

Results from the 1983 GREAT PUMPKIN RUN



Forty-four runners turned out at the Rose Bowl on Halloween to participate in the 6th Annual Great Pumpkin Run. This year there were two separate races: a regular 5-K, and a variable distance race called the Bring Back the Great Pumpkin Run.

Only four runners chose to compete in the 5-K. Duncan McCornock and Mary Parmenter were the medal winners. Complete results are listed below:

5-K Open Division Women's Division

1st place Duncan McCornock (19:15) Mary Parmenter (27:39)

Others Bob Ibaven (19:24) Tom Young (20:08)

The remaining 40 runners all opted for the new race. Linfield, Mickey O'Hara, and Charles Voge finished 1-2-3, despite conceding a huge early lead to Frank Malinowski, who finished 4th. Other medal winners were Bill Mandeville (5th place, Open Division), Don Gray (1st, Senior Division), Dave Scaff (2nd, Senior Division), and Barbara Basta (2nd, Valerie Pickett (1st, Women's Division), Women's Division). Three runners also earned special awards. Berger and Chuck Stein were declared Staunchest Friends of the Great Pumpkin for carrying the Pumpkin farther than any other runner. title Peerless Pumpkin Prognosticator for earned the predicting the Great Pumpkin's finishing time more accurately anyone else.

The Bring Back the Great Pumpkin Run turned into quite a lively Pre-calculated strategies had to be greatly adjusted, because the hill at the beginning of the course disrupted everyone's one-mile As a result, there was a lot of jockeying for position even in the first part of the race. But the real excitement took place in homestretch, after runners had met the Great Pumpkin and turned around to head for the finish. The moving Pumpkin dramatically compressed the gap between runners of different abilities. winner of the race finished less than 5 minutes ahead of a competitor who walked the entire course! This compression effect, together with the multiplicity of strategies used by different runners, led to a great many changes of position in the last quarter of the race. There were a total of 85 'net passes' in the homestretch (one runner passing another, and staying ahead the rest of the way). One runner vaulted 13 places from 20th to 7th, and two other runners rose 8 places each as they engaged in a stirring duel for the second Women's Division medal. This sort of interplay between runners rarely occurs in the latter stages of our regular races, because by then everyone has had a chance to settle into his/her own pace, and the gap between successive runners simply diverges as time goes by.

Complete results from the Bring Back the Great Pumpkin Run are given in the attached table. The table lists all 40 runners in their overall order of finish. The runners' relative positions at the turnaround point are also given. For each runner, the table lists time and distance data for three separate segments of the race: before reaching the Great Pumpkin (BGP), while carrying the Great Pumpkin (CGP), and after passing off the Great Pumpkin (AGP). Total time and distance are also shown for each runner, and average pace is calculated for each segment except CGP. The final column in the table lists each runner's prediction for the Great Pumpkin's time to cover its 1.2 mile course; the Pumpkin's actual time of 11:06 is shown in the last row of the table as the sum of all the runners' CGP times.

The BGP and CGP times are accurate within a second or two. The Total times are equally accurate if the runners correctly recorded their finishing times. There were a few cases of runners not remembering their times or reporting times that were inconsistent with the known relative order of finish. Missing data were estimated from other runners' recollections, and the remaining inconsistencies are indicated by question marks. The distances in the table accurate to one-hundredth of a mile for most of the runners. fact, for runners who dropped cards at their turnaround points who reached the Pumpkin at roughly the same time as runners who dropped cards), the accuracy is even better. All distances shown the table have been independently rounded to the nearest hundredth of a mile from the raw data measured in feet. As a result, the table exhibits a few minor inconsistencies due solely to rounding (such as segment distances not adding to total distance, and average pace not equaling time divided by distance). In each case, the number given in the table represents the best data available for that one quantity.

An example will illustrate how each runner's race can reconstructed from the data given in the table. Senior Division runnerup Dave Scaff finished 13th overall with a time of 27:41 for a total distance of 3.80 miles. This corresponds to an overall average pace of 7:18 per mile (indicating that his actual distance was a few feet less than 3.80 miles). Here's how his race went, in detail: was the 17th runner to reach the Great Pumpkin, after running 2.85 miles in 21:19 (7:29/mi pace). Then he received the Pumpkin from Valerie Pickett and carried it for just 4 seconds (0.01 mile) before it off to Tom O'Hara. From that point, he ran the remaining 0.94 mile to the finish in 6:18 (6:42/mi pace). On the way back from the Pumpkin, he passed five runners (Valerie Pickett, Mike Kleine, Willie Johnson, Rich Benson, and Jim U'ren) and was passed by one (Booth Hartley) for a net gain of 4 places. Dave's prediction for the Great Pumpkin's time was 8:10, which left him tied for 24th place in the Peerless Pumpkin Prognosticator contest.

If you have any questions on how to interpret the race results, call Sam Dolinar at X3014.

Results from the 1983 BRING BACK THE GREAT PUMPKIN RUN

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Key to Abbreviations

at Fin: at Finish Line at GP: at Great Pumpkin

O: Open Division (anyone)

S: Senior Division (45 + over)

W: Women's Division

BGP: before reaching Great Pumpkin GGP: while carrying Great Pumpkin

AGP: after passing off Great Pumpkin

GPP: Great Pumpkin Prognostication