Jack 15 results press release

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Husband, wife sweep Jack 15 titles

By Dave Graves

Special to the Register

For the first time in the 61 runnings of the Jack 15 Road Race, a husband/wife couple won the men’s and women’s division of the oldest road race in the Midwest.

Alex Muntefering topped a field of 98 runners Saturday with a clocking of 1:26:54. That puts him in a tie with 2006 champion Tim Bourman for the 78th fastest time in race history. Chloe Muntefering moves into 35th position among women finishers with a time of 1:47:53.

It was the first Jack 15 for both Munteferings, although Alex is a familiar name in South Dakota running circles. The Parkston native was South Dakota’s 2008 Gatorade Runner of the Year in cross county and 2009 Athlete of the Year in track and field. He found success collegiately at the University of Oklahoma and Colorado State University.

Chole (Phillips) Muntefering was a standout middle-distance runner at Mississippi State (2009-2013) and Colorado State (2013-2014).

Both Muntefering used a Madison, Wisconsin, address when registering for the Prairie Striders event. Alex was founder and head coach of PR Project, a program for post-collegiate distance runners in Madison. However, since August 2022, Alex has been an assistant coach for middle and long-distance runners at State. He was a grad assistant there in 2014-16.

Chloe Muntefering is finishing up my her final year of a doctorate in kinesiology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2022 champ challenges Alex Muntefering

Although the Munteferings have been together since 2015, they weren’t together on the 15.2-mile course from White to the Campanile on the SDSU campus. For the first five miles, Alex Muntefering, 33, battled with 2022 Jack 15 champion Adam Pangrac, 35, of Moorhead, Minnesota. But a Muntefering surge at that point gave him a lead he would not relinquish. Pangrac was second with a time of 1:30:04.

Chloe Muntefering, 32, ran much of the race with Oksana Johnson, 26, who ran middle and long distances at State and now is a Jackrabbit volunteer coach. Johnson, who had a distance PR with the run, finished in 1:50:07 to finish second in the women’s division, just over two minutes behind Muntefering. Johnson’s Jack 15 debut places her 42nd all-time among women finishers.

Muntefering finished seventh overall Saturday while Johnson was 10th overall with Cherie Sussner, 46, of Sioux Falls, finishing third among women and 11th overall in a very competitive field.

Sussner’s time of 1:50:14 places her 43rd all-time among women finishers. She also was the first-place female master’s division finisher Saturday.

Finishing third overall and winning the men’s master’s division was Chris Gruenhagen, 40, the 2019 champion and the Brookings High School cross country coach. His time was 1:40:07.

Several runners hit Jack 15 milestones

Fourth place went to Tim Fryer, 44, of Hendricks, Minnesota. The 2021 champion ran a 1:43:51 this year. He also earned recognition for completing his 10th Jack 15.

Other Jack 15 veterans who hit milestones were Kevin Neal, 69, of Bradley, who finished his 11th Jack 15 and placed 24th in 2:00:11. Right behind him was Tony Thoreson, 66, of Brandon, who placed 25th with a time of 2:01:00. He now has 18 Jack 15 finishes, placing him in a tie for fifth overall.

Annette Wickstrom, 69, of Storm Lake, Iowa, has the most Jack 15 finishes among women with 13 after clocking a time of 2:05:59 Saturday.

Scott Jamison, 66, of Wentworth, logged his 35th Jack 15, finishing in 3:31:42. He trails only Bob Bartling, who has 38 finishes. The 97-year-old Brookings legend was on hand to watch finish line action.

The oldest competitor was 74-year-old Dennis Brady, of South Charleston, West Virginia. This was his second Jack 15, the first being in 1979 when he was 30 years old. He flew back to run this year’s event with his grandnephews, who live in the Rapid City area.

The 98 finishers this year was the most since 100 in 1983. In addition to the individual run, there were 22 relay teams that finished.

Full results can be found at http://www.prairiestriders.net/jack-15-results.html.

Cutline:

Mr. and Mrs. Champions — Alex and Chloe Muntefering won the overall and women’s division at the Jack 15 Saturday in Brookings. The first-place men’s award is named after race founder Tom Woodall. The first-place women’s award is named after longtime director Shari Landmark.