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Fitzpatrick ends vacation with Canes Classic win

By JOHN LEMBO

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Mike Fitzpatrick thinks it was the brochures.

Maybe.

"I don't know for sure," he said.

There's no hard and fast reason why Fitzpatrick, who lives in Belfast, Ireland, and his family began taking two vacations a year in Siesta Key. All he knows is they have been making annual pilgrimages since 1989. And whenever there is a race going on, Fitzpatrick tries to enter.

Hence his appearance at Monday's 16th Annual Canes Classic at G.T. Bray. Fitzpatrick never ran the course through the west Bradenton park, and consequently, he got a little lost.

But he managed to right himself and place first overall with a time of 16:58.

"I'm more of a distance runner," said Fitzpatrick, 38, who runs every day back home in Ireland and recently competed in the Belfast Marathon. "But it's a neat little course."

Fitzpatrick and his family were heading back to Ireland today after spending two weeks in Siesta Key - as well as two days in New York.

The Fitzpatricks used to do what people do when they vacation in Florida - head to the Orlando theme parks.

Not anymore.

"It's Siesta Key and that's it," he said. "It's got the best beaches in the world. . . . And the parks - you've seen one, and you've seen them all."

Finishing behind Fitzpatrick was Manatee High graduate Joshua Sanchez, who placed second overall and first in the 16-19 age bracket with a time of 17:26. Sanchez qualified for the state meet last fall and is a freshman at Florida, where he plans to try out for the cross country team in three weeks.

Battling knee and ankle injuries, Sanchez used the Canes Classic as a barometer. Despite the lofty finish, he wasn't too happy with the result.

"I'm about 45 seconds off, which is kind of discouraging," he said. "I've been hurt, so my training has been inconsistent."

Rich Lomas was the Masters Winner, while Wayne Johnson won the Grand Masters title, Alan Meyer won the Senior Grand Masters, and Samuel Starrett won the Veterans Grand Masters.

On the women's side, Kristin Zarrella was the overall winner with a time of 20:19.

Mary Quinn, who coaches Lakewood Ranch's girls cross country team, won the Masters with a time of 22:11. Debra Donald was the Grand Masters Winner, and Josephine Nicolosi won the Senior Grand Masters.

Saint Stephen's Hannah Howell, who qualified for the state meet as a seventh-grader last year, finished 29th overall and won the 13-15 age bracket with a time of 20:22. Her coach at Saint Stephen's, Anna Conn, won the 25-29 age group (25:34).

16TH ANNUAL CANES CLASSIC

At G.T. Bray

Results

MALE

Overall winner - Michael Fitzpatrick, 16:58.

Masters winner - Rich Lomas, No Time reported

Grand masters winner - Wayne Johnson, 19:49

Senior grand masters winner - Alan Meyer, 22:19

Veteran grand masters winner - Samuel Starrett, 28:14

Ages 0-9 - 1. Henry Howell, 22:45; 2. Andrew Csubak, 26:25; 3. Dylan Townson, 27:44.
10-12 - 1. Chris Lehman, 24:20; 2. Mitchell McCormick, 25:06; 3. Jonathan Harte, 30:04.
13-15 - 1. Zach Nelson, 18:25; 2. Sean Daugherty, 19:16; 3. Hunter Rayl, No time reported.
16-19 - 1. Joshua Sanchez, 17:26; 2. Richard Reyna, no time reported; 3. Michael Lamb, 17:51.
20-24 - 1. Jonathan Hufty, 17:40; 2. Jonathan White, 22:17; 3. Kyle Smith, 24:47.
25-29 - 1. Danny Barnet, 22:17; 2. Jesse Brison, 22:52; 3. Karl Gardner, 26:09.
30-34 - 1. Matt Bertrand, 19:45; 2. Richard Herring, 20:59; 3. David Flanery, 21:03.
35-39 - 1. Scott Kolbe, 18:54; 2. Jose Angeles, 19:00; 3. Erik Jones, 20:00.
40-44 - 1. John Devine, 19:18; 2. Andrew Swanson, no time reported; 3. Liam Fitzpatrick, 20:13.
45-49 - 1. Andrew Barrett, 21:27; 2. Stephen Crane, 21:32; 3. James Bradin, 22:30.
50-54 - 1. Gary Algozzine, 22:32; 2. Dave Pate, 22:53; 3. Tal Pinson, 29:17.
55-59 - 1. Vincent Cafferty, 20:58; 2. Mickey West, 25:15; 3. Henry Abbott, 26:15.
60-64 - 1. Silky Sullivan, 23:59; 2. Ron Jeannette, 29:10; 3. Michael Hale, 32:14.
65-69 - 1. Frank Nicolosi, 23:27; 2. Dave Pierce, 33:37.
70-74 - 1. Samuel Starrett, 28:14; 2. Chuck Jambe, 28:16.
75-79 - 1. Gene Schulze, 52:07.
80-99 - 1. Walter White, 34:25.

FEMALE

Overall winner - Kristin Zarrella, 20:19.

Masters winner - Mary Quinn, 22:11.

Grand masters winner - Debra Donald, 22:28.

Senior grand masters winner - Josephine Nicolosi, 26:45.

0-9 - 1. Ande McDonald, 28:01; 2. Ashleigh Rodhouse, 30:55; 3. Emily Marie Marhold, 36:23.

10-12 - 1. Lauren Csubak, 25:06; 2. Carlyne Lawley, 37:20; 3. Josie Hancock, 37:56.

13-15 - 1. Hannah Howell, 20:22; 2. Devin McDermott, 21:50; 3. Marisa Bailey, 21:53.

16-19 - 1. Jessica McKinnis, 20:25; 2. Taylor Stein, 21:56; 3. Jessica Pate, 22:14.

20-24 - 1. Melissa Cohen, 31:19; 2. Julie Labadie, 31:52.

25-29 - 1. Anna Conn, 25:34; 2. Sarah Martinez, 26:21; 3. Kristi Wohl, 29:43.

30-34 - 1. Coleen Mercillott, no time reported; 2. Jamie Shonk, 26:41; 3. Sarah Gates, 27:53.

35-39 - 1. Tracey Rossie, 22:15; 2. Joellen O'Meara 23:16; 3. Christine Harte, 24:37.

40-44 - 1. Cheryl Baker, 22:48; 2. Diane Lehman, 23:21; 3. Amy Ratcliffe, 25:07.

45-49 - 1. Christina Simpson, 22:19; 2. Deb Pate, 26:13; 3. Kimberly Schulz, 27:48.

50-54 - 1. Lynne Barrett, 25:57; 2. Liesel Muth, 31:17.

55-59 - 1. Betsie Van Vyven, 31:48.

70-74 - 1. Erma McMullen, 32:07.