



GAMBLING FOR THE WIN

BY TODD CHANDLER



CACTUS ROULETTE ENDURANCE EVENT LAWRENCE, KS // JANUARY 29

 **3,3' // 24 HOURS,
12 HOURS, 12 HOURS,
6 HOURS**

Elevation gain:
1.9-mile loop
Bunker Hill 150 feet
2.6-mile loop
Cactus Ridge 239 feet
3.6-mile loop
Swim Beach 253 feet

Three different loops
ranging from 1.9 to 3.6
miles. Prior to each loop,
runners will spin a roulette
wheel to determine which
loop they run next.

Tyler McDaniel works a
downhill on the Bunker Hill
loop during the 12-hour
Lark race.  RICK MAYO / MILE
90 PHOTOGRAPHY



ELEVEN HOURS AND 38 MINUTES

after starting his race, Sean Frost crossed the finish line holding his daughter's hand. His dad handed him a beer and Sean relaxed, thinking he was done. He had run 17 loops for 42.3 miles and with only 22 minutes left on the 12-hour clock, he figured he didn't have time to run one more loop. But then Sean's inner beast emerged, "I thought I'd have to high tail it in here to see if I

could spin Bunker Hill and get in one more lap."

Cactus Roulette is a duration trail race with three different loops ranging from 1.9 to 3.6 miles. Prior to each loop, runners spin a roulette wheel to determine which loop they run next. Bunker Hill was the shortest and fastest loop.

I told him, "You should at least give it one more spin." The ball landed on red – Bunker Hill. Sean handed

the beer back to his father and bolted off for one more loop. To make it back in time, he would have to run it faster than the previous seven times he ran it over the last 11 hours.

Runners have four races to choose from: 24 hours, 12-hour (Owl), 12-hour (Lark) and 6 hours.

The 24-hour runners started at noon on Saturday. Chase Hammond won the 24-hour division with 28 loops

and 76.1 miles. He tapped out just before 21 hours. All the other 24-hour runners had already ended their races. The technical trails at Clinton Lake took a toll on the runners. With this being our inaugural year, I'm eager to see how long it will be before we see our first 100-mile finisher.

There are two races for 12-hour runners – the Owl runs noon to midnight on Saturday, and the Lark runs



ABOVE: Chase Hammond runs a Swim Beach loop on the first day of the 24-hour race.
 📷 RICK MAYO / MILE 90 PHOTOGRAPHY

OPPOSITE: Ryan Ortiz reacts wearily after spinning another Swim Beach loop on the roulette wheel.
 📷 RICK MAYO / MILE 90 PHOTOGRAPHY

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ABOVE: Winner of the 24-hour event, Chase Hammond, shows off his finisher's hardware.

📷 JOHN KNEPPER / MILE 90 PHOTOGRAPHY

OPPOSITE: Carol Johnson-Miller runs Cactus Ridge on her way to 30.8 miles in the 24-hour race.

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midnight to noon on Sunday. Sean was running the Lark and his wife was nervously tracking his progress on her phone. When we saw him flying down the hill, the crowd went nuts. He crossed the timing mat with less than 2 minutes to spare, and this time he really was finished.

Twelve hours earlier, the Owl also produced an inspiring finish. Tyler McDaniel finished his 20th loop at 11:12 p.m. With 48 minutes left, he spun Swim Beach—the longest, slowest loop. Hunched over, he paused for a few seconds, then rose and said, “I’ve got to do it,” and headed off into the darkness. He finished with 4 minutes to spare and racked up 60.4 miles for his first-place win.

Most participants ran in the 6-hour race which started at 6 a.m. on Sunday. The 6-hour race is also where we saw the closest finish to the cutoff. Sydney Sorkin and Clint Bond were running linked, meaning

they would run as one team. Like Tyler, their final spin landed on Swim Beach and they also went for it. Sydney tripped in the last half mile and, after a slight miscalculation on how far they still had to go, they knew they had to finish hard. Sydney didn’t have time to brush off and they sprinted in, just 83 seconds before cutoff. ▲



Cactus Roulette Endurance Event

Lawrence, KS // January 29

 3,3' // 24 HOURS, 12 HOURS, 12
HOURS, 6 HOURS

24 HOURS

1	Chase Hammond, 37, KS	76.1
2	Mitchell Gillogly, 27, NE	62
3	Aaron Parker, 39, KS	56
4	Ed Maye, 60, MO	40.6
5	John Fritchey, 49, KS	34.3
6	Carol Johnson-Miller, 35, MO	30.8

12 HOURS (OWL)

1	Tyler McDaniel, 38, MO	60.4
2	Bryant Kurtz, 30, MO	54.9
3	Adam Berens, 40, SD	49.3
4	Christopher Foster, 29, MO	44.4
5	Ryan Ortiz, 38, KS	41.7
6	Jamie Witte, 46, KS	41.5
7	Ted Kuether, 40	41
8	Jordan Shrack, 38, KS	40.8
9	Paul Orth, 40, KS	32.9

12 HOURS (LARK)

1	Sean Frost, 33, KS	44.2
2	Al Mauro, 55	42.1
3	Sara Wilcox, 48, KS	40.9
4	Jay Antle, 53, KS	30.5

6 HOURS

1	Ann Marie Chappell, 43, MO	32.6
2	Matt Almaguer, 42, KS	32
3	Scott Lillis, 48, KS	30.7

*See page 45 for key