

Kenyan, Romanian win at San Antonio

Romania's Nuta Olaru and Kenya's Meschack Kirwa made the inaugural running of the Rock 'n' Roll San Antonio Marathon a successful one on Sunday, Nov. 16, with Olaru claiming the women's championship and Kirwa claiming the men's title on a chilly morning.

Olaru finished in 2 hours, 28 minutes and 54 seconds, holding off a late surge from New Zealand Olympian and San Antonio resident Liza Hunter-Galvan, who ran a personal best in 2:29:37.

Kirwa, who finished second at the Country Music Marathon in Nashville this year, stretched his lead over the closing stages to win the men's race in 2:14:36.

Kirwa finished exactly one minute ahead of American Matt Downin, who made late strides to finish in 2:15:36. Dmitry Safranov of Russia finished third in his marathon debut with a time of 2:15:58.

Both Kirwa, 34, and Olaru, 37, earned first-place cash awards of \$17,500 for their victories in the race that attracted more than 30,000 entries and had 55 bands playing along the route. A total of \$80,000 in prize money was awarded.

Texas Governor Rick Perry finished the half marathon with a time of 1:47:46. American Olympian Brian Sell broke the tape roughly 45 minutes before Perry, winning the half with a time of 1:02:50.

Conditions on the scenic San Antonio course were almost ideal for marathon running on a sunny day with temperatures just below 40 degrees at the start and almost no wind.

San Antonio's Brant Lutz, 33, and Bridget Binning, 26, took top local honors as the first male and female finishers from Texas, winning the Texas Showdown. Both earned \$2,000 for their efforts. A record number of 30,000 people registered for the event and, of those, 24,761 runners started the race. The event had entrants from 18 countries, all 50 states and the District of Columbia.