
One down, two to go: Denmark-Virgin Islands Transfer Marathons

St. Thomas, March 5, 2017

On Sunday, fifty-four runners toed the line at Mandela Circle for the first Denmark/Virgin Islands Transfer Marathon that was offered as a contribution from a group of veteran Danish runners to the Centennial Anniversary of the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Danish to US rule.

Starting at 5:00 AM to enjoy the coolest race temperatures, three races were contested – the full marathon (42 kilometers or 26.2 miles), half-marathon (21 kilometers or 13.1 miles) and 10K (6.21 miles). Runners ranged in age from 6 to 69; the squad of 40 Danish runners was joined by 14 locals.

Danish runners dominated the full marathon with Torber Jensen taking the men's race in 3:41:50 and Anna Søndergaard Pedersen leading the women in 4:36:13. Locals led the half-marathon with *STAR* regular Steven Laplace emerging as top male in 1:58:37 and Buzing Geizer victorious among women in 2:08:07. Male and female St. Johnians owned the 10K. Matthew Crafts was overall winner in 40:36 while Mary Vargo's 44:45 was almost 10 minutes ahead of the next finisher.

In addition to these deserving winners, a few other individuals merit attention. At one extreme 69 year old Danish runner Mogens Søndergaard Nielsen held off a good field to finish second overall in the half-marathon while, at 6 years of age, Alyson Monsanto became one of youngest runners to have contested a 6.2 mile course in the Virgin Islands. Teenagers Kasim Upchurch and Lilliana Martinez ran well enough among the veterans to earn medals in the 10 K.

The next leg of the Denmark/Virgin Islands Transfer Marathon series will take place in Coral Bay, St. John on Thursday, March 9th. Registration remains open on St. John until 5:00 AM that morning, but runners requiring transportation from St. Thomas must register by noon on Wednesday. A special ferry with limited capacity will depart at 3:45 AM to take both visiting Danish runners and their St. Thomian counterparts to St. John. Start and Finish for the three events – marathon, half-marathon and 10K – will occur near the Fortsberg Bus Stop. The course will remain centered in flat lands of Coral Bay. As was the case for the St. Thomas edition, medals and plaques will be awarded five-deep to female and male victors and all participants will receive commemorative race t-shirts. For more information, one may contact Roy Watlington at 340 777-8183 or by email: rawatlington@earthlink.net.

The final and culminating day of this centennial event will be March 12th when the Danish visitors invite local runners to run with them over the same three distances. Start and Finish will

be at Fort Christiansvaern in Christiansted, St. Croix. Questions can be directed to:
wallacewilliams@msn.com

The Virgin Islands Pace Runners is the overall organizer of the Denmark/Virgin Islands Transfer Marathon, an official Virgin Islands Transfer Centennial Celebration Commission event and provides details and maps for all events on its web page,
<http://virginislandspace.org/transfermarathon.html>

Marathon	The Denmark/Virgin Islands Transfer Marathon - St. Thomas				
Race #	Participants	Male/Female	AGE	TIME	AWARD
6	Torben Jensen	M	52	3:41:50	1M
7	Martin Thomsen	M	42	3:44:24	2M
22	Jens Søndergaard Pedersen	M	26	3:55:10	3M
98	Mark Pippen	M	65	4:13:31	4M
1	Kim Smitt	M	56	4:19:41	5M
11	Benny Bull	M	53	4:27:47	
24	Lars Vilhelmsen	M	60	4:35:55	
18	Anna Søndergaard Pedersen	F	28	4:36:13	1F
26	Michael Nilsson	M	50	4:38:44	
5	Bjarne Jensen	M	58	4:40:06	
12	Karin Erickson	F	50	4:40:46	2F
14	Lars Troelsen	M	51	4:40:47	
10	Peter Simonsen	M	49	4:54:13	
23	Lars Simonsen	M	54	5:08:08	
20	Jan Kjærsgaard	M	55	5:18:59	
27	Per Hjorth	M	56	5:19:01	
21	Anne-Marie Lyngbye	F	52	5:30:05	3F
9	Søren Andersen	M	63	5:31:51	
3	Mikael Schmidt Lassen	F	60	5:45:30	3F

16	Jeppe Søndergaard	M	59	6:38:12	
2	Deion Pruitt	M	20	6:42:43	
Half-Mara	The Denmark/Virgin Islands Transfer Marathon - St. Thomas				
Race #	Participants	Male/Female	AGE	TIME	AWARD
213	Steven Laplace	M	55	1:58:37	1M
299	Buzing Geizer	F	40	2:08:27	1F
204	Sofie Lund Petersen	F	24	2:11:01	2F
208	Birgitte Sørensen	F	50	2:19:26	3F
216	Mogens Søndergaard Nielsen	M	69	2:21:28	2M
206	Kirsten Toft Nielsen	F	60	2:21:37	4F
209	Tommy Jensen	F	53	2:24:46	5F
201	Birgitte Rojek	F	52	2:29:19	
210	Solveig Nørup	F	52	2:32:40	
211	Steen Jensen	M	67	2:32:41	3M
207	Pia Festersen	F	58	2:59:28	
205	Anne Grete Jacobsen	F	61	3:02:32	
203	Holger Jacobsen	M	65	3:15:39	4M
202	Tanja Thomsen	F	41	2:55:16.9AM	
215	Monique Simon	F	46	2:55:16.7AM	
214	Mark Skandier	M	33	DNF	5M
10K	The Denmark/Virgin Islands Transfer Marathon - St. Thomas				
Race #	Participants	Male/Female	AGE	TIME	AWARD
110	Matthew Crafts	M	38	0:40:36	1M
118	Nicholas Madison Van Heurck	M	27	0:42:37	2M
122	Mary Vargo	F	32	0:44:45	1F
111	Kasim Upchurch	M	14	0:54:15	3M
119	Lilliana Martinez	F	15	0:55:41	2F

