



TRAINING PROGRAM

For Beginning Runners

Goal Date: September 2, 2012

Thousands of beginning runners have finished half marathons, with strength, using this program. Only 3 weekly training days are needed: 30 minutes on Tuesday and Thursday, and a longer session on the weekend. On half of the weekends, most will be running and walking for an hour or less. For more information, see my book HALF MARATHON at www.JeffGalloway.com.

Jeff Galloway • US Olympian • Official Training Consultant, *runDisney*



TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1

The long run is the key to half marathon training.

As you increase the length of these, listed below, you push back your

endurance barriers and prepare to “go the distance” on raceday. You cannot go too slowly on the long runs: your goal is simply to finish each one with strength. To avoid a slowdown at the end of the race, please finish each one on the schedule—even if you walk most of it.

2

No huffing and puffing! On long runs, you want to be able to carry on a conversation throughout the run—even at the end. A very slow

pace, with liberal walk breaks, will allow almost everyone to feel strong on almost every long one. If you’re breathing hard at the end of a long one, you need to adjust to a slower pace with more walk breaks from the beginning of the next one.

3

Running form: Never sprint during a running segment—keep feet low to the ground, using a light touch of the feet, and a relatively short

stride. Most runners find that an upright posture is best but use what feels natural for you. Let your foot move in its natural way. Most runners land on the heel and gently roll off the midfoot.

4

Walking form: walk with a gentle stride, that is relatively short. Power walking or walking with a long stride, increase injury risk.

5

Slow down in the heat! Surveys have shown that runners tend to slow down a minute per mile when the temperature is 70F, & an

additional minute per mile at 80F. (compared with 60F or below). Please make these pace adjustments on the hot long run days, using more frequent walk breaks to avoid heat stress. Don’t

6

Time limit for the race is 3:30. The per mile pace to reach this goal is 16 min/mi. The “magic

mile” listed will predict current

potential on an ideal race day. Long run pace should be at least 2 min/mi slower than current half marathon race pace, predicted by the MM (see # 16). Please practice running at 15:00 to 15:30 per mile pace during the middle of a Tuesday or a Thursday run each week as noted in # 9.

7

Run-walk-run ratio should correspond to the pace used. If

you are just starting to run, try a strategy of (run 5 seconds/walk 55 seconds). If this is too easy, use (10sec run/50 sec walk) for all runs during the first 3 weeks. On long



TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

runs, you can continue to use either 5/55 or 10/50. Those who have done regular running in the past can shift to the “To Finish” program after 3 weeks.

8

Two 30 minute “maintenance runs” are needed each week to sustain the conditioning needed—usually on Tuesday and Thursday.

Please take a day off from running before each running day. On Tuesday, practice various run-walk-run strategies and enjoy these runs. On designated non-long-run weekends, run the MM as described in # 16.

9

Race Day practice. On a Tuesday and/or a Thursday run each week, after the standard warmup (# 11), time yourself for 2 miles and try to

pace at 15:00-15:30 per mile. As you use a variety of run-walk-run strategies, you should find the right ratio for you. A common strategy at this pace is (run 15 sec/walk 45 sec, but some use 20 sec run/40 sec walk, or 30/30).

10

It is fine to do cross training on Mon, Wed, and Fri. if you wish.

There will be little benefit to your running in doing this, but you’ll enhance the fat burning. On the cross training days, don’t do exercises like stair machines that concentrate effort in the calf muscle.

11

Standard warmup: walk for 3-5 minutes, then, run for a few seconds and walk for a minute for 5 minutes. Then, gradually increase

the amount of running, reducing the amount of walking for 5 minutes—until you reach the ratio that feels comfortable for you.

12

On Tuesday, after the standard warmup, try increasing the running portions: run 10 seconds/ walk 50 seconds for 5 or more

intervals, then try 15 sec run /walk 45 seconds for 5 repetitions. At this point, take a 2-3 minute walk

break and try 20/40 for 5 minutes, walk 2 minutes and try 30/30 for 5 minutes. It is OK to huff and puff a little as you increase the portion of running. But if the latter strategies are too tough, drop back to a comfortable ratio and complete the 30 minutes by using whatever ratio you wish.

13

On Thursday, after the standard warmup, time yourself for 2 miles. Use a run-walk-run strategy

that feels comfortable. Try to run at 15:00 to 15:30 per mile.

14

Standard cool down: walk for 10 minutes with a gentle and short stride.

15

Sign up now for the Walt Disney World Marathon (or Half) in January! The free training program, available at www.RunDisney.com

requires only 3 runs a week, with long runs only every 2-3 weeks.



TRAINING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

16

Magic Mile: I suggest doing this after the standard warmup on the non long run weekends. By the end of the training program you want to run a 12:15 time or faster to predict a finish time below 3:30 on raceday—at 60F. Be sure to adjust pace for temperature increase as noted in # 5, on long runs and on raceday.

