

## SportsDay

## Color pink inspires top survivor

Martin, 56, says she's winning crucial race — one with breast cancer

By DEBBIE FETTERMAN  
Special Contributor  
dfetterman@dfw.com

Buzzing is part of Rebecca Martin's daily routine. The 13-year breast cancer survivor says she's grateful to be able to wake up and live another day.

Martin, 56, received the Joaze Hatcher Memorial Award for being the fastest breast cancer survivor at Saturday's 29th Susan G. Komen Dallas Race for the Cure at NorthPark Center.

She said she didn't come out expecting to win the 5K foot race. In her mind, she is winning the race that counts — surviving breast cancer.

"I'm very aware of those who aren't here anymore," said Martin, who finished in 22 minutes, 32 seconds. "I don't take anything for granted. When you face dying [from breast cancer], you learn to live."

The 20th survivor winner, Tami Lefe, 51, of Valley View, finished second in 22:58.

Martin was among more than 25,000 runners and walkers participating in the annual 5K and 1-mile, established to raise awareness and funds to fight breast cancer.

Martin said she was particularly moved to see all the survivors, particularly May Visina Parra, who was celebrating her 4th year of survival.

"That gives me hope," Martin said.

The event served as a celebration of life and freedom, starting with the Richardson Exchange Club's presentation of a giant American flag held up by community members, with members of the Dallas



A triumphant survivor's march, led by members of the Dallas Cowboys Drum Corps, also featured about 2,500 women battling breast cancer after the 29th Komen Dallas Race for the Cure at NorthPark Center on Saturday.

Taylor Glascock/Staff Photographer

**In Metro:** Race attracts 30,000 people

Cowboys Drum Corps marching alongside and Tim Halperin, a TCU graduate, singing the national anthem.

The 5K participants filled out and vestibular lanes of Park Boulevard, from near Boeckler Street to the southbound North Central Expressway service road.

Symbolic pink trappings were everywhere, from survivors decked in pink shirts and hats to banners, posters, even ornamental pink flowers hanging from a tree along the course.

Legna Sherman, the men's overall winner, finished the 3.1-mile route through neighborhoods north of the mall in 14 minutes, 51 seconds. He and the rest of a deep, local elite field raced strong, many finishing more than 30 minutes before the back-of-the-packer reached the starting line.

The post-race celebration of life included a parade of about 2,500 survivors including Parra, 65, aka, MVP. More than 30 of Parra's family members and friends wore bright blue "MVP 2001" t-shirt and participated in the festivities.

The band Emerald City played "We Will Survive" as the thousands of survivors waved

pink roses to the music's beat. Others waved posters with messages: "Fight like a Girl. Go Pink," and "Faith, Hope, Love, Strength."

**Aggies finish strong:** Sherman and fellow former Aggie runner Melissa Cook captured the overall men's and women's titles, respectively. It marked Sherman's second consecutive men's title.

"You want to do well because of the cause," said Sherman, 26, who is studying to become a chiropractor at Parker College of Chiropractic Wellness. "It's an awesome atmosphere."

Saturday's victory marked Cook's fifth overall Komen Dal-

las title. She finished in 16:30, sprinting the final 300 meters to overtake defending champ D'Ann Arthur (16:46).

"I always want to be competitive," said Cook, who will be aiming to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Trials in the 10,000 meters. Last year, Cook placed third at the Dallas race, in 17:52, racing 11 weeks after delivering her second child.

**Briefly:** Third-place women's finisher Sonya Correa clocked a 17:18, a personal best by more than 20 seconds. — **Artist and former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Leslie Paule, this year's honorary race chair, showcased her dramatic breast sculpture "You Can't Strip a**

Close to 30,000 walkers and runners took part in Saturday's Komen Dallas Race for the Cure. Check the online slide to see if our photograph caught you amid the sea of pink: [dallasnews.com/health](http://dallasnews.com/health)



**Good Woman Down:** The 13-foot metal bra is secured to a scraped-out bomb casing to represent the war and battles breast cancer patients must go through. It hangs upon a "Tree of Life" ... It was hard to miss the hat upon the head of Helen Wachsman, 48. She incorporated flowers, including a giant pinkish flower, quilt and butterflies. Wachsman is battling an aggressive, inflammatory form of breast cancer.