World-record marathoners make stop in Bryan

By CHAYSE HELD **Times Sports Editor**

The idea of completing seven marathons in seven states in seven days might seem crazy to some people.

But for those participating in the Mainly Marathons Heartland Series which began Monday in Bryan - completing marathons is a way of life.

A total of 110 people from all over the United States - and around the world - participated in the Bryan marathon. The featured multiple Guinness World Record holders. Forty-three of the competitors plan to complete the seven marathons in seven days in seven states challenge.

"The vast majority of our runners are trying to get a marathon or a halfmarathon in every state. So these races are real popular with them," said Mainly Marathons race director Clint Burleson, who also participated in the marathon.

"Before we did that, you could go out and maybe get a double on a weekend some place. It was expensive and took a long time to reach that goal. So we've made it a little more convenient. Some people say we've made it easier, but not if you try doing five marathons in



(Staff photo by Jennifer J. Hellard) World-record marathoners Larry Macon, left, and Parvaneh Moayedi participate in the



(Staff photo by Jennifer J. Hellard)

David Bayley, of the United Kingdom, takes a much-needed rest after finishing first in the Mainly Marathons Heartland Series 26.2-mile race in Rec Park on Monday.

dynamics of it a lot."

The marathon had its start/ a row. Nothing's easy about finish line at MacDonald-

1.63-mile loop on Rec Park's the official distance of 26.2 Horton Trail.

it. But it has changed the Ruff Ice Arena and featured a of 16 laps around the trail for miles. Some participants in



(Staff photo Jennifer J. Hellard)

Bryan residents, from left, Sandy Link, Bonnie Kimpling-Kelly and Timo Lehtonen completed a half marathon Monday as part of the Mainly Marathons Heartland Series in Rec Park.

others ran. Others on Monday most marathons in a single who were not looking to year with a mind-blowing complete a marathon did half total of 255 marathons in a marathons and 5K distances. calendar year.

Among the recordholders in Bryan were Larry Macon said during the marathon, and Parvaneh Moavedi. both current residents of San love this town. It's a really Antonio, Texas.

Macon holds The marathon consisted the marathon walked while Guinness World Record for

"I really like it," Macon before adding of Bryan, "I pretty town."

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In the same group with Macon today before making stops in a marathon in all 50 states and running so many marathons has on well. We're coming back," Burleson was Moayedi, originally of Iran, who holds the world record for most marathons in a single calendar year by a female. She has run marathons on all seven continents.

"It's become part of my lifestyle. I can say that for everybody that does this," Moayedi said. "If I don't run one day you're missing something. It just gives you a goal. a mission, so it's really personal. It's really not for competition."

Moayedi is among the group who will be completing seven marathons this week. The group will be running in Niles, Mich.

Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota this week.

"Most of the people are retired. So they obviously have the time and the money to be able to travel and do all this," said Moayedi, "I think, for a lot of us, we have replaced the workaholic or other bad habits with something good."

David Bayley, of the United Kingdom, took first place in Monday's marathon with a time of 3 hours, 21 minutes, 45 seconds. Caitlyn Nelson of Illinois was the first female finisher, coming in at 4:19:04.

Bayley has the goal of running

Monday was able to cross Ohio off his list, his 24th state.

"I'm trying to run a marathon in all 50 states because there's not many people who are English who have done so," Bayley said. "This (series) allows me to pay for one flight and run in seven different states. It's a great experience ... I'll be halfway (to 50 states) tomorrow so I'm getting there.

never won one until today," Bayley added with a laugh. "I saved my best for Ohio. It's been great."

As for the grueling demands

one's body, Bayley said it's all about hydration and taking care of yourself.

"I'll probably have a good Bryan every year. steak dinner, couple of pints of beer. That will keep me going until tomorrow," Bayley said. "Hydration is very important and I take that very seriously. So a few of the local bars will see their takings increase."

As for the series returning to Bryan in the future, Burleson "I've run 204 marathons and I've said they will be back next year. This was the first time the Mainly Marathons series has made a stop in visit the official website the Buckeye State.

"Bryan has treated us extremely

said. "We want this to be an annual event and we want to come back to

"Your parks department was wonderful. Your mayor came out last night when we had our pasta dinner and he was again out here this morning to welcome the runners to town," he added. "It's one of the best feelings we've had in a town and being welcomed in a town."

For more information on the Mainly Marathon series. mainlymarathons.com.

chold@hrvantimas com

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