

Last aid station, mile 29 - 4 more miles to go – I was mentally doing great even with the bum leg. I had no doubts I could finish and I calculated it would be 7 hours and 10 minutes now. I had hoped for a sub 7 hour, but hey – it is what it is.

Some beautiful horses were next to me for part of the last few miles and were just gorgeous, gotta love a horse smell!! I told the one lady I was tempted to jump on and she said she would if it wasn't against the rules. Bummer man. I guess I'll just pet them and move on.

Finally off the trail and the last .6 down to the finish on the road, I was all alone...I hobbled and galloped with my bum leg, walking fast. One lady was getting in her car and said "great job" and I asked if I was last? She said "no way, and you look great – I didn't even make it to the 2nd loop and I'm exhausted!"

I finally spotted Mark waiting and we waived at each other from a distance. I'm so thrilled to be done! Horton shouted my name and grabbed me at the finish saying how proud he was of me finishing! That was cool!! Gave Mark a huge stinky hug and kiss as he told me how proud he was of me! My finishing time was 7 hours 11 minutes. I made my goal of finishing standing up and NOT last!! Many runners came in even past the 8 hour cut off. I ran a total of 33.26 miles. Incredible.

"Walked" back to cabin to towel off my smelliness and pack up. I didn't even eat the lunch I paid for or get my finishers Tshirt (didn't see them) I just wanted to leave at that point! I did however get my headlamp back! Yes!

I've learned that I love trail running more than road running because of the beauty and less people, but that I'm much slower on the trail than on the road. It's odd to be at the end instead of the middle of the pack...but I've made peace with it as it's just beautiful. I also like running by myself which I within the last year found out works for me. Who knew? Don't get me wrong BJ, our runs are great – but give me an open trail and 8 hours and I love to stretch out and enjoy it.

Would I do another 50K? Probably, but I'm not sure I'd want a real technical trail. This one was perfect for a "beginner" and I enjoyed it so much. I won't say never, because I will likely be signing up for another within a few weeks, right – ha ha. Thanks to all my friends and family for the support and advice 😊