



OCTOGENARIAN INSPIRATION

BY KRISTI MAYO

PRAIRIE SPIRIT TRAIL OTTAWA, KS // MARCH 26

 **1, 2 // 100 MILES,
100K, 50 MILES, 50K**

**Elevation gain/loss:
Flat**

The races are rails-to-trails courses that run through numerous little towns. Runners will do an out-and-back, beginning in Ottawa, KS and traveling south to Iola (100 milers), Garnett (50 milers) or Richmond (50), then, back north to the finish.

The 100K will start on the trail in Ottawa and will head south to the turnaround in Welda and back north to the finish in Ottawa. The course is primarily on a crushed limestone trail, with asphalt paths through each town.

80-year-old Maurice Robinson early in the 100-mile race. Robinson set the 100-mile American Record for his age group.

📷 KRISTI MAYO / MILE 90
PHOTOGRAPHY



LEFT: First-place 100-miler, Pete Kostelnick, early in the race. © RICK MAYO / MILE 90 PHOTOGRAPHY

ABOVE: Anastasia Rolek runs inbound from the Colony Aid Station, in third place overall. © RICK MAYO / MILE 90 PHOTOGRAPHY

Crouched just behind the finish line, I trained my camera on the next runner coming home. It was just after 11 a.m., an hour before cutoff, and the Golden Hour was already living up to its name.

A group of volunteers, spectators and crew crowded behind me. Cowbells, cheers and applause drew a slightly bent figure ever closer. He wobbled and listed a bit to one side, and the crowd hushed as he abruptly turned toward the livestock pens that flank the path to the finish line, grabbed onto a pipe gate—and stretched his entire body in one final adjustment. Cramps and soreness momentarily sated, the cheers resumed, and 80-year-old Maurice Robinson of Benton, Arkansas, continued his push to the finish line in the 100-mile race.

Once across the timing mats, Robinson was swallowed up by his people in a scrum of hugs and tears. His time,



29:03:21, made him the fastest 80-year-old male in American history at the 100-mile distance, and marked the second-fastest world time for his age group.

The flat and fast Prairie Spirit Trail takes runners on an out-and-back from race headquarters in Ottawa, Kansas, and guides them through agricultural fields, a wooded riparian habitat and small Midwestern towns. Since gaining USATF certification in 2016, the trail has set the scene for numerous Kansas and American records.

This year, the previous Kansas women's record in the 100-mile distance was bested by two people: Kayla Straub of Newton, Kansas (16:28:36), and Anastasia Rolek of Lakewood, Colorado (17:05:54). In the 100K, Giff Walters of Denver, Colorado pushed nearly an hour lead over second place to set a new Kansas record with a time of

Shonda Jay of Oklahoma City celebrates her 100K victory. **PHOTOGRAPHY** KRISTI MAYO / MILE 90

7:53:09. And in the 50K race, Sara Ibbetson of Ozark, Missouri raised the bar on the Kansas state record with a time of 3:37:06.

On a day filled with so many fast performances, having the opportunity to watch Robinson set his age group record punctuated the Golden Hour. He emerged from the congratulatory scrum, held steady by his crew and loved ones, and walked into the race headquarters building a little battered—but also the image of patience and persistence. ▲

Prairie Spirit Trail

Ottawa, KS // March 26

1.2 // 100 MILES, 100K, 50 MILES, 50K

100 MILES

1	Pete Kostelnick, 34, AZ	16:14:43
2	Kayla Straub, 32, KS	16:28:36
3	Anastasia Rolek, 41, CO	17:05:54
4	Adam Berens, 40, SD	21:29:49
5	George Cutbirth, 46, MO	22:22:56
6	Julia Moss, 29, MO	23:09:27
7	Nathan Hahn, 51, OR	23:11:28
8	Joe Cooper, 36, MO	23:14:38
9	Clayton Schneider, 32, KS	24:38:19
10	Christopher Nicholas, 45, AR	24:53:01
11	Arnold Begay, 59, OK	25:02:14
12	Shana LeNeveu, 51, CO	25:08:17
13	Colt Hedden, 37, OK	25:12:22
14	Tony Clark, 44, KS	25:16:10
15	Kathy Errthum, 45, WI	25:21:56
16	Dermot Ferry, 49, IA	25:38:39
17	Timothy Bergan, 56, IA	26:26:49
18	Joe Schrum, 53, AZ	27:09:04
19	Jen Novobilski, 47, AK	27:16:46
20	Justin Smith, 33, OK	27:53:17
21	Patrick Grengs, 56, AZ	28:17:21
22	Cory Berkenes, 40, IA	28:27:59
23	Eric Olson, 46, WI	28:30:55
24	Natalie Bickers, 46, AK	28:46:12
25	Maggie Baun, 25, KS	28:46:20
26	Randy Ellis, 70, OK	28:52:44
27	Maurice Robinson, 80, AR	29:03:21
28	Lara Gonzalez, 47, NY	29:04:46
29	William Sprouse, 52, KS	29:33:06
30	Kristoffer Singer, 35, KS	29:41:08

