Termonen has finished Finland Run in six different decades

[Finland Run, 100 km, started in 1972 has it has been in several locations in southern Finland]
The 100 kilometer race Termonen attended last weekend in Salo was historical.
Termonen who was born in 1949 finished Suomi-juoksu for the fifteenth time but even more remarkable is the fact that he has finished this event in six diffrerent decades [1976-2021].
- All records can be beaten but I am happy that I was able to finish once more at 14 hours 20 minutes. [My personal best was in the first one 7.27.17]. A rare achievement even in international standards.

[My goal was to run most the the distance till half way, my marathon split was 4.50, 50 km 5.52. The second half took 8.18, not much running. The race started at 7 p.m. More here. Results in English]
- I don't have super good genes for running but my dad was a runner and the family followed sports closely. That is how it started. Pekka's sports club is Ultrajuoksuseura Sisu [Joensuu].
Termonen has won Suomi-juoksu five times: 1976 in Hartola, 1999 and 2000 in Turku, 2005 in Siuntio and 2007 in Perniö, 31 years between the first and the last.
Termonen has happy memories for veterans' Finnish Championships in 1999, silver in Men 50 [in Finnish races one can enter a new age group according to the year you are born] marathon 2.45.58 and bronze medal in the veterans' European Championships next year, time 2.47.05.
When he lived in the USA Termonen attended 50 mile trail run National Championships on the slopes near Mount Rainier in 2002-4. During the race the elevation gain was 3.3 miles! I won my age group, Men 50 each time but because I was not a US citizen I was not qualified for gold medal. In 2004 they gave me an extra medal anyway. I still hold the course record 7.39.08 for my age group.
Salla Ronkainen from the same sports club was second in the women's race, 11.04.55.
[Other good memories. I finished sixth in the first Helsinki City Marathon. It was an honor to shake hands with Emil Zátopek who had been invited to award the prizes. The Hood to Coast Relay in 2003 is also a memory I hold dear, Our team The Fabulous 50s Withering Force finished 32nd overall and second in men 50]

Photo: Petteri Jokela