

KANSAS

Garmin Marathon

Saturday, April 26, 2014 • Olathe, KS

Marathon/Ultra number:	214
State (first in state):	32 (yes)
Finish Time:	3:21:27
Overall Place:	32 of 678
Gender Place:	30 of 345
Age Group Place:	8th
Age on race day:	33



I don't normally run race because of their medal, but when I saw the medal for this race at the Kansas City Half Marathon the previous October I liked it. Early in 2014, I figured out a way to work this race into my schedule.

I flew into Kansas City on Friday and picked up my packet. They really play up the Wizard of Oz theme. It started at the expo and continued through the race. There was one aid station where all the volunteers were dressed as Wizard of Oz characters. The finish line was a yellow brick road and of course the medal and shirt featured the cowardly lion.

My only really goal here was a sub-3:30. I had just run Boston five days earlier, so I referred to this as "Boston to Oz". I was having a good month with three sub-3:30 marathons in three weeks.

The big story of this race was the weather. Prior to this I had only run marathons in the rain in Oregon and Washington. All my other states were dry. The forecast for this race was a bit worrisome to me. They were calling for rain, and thunderstorms. The night before I even heard talk about tornado. It started out dry and I heard there were busses positioned throughout the course in case they decided to cancel mid race. That worried me.

As it started to rain and was followed by thunder and lightning. I heard there was a tornado watch. And that made me run faster. The weather cleared up in the last 6 miles or so.

I finished in 3:21:27 which I was thrilled with. I chatted with Maniacs after the race and flew home early Sunday morning.