100K

1	Giff Walters, 36, CO	7:53:09
2	Tim Langdon, 40, NE	8:46:33
3	Taylor Henning, 42, MN	9:33:54
4	Jake Bostwick, 32, OK	10:34:27
5	Luke Hanson, 34, KS	11:33:09
6	Ryan Ortiz, 38, KS	11:57:45
7	Raman Wadehra, 52, KS	12:43:40
8	Shonda Jay, 46, OK	12:45:48
9	Alan Thomsen, 40, KS	12:51:51
10	Alonso Fernández, 25, TX	12:58:00
11	Ed West, 55, KS	12:58:02
12	Zack Murry, 34, KS	13:26:49
13	Megan Lawhon, 29, NE	13:42:17
14	Ashton Smith, 32, OK	13:48:38
15	Kurt Mueller, 70, NE	13:48:56
16	Matt Kimsey, 48, MO	15:30:18
17	Stacey Parsons, 31, OK	16:22:23
18	Vicki McKinney-archer, 53, TX	18:31:16
19	Torrey Wilson, 31, NE	19:07:08
20	Dennis Wilson, 64, NE	19:07:11
21	Shaun Hardimon, 54, MI	19:38:48
22	Ed Maye, 61, MO	20:23:26
23	Alexander Boney, 34, MO	20:26:31
24	Dustin Schlote, 38, NE	20:33:33
25	Clifford Poessneck, 36, NE	20:37:21
26	Jeff Rhodes, 48, TX	20:43:22
27	Nancy Bauer, 60, SD	20:55:49
28	Becky Williams, 58, TX	24:29:52

50 MILES

1	Cameron Gee, 37, MO	6:00:10
2	Maksym Chepeliev, 32, IN	6:37:16
3	Angela Smith, 24, KS	7:29:55
4	Daniel Birchell, 19, OK	7:55:05
5	Katie Sullivan, 25, KS	7:57:49
6	April Calaway, 43, KS	8:14:12
7	Morgan Casper, 31, OK	8:14:24
8	David Theriot, 47, OK	8:14:24
9	Scott Vorhees, 46, MO	8:33:57
10	Jason Green, 51, MO	8:44:59
11	Barbara Powell, 33, MN	8:50:31
12	Emily Langdon, 38, NE	8:57:08
13	Sean Royce, 35, OK	9:04:52
14	Tyler Burgess, 32, MO	9:05:18
15	Crystal Ring, 33, AR	9:21:45
16	Max Vaughn, 31, KS	9:26:47
17	Nick Arganbright, 52, KS	9:45:36
18	Thomas Poll, 26, IA	9:49:30
19	Brandon Pruitt, 37, KS	9:56:23
20	Clayton Wood, 35, KS	10:02:17
21	Thomas Nay, 28, KS	10:12:27
22	Zella Pavlov, 30, OK	10:16:56
23	Rod Carbonell, 47, MO	10:17:54

24	Cody Baker, 31, NE	10:38:42
25	David Benson, 63, IL	10:40:10
26	Kevin Murray, 50, MO	10:45:01
27	Andrew Flynn, 51, MO	10:49:43
28	Elliott Scott, 31, KS	10:50:01
29	Mike Meehan, 50, MO	11:09:39
30	Chris Kimsey, 53, MO	11:12:01
31	Edward Sirkel, 49, AZ	11:18:27
32	Joshua Moncure, 25, MO	11:18:32
33	Matthew Stroupe, 50, OK	12:19:26
34	Michael Chiappini, 49, CO	13:31:33
35	Brad Heydon, 39, MO	14:14:01
36	Tyler Scheidt, 24, NE	14:40:01
37	Isaac Maytum, 26, NE	14:40:01
38	Brian Hoover, 48, NE	14:44:43
39	Dennis Crosby, 75, OK	16:56:26
40	Susan Stacy, 46, OK	16:56:27

