and two College Station police officers were present, Dardenne said.

Sandt said the race course was well arranged, and contestants had no problems with traffic.

"It went real good, it's just the hills that kill you," Sandt said. "I just kept telling myself, 'it's the last one, it's the last one'."

One contestant decided not to run the entire race. Scott Schneider, a 27-year-old wheelchair athlete from Houston, did not complete the race because his wheelchair was not equipped to navigate hills.

"I went out there and did the first split," Schneider said. "But I

decided not to go on because I had sawed off my steering rods."

Schneider participated in the Wheelchair Olympics in June, winning a bronze medal in discus throwing, a silver medal in the 400 meter dash, and a gold medal in the 100 meter dash. During the Olympics, Schneider and the other American athletes had to remove their wheelchair steering rods because other competitors' wheelchairs were not equipped with the device, he said.

Schneider, a muscular dystrophy victim, said he was an able-bodied athlete for many years. At age 14, he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, and at age 21, he played his last tennis tournament.

About three years ago, Schneider said, he began playing wheelchair sports, including basketball, soccer and track and field games. Schneider participated in his first national meet last year. He also participates in MDA money-raising events, he said.

"I thought I would come out

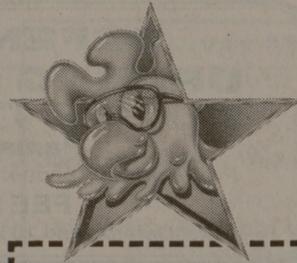
today and thank everyone for raising money for MDA," Schneider said.

About \$1,500 was raised through entry fees, Dardenne said. All proceeds will go to MDA, he said.

Rusty Higham, a health and physical education instructor at Texas A&M, served as race director, Dardenne said, and the Texas A&M cross-country team entered the race. However, Dardenne said he had hoped for more participation from A&M students.

"There were not nearly as many (students) as I expected," Dardenne said. "But I think the change in game time and the Corps march-in at 9:00 had a lot to do with that."

Saturday's race was the second race sponsored by Champs and Nike. The race will be an annual event, Dardenne said, and plans are already being made for next year's race.



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Offshore leases account for 95 percent of oil, gas

Onshore production down in Texas

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Oil and gas production from federal mineral leases offshore Texas and Louisiana accounted for over 95 percent of the \$21 million worth of oil and gas removed from government leases last year, a report shows.

The Interior Department's latest minerals revenue report shows oil production on federal leases was up off the Texas and Louisiana coasts, but gas production showed a slight decline last year.

But onshore production was a different story, particularly in Texas.

In Texas, only 2,793 barrels of oil worth \$87,752 were removed from federal leases compared to nearly 150,000 barrels the year before. Natural gas production also was down at

455,470 MCF worth \$2.8 million compared to \$4.4 million worth of natural gas the year before.

Total revenues — which are shared by the state and federal governments — were only \$76,328 compared to \$948,774 the previous year.

"The reason is in terms of onshore federal leases, the number in Texas is very small," said Bob Boldt, the government's associate director for royalty management. "I think there are only 18 or 19 producing federal leases."

"This probably means that if you look at both oil and gas, most weren't in production last year."

The picture onshore in Louisiana was much better as 2 million barrels of oil worth \$59.1 million were removed from federal leases in the state, along with 15.4 million MCF of

natural gas worth \$23.8 million and other minerals worth \$6.3 million. All in all, the production spurred \$11.3 million in revenues in the state, nearly \$2 million more than the previous year.

"Right now we have a worldwide slump in the price of oil and gas," Boldt said. "What that's causing, particularly in onshore production, is wells are being shut in if they are high-priced and involve deep, hard-to-find oil and gas."

But offshore, the picture is not quite so grim.

Offshore Louisiana, producers removed 290.8 million barrels of oil and 3 billion MCF of natural gas worth \$17.1 billion — producing revenues of \$2.6 billion.

Off the Texas coast, producers removed 19.7 million barrels of oil and

829 million MCF of natural gas with a total market value of \$3.1 billion. That produced revenues of \$502.5 million.

The rest of the nation's offshore federal lease production occurs off the California coast.

All of the offshore revenue goes into the federal treasury, Boldt said, although a portion involves so-called 8G tracts adjacent to the three-mile limit where the state and federal government are to "fair and equitably" share the revenues.

But the Texas and Louisiana 8G money is going into an escrow account pending resolution of lawsuits filed by the two states to increase their shares of the money.



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