The “Magic Mile” time trial (MM) is a reality check on your goal pace on raceday, and has been the best predictor of finishing under the race time limit of 3:30.

- Use the standard warmup (# 11)
- Run around a track if at all possible (or a very accurately measured one mile segment)
- Time yourself for 4 laps (1600 meters). Start the watch at the beginning, and keep it running until you cross the finish at 1.0 miles.
- **On the first MM, don’t run all-out: run at a pace that is slightly faster than your current gentle pace.**

- Only one MM is done on each day it is assigned.
- On each successive MM (usually 2 weeks later), your mission is to beat the previous best time.
- Don’t ever run so hard that you hurt your feet, knees, etc. Maintain a short stride, picking up the cadence or turnover to run faster.
- After the MM, jog slowly for the rest of the distance assigned on that day taking as many walk breaks as you wish.

After you have run 3 of these (not at one time--on different weekends) you’ll see progress and will run them hard enough so that you are huffing and puffing during the second half. Try walking for about 10-30 seconds after each lap during the MM. Most beginning runners record a faster time when taking short breaks.

Predicted (Ideal Conditions) Pace: Take your best current MM time and multiply by 1.3. This is the fastest pace you could currently expect to run

under ideal conditions per mile in the half marathon.

Long run pace: should be at least 2 minutes slower than the current predicted half marathon pace.

Adjust for temperature on long runs: At 70F, slow the pace by an additional minute per mile. At 80F, slow down another minute per mile.

Note: This training advice is given as one runner to another. For medical questions, ask your doctor.

DISNEYLAND® HALF MARATHON TRAINING SCHEDULE

3-Day Training Week: For Beginning Runners / Goal Date: September 2, 2012

WEEK 1

TUESDAY
May 1

30 minutes

THURSDAY
May 3

30 minutes

SATURDAY
May 5

2 miles
(walk one mile and use
10sec run/50sec walk for
the second mile)

WEEK 3

TUESDAY
May 15

30 minutes

THURSDAY
May 17

30 minutes

SATURDAY
May 19

4 miles
(walk one mile and use
10/50 for the rest)

WEEK 5

TUESDAY
May 29

30 minutes

THURSDAY
May 31

30 minutes

SATURDAY
June 2

5 miles
(10/50, but walk the first
mile if needed)

WEEK 2

TUESDAY
May 8

30 minutes

THURSDAY
May 10

30 minutes

SATURDAY
May 12

3 miles
(walk one mile and use
10sec run/50sec walk for
the second mile)

WEEK 4

TUESDAY
May 22

30 minutes

THURSDAY
May 24

30 minutes

SATURDAY
May 26

2 miles
(10/50, 15/45
or 20/40)

WEEK 6

TUESDAY
June 5

30 minutes

THURSDAY
June 7

30 minutes

SATURDAY
June 9

6.5 miles
(10/50)



WEEK 7

TUESDAY
June 12

30 minutes

THURSDAY
June 14

30 minutes

SATURDAY
June 16

3 miles
(10/50, 15/45, 20/40
or 30/30)

WEEK 9

TUESDAY
June 26

30 minutes

THURSDAY
June 28

30 minutes

SATURDAY
June 30

3 miles
(10/50, 15/45, 20/40
or 30/30 or run a minute/
walk a minute)

WEEK 11

TUESDAY
July 10

30 minutes

THURSDAY
July 12

30 minutes

SATURDAY
July 14

3 miles
with one Magic Mile

WEEK 8

TUESDAY
June 19

30 minutes

THURSDAY
June 21

30 minutes

SATURDAY
June 23

8 miles
with one Magic Mile

WEEK 10

TUESDAY
July 3

30 minutes

THURSDAY
July 5

30 minutes

SATURDAY
July 7

9.5 miles
(10/50 or 15/45)

WEEK 12

TUESDAY
July 17

30 minutes

THURSDAY
July 19

30 minutes

SATURDAY
July 21

11 miles
(10/50 or 15/45)



WEEK 13

TUESDAY
July 24

30 minutes

THURSDAY
July 26

30 minutes

SATURDAY
July 28

3 miles
with Magic Mile

WEEK 15

TUESDAY
August 7

30 minutes

THURSDAY
August 9

30 minutes

SATURDAY
August 11

3 miles
with Magic Mile

WEEK 17

TUESDAY
August 21

30 minutes

THURSDAY
August 23

30 minutes

SATURDAY
August 25

3 miles
(practice strategy
that has worked on
Thursdays)

WEEK 14

TUESDAY
July 31

30 minutes

THURSDAY
August 2

30 minutes

SATURDAY
August 4

12.5 miles
(10/50 or 15/45)

WEEK 16

TUESDAY
August 14

30 minutes

THURSDAY
August 16

30 minutes

SATURDAY
August 18

14 miles
(10/50 or 15/45)

WEEK 18

TUESDAY
August 28

30 minutes

THURSDAY
August 30

30 minutes

SATURDAY
September 2

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