

V.I. Pace Runners Bulletin: June 24, 2018

32nd Olympic Day Run St. Croix is History...



Youngsters experience “The Magic of the Mile at the 32nd Olympic Day Run...St. Croix Virgin Islands, USA

Virgin Islands Olympic Committee President Angel Morales publicly extended his annual invitation to the Virgin Islands community to support the Olympic movement by participating in the annual Olympic Day runs on in St. Croix and St. Thomas.

On St. Croix “it was like the rain decided to take a break so the 32nd running of the event could happen”, one of the few dozen participants was heard saying. Indeed, Saturday was the special day as runners and walkers representing V.I. Olympic Committee Federations including: Track and Field, Swimming, Triathlon and Bowling had fun challenging the mile run in what is called the “magic of the mile” with a series of mile runs designate in groups for 20 minutes, 15 minutes, 10 minutes, 7 minutes and 6 minutes performance level.

6 minute runners

It showcased some of the V.I.’s. best athletes of today and the past as middle distance runner Malique Smith Track and Field (TF) who has represented the V.I. several times at CARIFTA Junior Championships and will be in Colombia next month for the CAC Games, showed how the mile run is done as he went to the lead from the start to clock 4:39 on the newly surfaced track at the St. Croix Educational Complex High School; second place went to veteran multiple V.I. national record holder Billy Bohlke TF with his parents there like they have been since he was a kid running this event to cheer him on. The 38 year old clocked the distance in 5:01; Makari Mathew TF was third fastest of the day in 5:26; Mikaela Smith TF finished fourth in that group and was the fastest female of the day in 5:34; in a very close race Randall Nielsen TF was the fourth male in 5:40 14 year-old Brice Richarda TF was the fifth male in 5:41;

Bridget Klein TF was the second female in 5:48; Rodney Griffin TF was the sixth male in 6:10 and Rachael Conhoff TF was the third female in 6:26.

7 minute runners

Michelle Smith TF who just turned 12 led this group in what was the most exciting race of the day as she battled it out with 11 year old Kaedon Gleason TF, she ran it in 5:41; Gleason was the first male in 5:48; Mike Klein TF and ultra V.I. champion was second male and third overall in 6:45; 62 year old Barrymore Berley was third in 6:51; Stephanie Mathew TF was the second female in 7:05; 11 year old Akilya Joseph TF was third in 7:11; 10 year old Amiyah Eddie TF was fourth in 9:13 and 9 year old Jimiah JnoBaptiste TF was fifth in 11:54.

10 minute runners

Keith Smith TF led the way in 6:54; Amani Estrill was second in 7:06; Mireille Smith TF was the first female and third overall in 7:16; Alex Joseph TF was the third male in 7:19 and 10 year old Malia Richards TF was the second female in 9:26

15 minute runners/walkers

Youths prevailed in this group as 9 year old Loren Jones TF was first of four females to place in the overall finish, her time was 8:05; her sister 8 year old Katlyn Jones TF was second in 8:16; Rachel Conoff TF was third in 8:40; Theresa Harper Triathlon was fourth in 9:05; Scott Fricks Triathlon was the first male in 9:06; Jimiah JnoBaptiste TF was the fifth female in 10:05; Natakie Richards TF was sixth in 10:14; 9 year old Ajhi Bricoe was the second male in 10:19; Teague Gleason TF was third in 10:35; Samantha Jones TF was seventh female in 11:02; 6 year old Sanay Swimming was the third male in 12:33; Ana Gutierrez TF was eighth female in 12:35 and Ray Lutz TF was the fourth male in 12:47.

20 minute runners/walkers

This group made up of walkers and runners saw 6 year old Conner Huston take first in 10:14; his father Jan was second in 10:16; Adriel Sanes Swimming was third in 11:10; Shelia Gumbs TF was the first female in 11:16; C. Louby TF was the second female in 12:17; Ray Lutz TF was the fourth male in 12:54; Willie Lewis TF was the fifth male in 13:02; Ronald Russell TF was the sixth male in 13:49; Gailann Joseph was the third female in 14:25; Webster Buzzo was the seventh male in 17:25; Mathew Mays Swimming was the eighth male in 17:26; Laylole Washasha Swimming was the fourth female in 17:38; Lidia Boguslaw Swimming was the fifth female in 17:40; Brian Brady Swimming was the ninth male in 17:42

NOTES:

1] Olympic Day is celebrated all around the world: hundreds of thousands of people – young and old – get moving and participate in sporting and cultural activities, such as runs, exhibitions, music and educational seminars. Olympic Day was introduced in 1948 to commemorate the birth of the modern Olympic Games on 23 June 1894. The goal was to promote participation in sport across the globe regardless of age, gender or athletic ability. Over the last two decades, the event has helped to spread the Olympic ideals to every corner of the world.

The event is hosted by The Virgin Islands Olympic Committee for the International Olympic Committee and organized by The Virgin Islands Pace Runners on St. Croix and The St. Thomas Association of Road Runners in St. Thomas.

2] V.I. Olympians participating in the St. Croix event were: Ana Gutierrez 1992 Barcelona Track and Field Marathon; Keith Smith 1992 Barcelona Track and Field, 4 x 400m Relay; Jodie Lawaetz-Mays 1984 Los Angeles Swimming, 100m/200m Butterfly; Wallace Williams (event director) 1988 Seoul Track and Field Marathon; Ronald Russell 1976/1984 Montreal and Los Angeles Track and Field 100m

3] Youth Olympic Games 2018 team member Mikaela Smith participated

4] According Wallace Williams who has coordinated the event and/or participated as a runner in it each of the 32 years for the St. Croix, the event has had at least seven formats including the following:

- **“Originally several of us carried an Olympic style torch from Mc Donald’s in Golden Rock in St. Croix on a route through Christiansted National Historic Site on to Mc Donald’s Villa La Rein on Saturday morning”.**
- **“After several years we moved to Frederiksted and ran a 2mile out-and-back road course along the shore to the north from historic Fort Frederik”.**
- **“After that we took the run to the campus of the University of the Virgin Islands St. Croix Campus for many years for a 2mile loop on the grass”.**
- **“On at least two occasions special venues were designated for V.I. Olympic celebrations to coincide with Olympic Day. A start/finish at the fort in the Christiansted National Historic Site; once on the golf course at Carambola”.**
- **“Twice on the Christiansted Bypass (2016-17)”**
- **“The introduction of The Magic of the Mile format on the track at the St. Croix Educational Complex High School”.**

- The events are free of charge, each participant receives special Olympic t-shirt, certificate and Mc Donald's (international sponsor) promotional items.
- Traditionally there are two runs one on or about the 23rd of June on Saturday in St. Croix followed the next day with the St. Thomas Run (on a few occasions the run has been held in St. John instead of St. Thomas); most of the St. Thomas runs were held on the waterfront in Charlotte Amalie and at Magens Bay.
- Federation officials participating on Saturday were: Scott Fricks, President Virgin Islands Triathlon Federation, Theresa Harper Secretary Virgin Islands Triathlon Federation; Jodie Lawaetz Virgin Islands Swimming Federation; Sydney Paul Bowling Federation; Ronald Russell, President The Virgin Track and Field Federation; Wallace Williams, General Secretary The Virgin Islands Track and Field Federation.
- Thanks go to the St. Croix Educational Complex High School and the V.I. Department of Education for providing access to the track and field facility.
- Thanks go to the participants and volunteers who made in spite of weather warnings.