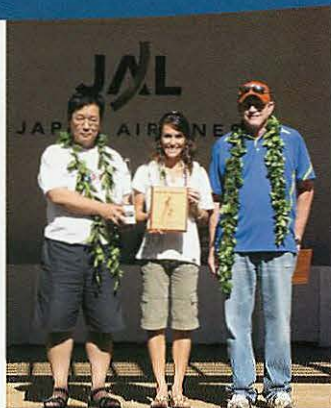


38th Honolulu Marathon Has Mardi Gras Atmosphere

By Don Eovino



LEFT: Gathering at the Club at 4 a.m. were runners Terry Flynn (guest), Ed Bulgarin (guest), Don Eovino, Candes Meijide Gentry, Brad Coates, Nora Meijide-Gentry, Tracy Ellis (guest), Jojo Watumull, Carol Jaxon.

MIDDLE: Candes Meijide Gentry received a plaque as first kamaaina woman to finish the marathon.

RIGHT: Jojo Watumull finished the Mayor Walk.

The 38th Annual Honolulu Marathon is becoming more and more like the New Orleans festive Mardi Gras, only with more sweat. Kapiolani Park starts filling up with billowing tents the week before. Runners appear out of nowhere jogging the streets in the early morning from Waikiki to Diamond Head out to Kalanianaʻole highway. Hash marks appear in the street asphalt, and aid stations and mile markers start lining up along Paki Avenue.

New trends emerge in outfits, as the Japanese have cornered the market on new gear. Compression socks, anklets, tights, shorts, shirts, sleeves, scarves, hats, all adorned in some mish-mash of colors and coordination which would make a fashion designers eyeballs roll over in their sockets.

The week starts with parades and parties, the Convention Center starts humming by Wednesday. New goo, drinks, socks, tapes, lotions, bracelets, all designed to make you feel better and run faster, are available.

Marathon week started with cold and rainy weather, but by weekend, the rain went away and so did the trades, as the race proved to be the most humid in history reaching 97% humidity. This caused some of the slowest times for the elite runners, and dehydration and exhaustion for many of the runners who choose to clad themselves from head to foot in black compression tights, absorbing the heat and not allowing the body to breathe.

Ambulances rang out long and loud as the day progressed to provide aid and IV's to those who succumbed to the heat, but no serious injuries.

The marathon got underway at 5 a.m. with fireworks and booming cannons. Runners circled downtown and the Honolulu City Lights before heading for Diamond Head. The crowd is so big, that it takes 20 minutes for the back of the pack to get to the starting line. A chip installed on your foot keeps accurate times along the way including splits at 5K 10K 20K and 40K so friends from all over the

world can log on and see how you are doing.

At the top of Diamond Head at the eight mile mark, early runners experience a red bursting orb as the sun rises over the horizon, and welcomes the Japanese runners looking like it was staged as the Rising Sun of the flag of Japan, an incredible sight.

At the gas station leaving Kahala a rousing band plays including a loud group at the turn around in Hawaii Kai. Sights, sounds, sweat, water, and noise fill the air distracting the pain that goes along with finishing 26.2 miles, running or walking.

Something new this year for relieving pain, but causing nausea, was the strong smelling spray bottles of analgesic, liberally applied along the last six miles of the race, the forbidden zone, where the race really starts, and the body really stops.

Kahala Avenue was filled with bags of ice for cold water and Gatorade, but had the effect of being a walk in cooler as body after body rolled on the ice bags, trying to stop the burn and make the last four miles to the finish.

Outrigger fielded a van, courtesy of Katy Bourne who had to get up at 2 a.m. to get there. Katy usually does the race, but was injured this year. A stalwart crew assembled in the Lobby at 4 a.m. for a photo shoot and bathroom stop, and the ride to the start of the race.

Members who participated included Don Eovino doing his approximately 25th and slowest and maybe last, "but I always say that" marathon; Brad Coates doing his "I stopped counting at 15" marathon; as well as Candes Gentry (First Kama'aina Female, 4th age group), Mark Admiral, Sally Marrack, and Carol Jaxon.

The average time was approximately 6 hours. The last runner was over 14 hours, UGH! Truly a festive event, try it next year!

OCC Results:

Outrigger Finishers Honolulu Marathon

Rachel Ross	3:16
Candes Meijide Gentry	3:21
Mark Admiral	3:29
Sally Marrack	3:46
Carol Jaxon	3:59
Brad Coates	4:49
Charlie Field	5:34
Don Eovino	5:35

Mayor's 10 K

Nora Meijide-Gentry
Jojo Watumull