

Close Finish in 2-Mile Race

Highlights Zetnick Winter Run



Overall and age group winners earned these ceramic penguins





John Valentine

John Valentine, 16, of Arlington and Dustin Sandoval, 18, of Keller were running with two other competitors for most of the Don Zetnick Arlington Winter Run 2-Mile (Dec. 6), but when they had about 400 meters or so, they clicked to another gear and it was a two-person sprint to the finish. If this had been a horse race, spectators would have had to wait for a photo to determine who had won. But in a human race, it was the chip on Valentine's foot that crossed the finish line in 10:24.1 to edge Sandoval, who finished in 10:24.3.

One of the challengers was Louis Brasco, 37, but the Grand Prairie resident who has won several area races, said he couldn't hang with them with they opened up down the stretch. He came in third at 10:33.4.

It was a hot finish on a chilly (low 40s), sunny morning over a new course that started and finished on the UT-Arlington campus. It appeared the 10K also had two runners locked in a battle to determine the winner, but one of the runners, Zach Zura, hadn't entered and was using the race as a workout. Though he outsprinted Andres Lopez to the finish, it was Lopez, 21, who carried home the ceramic penguin given to the winner.

“He had told me he hadn't entered,” said Lopez, who said his 35:04.5 time was a personal best.

Winning the women's 10K, which also was over a new course, was Cora Turner, 39. The Alvarado resident, who is planning to run on a relay team at the White Rock Maraton next week, finished in 41:02.3.

In the 2-mile, Wendy Ragle, 28, of Fort Worth won the women's title in 12:10.2. Ragle is a former cross country collegian.



Cora Turner

The Winter Run opened with a 1K Penguin Waddle for children.



Andres Lopez