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## An improvement in "anti-mugger" speed. Or maybe it was the cold?

Tuesday, February 05, 2013

My "anti-mugger" pace refers to the burst of speed I could manage over a given distance if I'm ever faced with an emergency requiring it.

I got a very late start yesterday and missed my class at the gym. I waited awhile for the temperature to warm up, but at almost noon it was still 36\*.

Since I've had a very good month sticking to my improvement plan, I decided on a short, but faster run so I could get back to my warm house quickly.

I chose my familiar, carefully measured ½ mile loop which kept me close to home.

My warmup felt faster than usual, then I turned on my watch. My first loop was 4:33. That's a 9:06 mile pace! My fastest mile recently has been 9:31.

OK, I thought I better slow down. I don't want to outrun a mugger only to keel over on my own.

Next mile, definitely slower, but 9:38. Huh? It didn't feel that fast.

I wasn't feeling tired at this point, but I wanted to slow down. I wanted my normal cruising speed. Next  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile – back to normal – 5:03 (10:06 mile) Fine!

I had to see if maybe I misjudged the distance so I walked the loop twice and counted my steps. Yes, it is exactly a half mile loop. I know how many of my steps qualify since I've checked that on a measured track. I like data.

So, either the training is going very well (sound of me knocking wood) or it really was the cold and my body wanted to get that thing over with.

Once home I did 30 minutes of weights.

I've been doing speed intervals once a week and a slow distance run on Saturdays. I sure hope yesterday wasn't a fluke.

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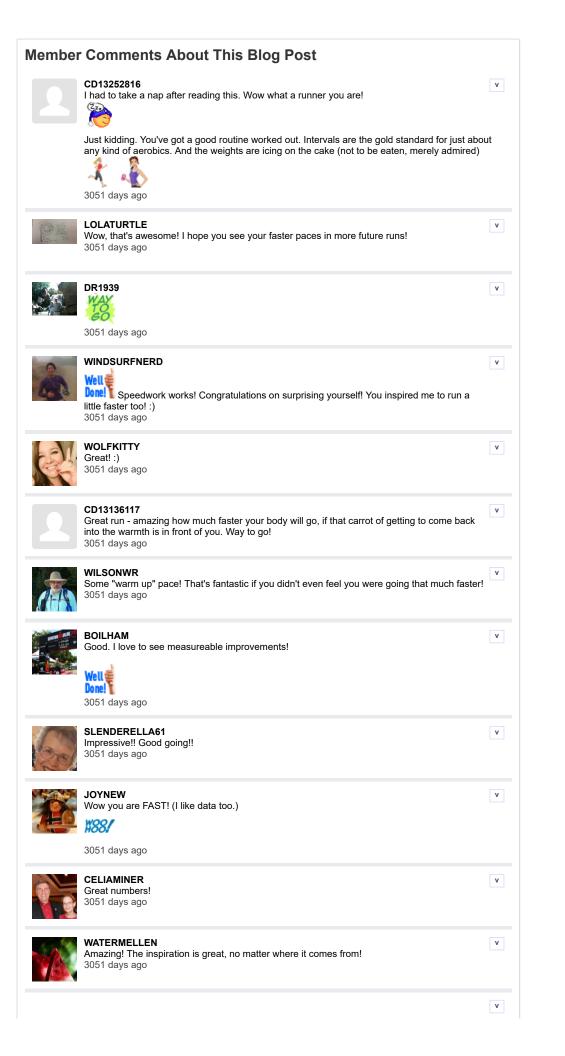
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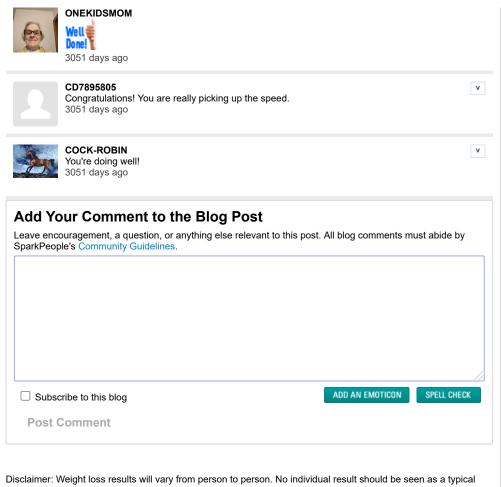
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