

OCC Women Turn Out in Force for 30th Annual Women's 10K

By Sarah Field and Gerry DeBenedetti



Penny Bradley, Anne Perry

Fourteen OCC women completed the Straub/Kapiolani Hawaii Women's 10K (6.2 miles) run on March 4. The inclement weather held off so there was no rain, and the winds were light, so conditions were good; warm, and a good race for all 1,247 entrants.

The Outrigger women ranged from a stroller mom to a Board member, and age range 25 to 69. Anyone considering this race in the future should know you are welcome, as the OCC times also ranged from 40 minutes to 128 minutes-plenty of room for everybody.

Rachel Ross, in a blistering 6.33 pace, finished third overall in a time of 40:41. The top two finishers came in at 38:56 and 40:23, so Rachel was pressing all the way. The course begins at Kapiolani Park, up Diamond Head, turning around Triangle Park into Kahala, back to Kahala Avenue and Diamond Head Road, to the marathon finish line. Water is available twice, at Triangle Park.

Gerry DeBenedetti is one of only 10 women who have completed all 30 races, and was honored on the Bandstand stage with a special shirt and sweatshirt, along with the other 30 year entrants. Gerry said she had no idea she was "making history" in 1978 when she entered her first ever running event, hoping she could finish a 6.2 mile race, who knew?

Gerry blames this all on her daughter Cassie Senner, who was running track at Punahou at the time. Cassie signed up for the brand new women only 10K with her teammates, and Gerry thought she might as well give it a try...and she's been at it ever since.

Her finisher T-shirts from the first 20 years were made into two quilts, which Gerry calls her "decade quilts". Her mom in California helped her make the quilts, and Gerry has embroidered her finishing times on each shirt square. Since this year's race is number 30, Gerry now has enough T shirts for a third "decade quilt" to add to her collection.

The Straub/Kapiolani event organizers will be displaying all 3 quilts at the 2008 event.

So, how many more years does Gerry plan on racing? Admitting she would like to be the "sole survivor" of the 1978 core group, that means at least another 10 years, and enough for a 4th decade quilt.

In March 2008 when the Women's 10K rolls around, come to Kapiolani Park and race (if you're a female), or cheer the OCC participants. And, if your closet is overflowing with T shirts from your athletic events, go ahead and start a quilt.



Gerry DeBenedetti



Nora Meijide Gentry, Laurie Sloan, Candes Meijide Gentry, Corin Gentry-Balding

	Time	Place
Rachel Ross	40:41	3
Candes Meijide Gentry	45:32	28
Brigitte Egbert	47:11	37
Laurie Sloan	50:46	75
Laurie Foster	51:00	78
Lori McCarney	52:33	99
Pamela Gring-Fee	54:02	120
Corin Gentry-Balding	57:32	182
Anne Perry	1:01	270
Mary Moriarty	1:04	338
Penny Bradley	1:07	429
Nora Meijide Gentry	1:25	758
Gerry DeBenedetti	1:26	779
Stephany Sofos	2:08	1235
Renee Osborne	1:29	

If you completed this race, and were not listed here, please leave your name and time at the Front Desk so you may be included in For The Record.