

What a top notch race!!! I have been to many races, but this one has to be the most organized one I've seen.

The food at the end was great and one of the best and I'm sure this will bring many runners back next year.

I think it was an awesome race, hard, hilly and absolutely gorgeous. I had an absolutely perfect day. Great volunteer work. Thanks again.

I'm hearing very good things about Sunday. Congrats on a successful start to a new Lawrence tradition. You even did a great job on the weather...

The run was excellent yesterday and we do enjoy running Learnard all the time. Do you happen to know who I can pass word along to regarding the course yesterday? Both Adrienne and I thought it was spectacular. It was challenging and scenic and provided an outstanding tour of Lawrence, certainly better than the courses I ran last year in Austin and Lincoln and Adrienne said it was the best of the 9 she has done. Our regards to the course architects.

The 1/2 marathon was run in a professional and efficient way. I was impressed with the course, the descriptions you gave, the aid stations, and the police support. The after-run food festival was fantastic! You even got the weather to cooperate! Thanks for such an expert run!

Also, it was cool that they had signs pointing out unique Lawrence sites. I learned a lot. I appreciated the humor/irony in running by the cemetery at mile 10. That's right about when I was ready to check myself in!

I wanted to drop you a quick note to express my appreciation and compliments to you and the city of Lawrence for opening up portions of the area for last Sunday's "Lawrence Half Marathon." It was the first time I had come to Lawrence to participate in any type of race, and I was very impressed with what I saw. I lived in Lawrence for about eight years prior to moving to Overland Park, and until Sunday I had not seen some of the sights highlighted by the race (shame on me!). Plus, I believe the race helped a good charity in the process.

Most importantly, I wanted to compliment the police and area volunteers. I have participated in a few races in other cities prior to Sunday's, but none have had better or friendlier police presence. I have made a point to thank sponsors that contributed by way of spending money at their businesses, but I wanted to make sure the city employees that aided the event were also aware how much their efforts are appreciated. Great job, and thank you for helping to make the event happen!

I just wanted to drop a line and tell you how much I thoroughly enjoyed the Lawrence 1/2 Marathon last weekend. The course was perfect, the volunteers were the best I have ever seen at any race and the after-party was great! I couldn't believe the wonderful baked goods that kept rolling out. It was my first 1/2 marathon and I just want to thank you guys for making this my best racing experience to date. I look forward to returning next year!
Thanks again.

I want to let you know as a runner, I thought the race was FANTASTIC! I loved running through the neighborhoods and seeing people out cheering (something that was missing with the Raintree run), now if we can figure out how to the the sorority girls out to kiss us like at Wellsely College in Boston..... The support along the route was unbelievable for a first year run. Having the race start and end at Haskell was perfect

Phenomenally well organized, beautiful course, great food. Only thing I'd change is the terrain. Whoever said KS was flat?!?! Those hills were killer for this swamp dweller!

Also, congratulations to you and Steve for a very successful event! You've greatly benefited an important public health agency as well as created a lot of good will for the Lawrence community. It was a pleasure to assist this good cause.

Congratulations on a successful event! I'm sure everything didn't go exactly as you would have liked, but all-in-all, I hope you are pleased with the outcome. How did you manage to arrange the weather??? It was GREAT to see the race on the front page of the Journal-World, as well as the lead story on the sports page. The articles were very

positive and supportive with plenty of compliments on the interesting course.

First of all - Great Job! Y'all did a spectacular job with the whole race. I overheard many people commenting on what a great race it was. I ran about 1/2 the race with 3 20-somethings from KC who were just gushing about the best race they had run (and Wichita sucked in comparison). The packet pickup went well, the race, food, etc. all were good. You guys also did a terrific job on publicity - the media loved this whole thing.

Hi - Just wanted to let you know that I enjoyed the half. You all did a very good job in putting it together, keeping the tradition that the Raintree people started. I'll definitely be back next year.

I thought it was a great day. I know there were some glitches (how could there not be?), but hundreds of runners made it from start to finish successfully and had a great time doing it. How else should success be measured?

Harry really enjoyed his experience and said all of the volunteers and onlookers were fantastic, helpful, supportive, etc. This was his first half marathon and I think he surprised himself with his run.

Congratulations on a great job. I think your hard work paid off. It was a fun morning and a number of my volunteers told me they want to do it again – if they don't run.

First, let me tell you "Great job!" on the race event! The volunteers were outstanding, and friendly! This was the first race I have been at where there were enough restrooms too! ...Regardless, thank you for your efforts in making this a memorable race event. I'm glad I was a part of it.

This whole event was fabulous. I know you put in countless hours, and I don't know how to say thank you enough. I thoroughly enjoyed the route, the volunteers were great, and you did a wonderful job. Thank you, thank you. Count us in for next year.

Yesterday's run sounded like it was a huge success. I enjoyed being a part of it both as a sponsor and as a participant. I'm sure it is a relief to you to have it over. ..Thank you and great job on organizing this event.

"Health Care Access" -- a group I REALLY believe in. And it was great seeing the heart of Lawrence (vs. way out west) filled with runners! After our 5K we zipped home, got the dog and kid and went out to cheer on the 1/2 marathoners. Can't wait for next year!

Congratulations on putting on a great race! During the whole race I heard number of positive comment about the race, the venue, the food, the volunteers, and yall for making it a great race.

I, too, heard lots of positive comments from the participants. It didn't hurt that it turned out to be a perfect day for runners.

My son, who ran the half-marathon, said the volunteers throughout the course were great and enthusiastic and have probably assured that next year's race will be even bigger.