50K

1	Hans Van Zanten, 48, MO	3:30:22
2	Patrick Riley, 48, IA	3:32:43
3	Colin Langfitt, 33, MO	3:34:14
4	Sara Ibbetson, 41, MO	3:37:06
5	Mike Osterholt, 48, NE	4:08:43
6	Aaron Voth, 36, KS	4:10:52
7	Christy Nielsen, 46, NE	4:10:58
8	Neela D'Souza, 44, ON	4:15:09
9	Christian Richardson, 35, KS	4:16:25
10	Logan Webb, 22, MO	4:19:28
11	Charlie Gomez, 43, MO	4:35:25
12	Mark Edwards, 35, TN	4:43:18
13	James McCormick, 65, KS	4:46:40
14	Ryan Moore, 38, MO	4:48:49
15	Dennis Heaton, 38, MO	4:54:12
16	James Nelson, 38, MN	4:54:13
17	Michael Criss, 62, KS	4:56:45
18	Cameron Biggs, 31, MO	5:01:08
19	Mel Fuller, 41, MO	5:01:12
20	Dave Sutej, 53, NE	5:07:16
21	Chuck Ewing, 56, MO	5:07:57
22	Shane Thompson, 40, MA	5:09:36
23	Matt Detamore, 43, MO	5:29:13
24	Sheldon Hundley, 29, KS	5:33:49
25	Seth Crawford, 21, MO	5:35:50
26	Amy Osterholt, 47, NE	5:41:18
27	Rebekah Garcia, 30, NM	5:47:23
28	Matt Fisher, 38, KS	5:50:21
29	Tim Reynolds, 44, KS	5:50:21
30	Travis Korver, 41, IA	5:50:27
31	Katie Smith, 35, MO	5:50:43
32	Brandy Hayes, 42, KS	5:51:52
33	Stuart Miller, 34, KS	5:53:26
34	Rob Blom, 51, IA	5:56:45
35	Kristy Clark, 41, KS	6:02:32
36	Jody Stutzman, 37, NE	6:04:16
37	Rob Thatcher, 42, KS	6:18:12
38	Katrina Jones, 50, MO	6:21:15
39	Leah Enright, 44, KS	6:21:15
40	Melanie Linderer, 45, MO	6:22:19
41	Jarrod Hayes, 47, KS	6:23:37
42	Jeffrey Walters, 49, KS	6:24:02
43	Lindsay Tice, 35, OK	6:28:03
44	Carolyn Robinson, 60, TX	6:30:17
45	Laura Plaisance, 47, KS	6:34:02
46	Amber Ansell, 42, OK	6:37:43
47	Darcy O'Neill, 50, KS	6:38:49
48	Melanie Morris, 51, KS	6:44:30
49	Mandy Berkley, 46, KS	6:44:31
50	Debbie Smith, 64, MO	6:44:50
51	Bill Bohde, 69, MO	6:46:26
52	James Lakenan, 31, MO	6:48:49
53	Duane Grigg, 70, MO	6:54:14
54	Colette Greene, 52, KS	6:56:31
55	Sheree Wilson, 65, MO	7:02:50
56	Linda Rust, 62, TX	7:04:26
57	Jason Smith, 54, MO	7:04:29
58	Mike Caristi, 53, NH	7:08:44
59	Brian Ansell, 54, OK	7:24:34
60	Craig Williams, 61, MO	7:42:28
61	Brian Joachims, 54, OK	7:45:55
62	Bob Henning, 48, KS	7:51:06
63	Scott Barker, 59, IA	8:15:19
64	Rosie Saiz, 32, KS	8:15:23
65	John Dietrich, 66, KS	8:25:09
66	Kate Omalley, 33, WI	8:30:42
67	Melody Gemuend, 43, CO	9:34:10

*See page 47 for key