

Costa Back “Home” in Walt Disney World Marathon Winner’s Circle

Brazilian Fredison Costa dominates in second straight Disney Marathon; Giovanna Martins of Brazil claims her first women’s title; More than 84,000 runners lined up for races in the five-day runDisney event that includes new Disney Castaway Cay Challenge

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (Jan. 11, 2015) – Fredison Costa is making himself at home – literally – at Walt Disney World Resort.

The Brazilian runner, who recently moved to Orlando and **trains at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World**, ran away with another Walt Disney World Marathon victory on Sunday. On a picturesque morning at Epcot, Costa left everyone behind in waltzing to his second straight Disney Marathon win and **fourth in the past five years**.

And he led another parade of Brazilian runners who were among the first four runners to cross the finish line. Trindade Mateus was second; Joao Fonseca was third and perennial Disney Marathon champion Adriano Bastos was fourth. It was the 11th straight year that a Brazilian won the 26.2-mile race through all four Disney theme parks, the Walt Disney World Speedway and ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

To complete the Brazilian domination at Disney, Giovanna Martins of Brazil was the top female winner, finishing in 2:50:20. Martins **cried tears of joy after crossing the line** “I’m a teacher of disabled and underprivileged children (in Brazil) who dream about Mickey Mouse and love him as much as I do,” Martins said through an interpreter, “so this was a dream come true.”

Martins was never challenged down the stretch. Neither was Costa, 37, who won by more than four minutes. That’s enough time to ride Space Mountain before Mateus crossed the finish line. At 2:18:06, Costa easily topped his winning time from last year of 2:21:39.

He said the best part of the race was seeing his coach, former US Olympic track coach Brooks Johnson, as he ran through ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. “I could see (him) and he was just cheering me on,” Costa said through an interpreter. “I really feel at home running here.”

In the wheelchair division, Robert Kozarek of Urbana, Ill., repeated as the men’s champion (1:57:35). Perennial winner Jacqui Kapinowski of Tesqesta, Fla., won the women’s division (2:39:04).

In all, **more than 26,700 runners competed** in the Disney Marathon presented by Cigna on Sunday. More than 7,600 of those runners ran in all four weekend events – the 5K, the 10K, the half marathon and the marathon, completing the popular “Dopey Challenge” (48.6 miles).

The Disney Marathon featured events for the entire family such as **runDisney Kids’ Races**, the **Family Fun Run 5K**

on Thursday, the **Walt Disney World 10K** on Friday, the **Half Marathon** on Saturday and the **Marathon** on Sunday. A **Health and Fitness Expo** ran throughout the weekend at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex and featured the latest in running technology and fashion, as well as renowned running experts such as **Jeff Galloway**, the official training consultant for *runDisney*, and **Tara Gidus**, the official *runDisney* nutritionist.

In a new twist this year, the Disney Marathon Weekend extends onto the high seas. Disney Marathon Weekend runners are competing Jan. 14 in the new **Disney Castaway Cay Challenge**, a special 5K race on Disney Castaway Cay, Disney Cruise Line's private Bahamas island. Every runner who finishes this new *runDisney* Challenge event will earn two medals – an inaugural Disney Castaway Cay Challenge medal and a Castaway Cay 5K medallion, plus any medals earned for running any Disney Marathon Weekend events (5K, 10K, half marathon or full marathon).

The Castaway Cay Challenge takes place during the 4-night Disney Dream cruise itinerary that sets sail Jan. 12 from Port Canaveral, Fla. and includes a stop in Nassau in addition to Castaway Cay. The cruise will feature exclusive activities designed for Castaway Cay Challenge participants, plus special menu items and merchandise.

The Walt Disney World Marathon Weekend is the first race in the 2015 *runDisney* series, which includes eight weekend events at Walt Disney World and Disneyland. Next up in the *runDisney* series is the inaugural Star Wars Half Marathon Weekend presented by Sierra Nevada Corporation at Disneyland Resort, Jan. 15-18.

Click on this link for high-resolution photos from the Disney Marathon:

<https://www.RelayIt.net/?c=JCrGpdbbcnRNH7LqcFjphsJfLjRsp5sQt8vj>

Photos and broadcast-quality video from the Disney Marathon will be available after 12:30 pm ET on www.disneysportsnews.com.