

MUD EMPIRE

by Sophia Wharton, co-RD

The field of competitors for this year's Psycho Psummer 50K was as deep as the last couple miles of sloppy mud. Before the race, co-race director Ben Holmes posted 28 possible winners and got folks excited.

But David Wakefield had trained physically and emotionally to win, and win he did.

"I woke up in the morning and felt like running. On any day either Todd or Greg could have won."

For Wakefield, the fierce competition made this win much more exciting than a "cherry pick" where the top competition had chosen a different race for the weekend. This time those who wanted to compete were toeing the line at the Psycho Psummer 50-km.

Coming in 16th place overall, Deanna Culbreath brought excitement to the women's race and the men's.

"Hi, I'm the other girl that beat you," she jested afterwards to Pat Perry, who finished the Western States 100 in 2007 and followed both Deanna and second-place woman, Danielle Elliott, across the line. But Pat was not the only usual Trail Nerd front-runner bested by the spunky Mud Babe from New York. This was her day, her race, and like David Wakefield, Deanna wanted the win more.

"I realized that I was in first place, and decided I was going to win."

A courageous DNF from (barefoot) Josh Snelink bred competition. He went out for a second loop, but dropped at mile 20.



Maintaining position at a rocky stream crossing

"Next year I will aim for a win at Psycho Psummer and yes...I will wear shoes."

While a couple dry weeks and creative re-routing by runners kept much of the mud at bay, even a thousand pounds of ice couldn't change the fact it was humid.

There were 74 finishers out of 112 entered. For most who dropped, their competition was the humidity. Others, like Scott Hill, embraced it.

"This race is intended to face the heat and humidity and spit in its face."

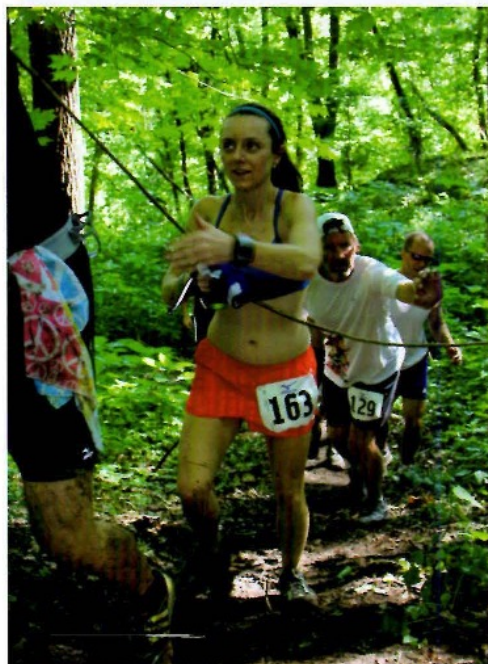
Scott finished in 6:17:05, and even beat Deanna by ten minutes.

Laura Bellman has run the race before but volunteered this time around and saw the race from a different side.

"I think that once you get running, the world shifts and what is impossible for bystanders IS possible for you. This shift in reality is the beauty and agony of ultrarunning."

Laura - just one piece of a complex volunteer puzzle. Volunteers arrived prepared and came up with solutions, sometimes to things we never saw as problems. Thanks to Amy Unsworth and her son, Josh, we even composted melon rind at the finish line.

Ben and I have put so much energy into the Trail Nerds and are astounded by the energy return from volunteers and runners. ■



Rope-assist up a slippery slope

PSYCHO PSUMMER RUN TOTO RUN

50K | KANSAS CITY, KANSAS
JULY 10 | ▲ 3,4

1. David Wakefield, 35	5:03:17
2. Todd Nott, 46	5:19:15
3. Gregg Buehler, 38	5:24:20
4. Brad Bishop, 24	5:35:00
5. Nicholas Hanson, 28	5:45:36
6. Ben Gilbert, 37	5:49:09
7. Mike Garven, 26	5:49:47
8. Marvin Mastin, 44	5:50:11
9. Matthew Becker, 36	5:50:23
10. Jeremy Huxol, 27	6:04:42
11. Aaron Norman, 25	6:06:58
12. Corey Duever, 24	6:09:31
Paul Schoenlaub, 50	6:09:31
14. Scott Hill, 31	6:17:05
15. John Cash, 37	6:21:36
16. Deanna Culbreath, 30	6:27:09
17. Mark Inbody, 44	6:27:10
18. Brian Daldorph, 52	6:27:23
19. John King, 37	6:31:56
20. Rick Mayo, 34	6:35:25
21. Jake Milligan, 27	6:38:56
22. Pablo Martinez, 40	6:43:30
23. Danielle Elliott, 24	6:50:59
24. John Pollihan, 29	6:53:11
25. Jesse Sjoberg, 37	6:57:11
26. Patrick Perry, 45	7:00:32
27. Derek Strain, 44	7:03:33
28. Karen Douglas, 39	7:13:14
29. Mark Stovall, 42	7:18:06
30. Mike Soltys, 43	7:21:38
31. Trent Corbett, 32	7:22:46
32. Erik Nybo, 30	7:24:31
33. Caleb Efta, 20	7:26:20
34. Steve Pollihan, 33	7:27:20
35. Darrin Johnson, 42	7:31:29
36. Ted Peterson, 24	7:38:01
37. Carl Edwards, 51	7:40:20
38. Bryce Barnett, 37	7:40:22
39. Jim Vonderhaar, 45	7:40:58
40. Brad Cusick, 34	7:41:22
41. Michelle Elliott, 40	7:50:16
42. John Mossman, 31	7:50:41
43. Wael Sammur, 48	7:55:22
44. Brian Brooks, 37	7:55:24
45. Anne Wheeler, 24	8:00:40
46. Daniel Thomason, 37	8:04:29
47. Kyle Lewis, 20	8:07:01
48. Jenn Passman, 28	8:10:00
49. Danny Loental, 29	8:10:55
50. Erin Hennessey, 27	8:11:40
51. Austin Braithwait, 40	8:19:40
52. Jennifer Serati-Gagne, 44	8:21:50
53. Debbie Colletta, 53	8:22:04
54. Joseph Terrell, 35	8:24:10
55. Erica Carper, 38	8:27:32
56. Terry Rider, 55	8:27:33
57. Stuart Ray, 52	8:34:53
58. Jay Mooney, 34	8:39:21
59. Steve Hoyer, 37	8:40:22
60. Ed Caracillo, 40	8:42:45
61. Pete Leon, 42	8:46:22
62. John Adams, 49	8:46:48
63. Phil Bishop, 28	8:47:01
64. Kelvin Riley, 48	8:50:43
65. Jon O'Neil, 55	8:51:39
66. Eddie Battitori, 46	9:06:22
Erin Miller, 33	9:06:22
68. Shane Finn, 33	9:13:42
69. Alan Peterson, 52	9:21:26
70. Mike Ramolt, 45	9:22:45
71. Roger Seematter, 48	9:25:30
72. Levi Bowles, 29	9:27:39
73. Shannon Poindexter, 33	9:33:13
74. Donnie Dempewolf, 22	9:59:59