

Route 66 Marathon
Tulsa, OK
Sunday, November 20, 2011
8:00 AM

Kamiar Kouzekanani

Established in November 1926, Route 66 was one of the original U.S. highways, running from Chicago through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California, before ending at Los Angeles (2,448 miles). It was removed from the U.S. Highway System in 1985 after it had been replaced by the Interstate Highway System.

Packet pickup on Saturday was efficient. There was also a large expo. Each runner received a tote bag and short-sleeved cotton T-shirt. Pre-race pasta dinner on Saturday night was less than desirable!

The start line was in downtown. Race day temperature was in the 30s. It was windy and cloudy; fortunately, no rain. There were water/sports drink stations every other mile, staffed by a large number of cheerful volunteers. There were sports gels, bananas, and pretzels on the course. There were bands and individual musicians throughout the course. There were pace groups. Splits were digitally displayed. There were a large number of hilly sections. The course was monitored well and traffic control was quite good. The first half was fairly scenic as we ran through several residential neighborhoods. The second half wasn't scenic but wasn't too bad either. We shared the first half with the half marathoners. The finish line was in the Veterans Park. Each finisher received a very nice medallion and a short-sleeved technical T-shirt. There were adequate recovery drinks and food items at the finish. We were shuttled to downtown area where we had parked our cars. In short, the 6th edition of Route 66 Marathon was a well-organized running event, which I think will continue gaining popularity among runners for years to come.

There were 1439 marathon finishers (868 male, 571 female) in the average time of 4:43:02. The winning times were 2:28:33 (male) and 2:57:04 (female). There were also a fairly large number of relay marathon teams.

There were 3119 half marathon finishers (1853 female, 1266 male) in the average time of 2:19:25. The winning times were 1:12:02 (male) and 1:28:57 (female).

There were 913 5K finishers (605 female, 308 male) in the average time of 38:23. The winning times were 17:28 (male) and 20:40 (female). The 5K was held on Saturday morning.

I ran the first 10K in 59:03 (9:30 pace), the half in 2:05:31 (9:34 pace), the 30K in 2:59:56 (9:39 pace), and crossed the finish line in 4:15:22 (9:44 pace). I had a great running time and felt comfortable throughout the run!



