



Three members of the winning women's relay team, Patricia Vargas, Dawn Charlier and Becky Angeles, dressed in the Christmas spirit at the White Rock Marathon on Sunday, Dec. 14. The other two team members, Melissa Cook and Melisa Christian, are not shown. Photo submitted by Clint Bell.

Serem, Ponomarenko win White Rock Marathon titles

Henry Serem of Kenya won the men's title at the Dallas White Rock Marathon on a windy but warm Sunday (Dec. 14) morning. Serem, taking advantage of two runners tripping at a water stop about 3 miles from the finish, took off to leave a pack of five runners to win in 2:22:07. Serem was among the lead runners who took a wrong turn at the marathon-half marathon split before getting back on course and surrendering the lead for a while.

In the women's race, Svetlana Ponomarenko, a Russian living in New York, and winner of the 2007 Twin Cities Marathon, was virtually by herself to win the title in 2:37:14. One of the runners, Jose Lopez, said Ponomarenko turned wrong at about the 5-mile mark where the new marathon and half marathon routes split. He said she finally asked if she were on the correct course and was told she was going wrong. Lopez said the mistake probably cost her 30 to 45 seconds.

In the half marathon, Karim Elmabchour of Morocco and training in Albuquerque, N.M., won in 1:04:51, while Olaru Nuta of Romania, who won the inaugural Rock "N Roll Marathon in San Antonio on Nov. 15, won the women's title in 1:11:32.

There was more confusion in the half marathon when leader Elisha Korir took a wrong turn at the course split Korir finished sixth.

Winds that gusted to 40 mph and usually blew 16 to 24 mph slowed the field. Each winner won \$10,000.