

RUMBLE: Event drew hundreds of runners to Sisters

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near 100 did so this year — although the unofficial count of dogs starting the race was probably closer to 70.

Jared Bassett (no pun intended) came through as the winner by just over a minute in the 20-miler in a time of 2 hours 7 minutes and 21 seconds. Rachel Drake of Portland won the women's division in 2:20:30 and finished sixth overall.

Ian Dobson, former Stanford and Olympic runner who grew up in Klamath Falls and now resides in Bend, finished fourth overall, but finished first in the "runner with dog" category. He and his buddy Chap finished in 2:14:37. Devon Calvin, a former runner for the Sisters Outlaws, was the top finisher with local ties, placing fifth in 2:20:22.

Other local finishers in the 20 mile race included Ben Fullhart (2:44:49), Riley Willitts (2:49:52), Jennifer Horrocks (3:22:18), Phoenix Ries (3:29:12), Chantel Welch (3:29:42), Annie Winter (3:29:58), Mary Jane Schulte (3:40:37), Gene Trahern (3:57:30) and Kelly Davis Martin (4:57:03).

A total of 347 runners completed the 20-mile course, which traverses the Peterson Ridge Trail after starting at the junction of Edgington Road and the McKenzie Highway. The race finishes on the track at Reed Stadium.

The 40-mile race covers



PHOTO BY CHARLIE KANZIG

2008 Olympian Ian Dobson and his dog placed third overall and first for runners with dogs in the 20-miler.

the same course in the first half and continues southwest on trails and dirt roads beyond Crossroads.

Mario Mendoza, an elite runner living in Bend, won the 40-mile race in a time of 4:08:40, which translates to approximately a 6-minute-and-13-second pace per mile. He nipped Tyler Green of Portland by just 29 seconds.

Ashley Nordell of Sisters dominated the female field, winning by nearly a half an hour in time of 4:58:58.

Zander Albertson ran steady throughout his first 40-mile race and finished in 6:53:05 for 44th place overall.

"It was all right out there," he said afterwards. "It was actually fun."

A total of 95 runners finished the 40-mile race.

Director Meissner, a long-time supporter for Sisters High School and Sisters Middle School cross-country and track programs, donates

some of the proceeds of the race to those teams. Members of those teams, along with coaches, provide much of the race-day logistics and support at aid stations, road crossings, and the finish line.

"It's a win-win-win for the Sisters community," said Meissner. "Runners come from all over and have a memorable, high-quality experience. The community gets tourism dollars, and the teams get some support for their programs."

RULLMAN: Book is available at Paulina Springs Books

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horses. The mom-and-pop stores disappear and the big box stores take over."

Rullman wonders if the character honed on the frontier can actually adapt to such changes.

"Adaptability has been one of the hallmarks of the West," he said. "That's one of the questions I'm asking: As we homogenize everything, how can you do that?"

Rullman cites local support in bringing "The Bunkhouse Chronicles" to life. Sisters photographer and graphic designer Lynn Woodward shot and designed the cover. And Rullman appreciates his experience working with *Nugget* editor Jim Cornelius.

"It's nice to be able to bounce ideas around and be back in the bunkhouse a little

bit talking about ideas," he said. "Writing a column has been a really good way to hone my craft. You have a word count and you have to cut away a lot of fat."

Rullman acknowledges that not every column can be a home run, but, he jokes, "it's like baseball — if you hit three out of 10, you're going to the hall of fame."

Rullman is also well aware that not every reader appreciates his outlook. He still thinks they ought to pick up a copy of the book, "because it might surprise them. Assumptions are a funny thing — in both writers and readers."

"The Bunkhouse Chronicles: Field Notes From The Figure 8 Ranch" is available online through the usual sources, directly through <https://smokecreekpress.com> and locally in Sisters at Paulina Springs Books. Rullman plans an author event at Paulina Springs on June 22.

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