FYI - I heard some of the organizers talking about how cooperative everyone at Haskell was to work with. I'm sure the event brought hundreds of people to the Haskell campus for the first time and I know they will associate good thoughts with the university and university community.

I ran my very first 1/2 marathon this past weekend in Lawrence. I have only run 5K prior to that and hadn't trained in distance at all. I was a bit nervous but shouldn't have been. I had a great time and felt very comfortable primarily due to how the race was run and staffed.

Thank you for making my first experience a good one.

This whole event was fabulous. I know you put in countless hours, and I don't know how to say thank you enough. I thoroughly enjoyed the route, the volunteers were great, and you did a wonderful job. Thank you, thank you. Count us in for next year.

I could tell your race required a lot of hard work to put on--so great job, and I'll always enjoy coming back.

Congratulations on the race today! From a racer's perspective, I thought it went great, the course was a lot of fun, all of the volunteers and people on the course were very helpful, and everything was well marked and organized. Nice work on the weather too.

Ran the 5 K today and it was great. Very well organized, lots of friendly volunteer, etc...good job.

What a great event! The 5k course was great. I liked the long hills and corners, especially the underpass. You two guys are totally awesome, you are both great people for the running community. You are very much appreciated!! Thank you for a wonderful time.

The race was awesome!!! I am so impressed with how you guys put it together – what a fab ½ marathon course – I, of course, did the 5 K because I did not train as much as I needed to. Two of my employees did the ½ marathon and the rest of us did the 5 K – everyone had a great time and was so glad they did it.

I will definitely join up next year – and that time I will do the ½ marathon – started training this morning ☺

I have spoken with at least a dozen folks who had nothing but positive remarks, from wanting to sponsor to volunteer to training for half over 5k. So much better than bike path!

The race was terrific and the donations are rolling in. You guys did an awesome job and I certainly appreciate the fact that it requires a ton of work. I think everyone was very pleased and excited with the end product. I think the ½ is a good distance for me, but I have learned to never say never

I just wanted to thank you for setting up a great run. I thought the route was especially great. I know a lot of work went into this, and for me it was a great experience, so thanks.

Liked the new course. The scenery was worth "the hill".

Heard nothing but glowing reports about the race organization, course, volunteers, food fest, etc. Everyone seemed to have a fabulous day. Thanks so much -- as a runner and Health Care Access Board Member -- and congratulations on "starting" (or re-starting) a great Lawrence tradition.

Greetings from Southwest Kansas:

I'd like to send my compliments on the recent Lawrence Half-Marathon in which I participated on April 15th. The course was highlighted by numerous historical sites, so it was somewhat educational to a visitor to your city. Including parts of campuses of both the Haskell Indian Nations University as well as the University of Kansas was a nice touch. The finish on the track (at Haskell) reminded me of the well known Memorial Day race in Colorado known as the Boulder Boulder, which likewise finishes on a track.

I was impressed by the number of friendly volunteers all along the way. Even the weather cooperated on race day. This event compares favorably against other large events I've run in Oklahoma City, Kansas City, Boulder, Seattle, Wichita, and Tulsa. The new course certainly gives it a unique flavor.

Some large (and some not so large) events have celebrity runners who are part of the draw, such as Bill Rodgers in OKC and KC races or Frank Shorter in OKC or Wichita races. This race drew its own celebrity runner who was there as a runner rather than as a celebrity. In other words, Jim Ryun himself was there mingling with all the other runners, and was there to participate, not because he was paid to be there. That speaks well of the race as well as of Mr. Ryun. I shouldn't have been surprised to see him there, yet I hadn't expected it.

It was obvious the race organizers (the Rileys) are proud of their city and also care about attention to detail in order to give the runners a quality event. I know it takes a lot of work just to organize a running event for less than 100 runners, let alone over 1000 counting both races. I will recommend this race to many others as I add the memories to my personal running history. My thanks to them and all the volunteers!

By the way, the race was extremely well organized and a good experience for me as well as for everyone, I am sure.

Thanks for a great event you two brought to our town

Just a short note of thanks for your support of the Lawrence Half Marathon and 5K Races on April 15. Everything was well organized before, during, and after the race. The course was interesting both on Haskell grounds and throughout the city. Everyone I spoke to had a good experience in the event.

My six friends from Lee's Summit, Missouri, also enjoyed the race and then breakfast afterward downtown.

We all look forward to another good experience next year.

Awesome!!! Thanks!!! We had such a great time at our water station. The third guy who ran past us wanted a beer (joking I'm sure!)...and we had lots of comments about margaritas and tequila shots too! The runners really seemed to like our funny signs and costumes too.

Wow - everyone seems to agree it was a fantastic race - all your hard work paid off. Being at the finish line, I didn't get to see everything that went on out on the course - but after reading all that, I want to run it next year!!

We had a blast during the run, it was well organized! Good work!

Thanks for everything...we both enjoyed the race and appreciate all the work you must have gone to to create that unique half marathon course ...I drove it with my wife betty after the event...thanks again
mf, dallas, tx

Had a wonderful time running the Lawrence half-marathon. The course was nicely laid out, the volunteers were excellent, and the post race food was plentiful and good. I'll definitely recommend this race to my friends and will plan on running it again in 2008. I appreciate all the hard work you put in to running a very fun event that showcased Lawrence. I hope the city provides even more support in the future

Also, congratulations for a very successful event! You've greatly benefited an important public health agency as well as created a lot of good will for the Lawrence community. It was a pleasure to assist this good cause.