

## Participants galore for a big Sunday

Even though the America's Run Half Marathon and 5K conflicted with the Big D Texas Marathon, Half and 5K on Sunday (April 11), neither event seems to have suffered much. The Big D at Fair Park in Dallas had 2,930 finishers in its three events, including 2,076 in the half. The debut of America's Run at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington had 1,109 finish its half marathon and another 1,276 finish the 5K. Winning the men's half marathon race in Arlington was Cowtown marathon winner Logan Sherman of Dallas in 1:08:42 while Teresa Froese of Arlington, a former University of Tulsa runner who usually concentrates on marathon distances, won the female division in 1:27:49. In the 5K, former marathon Olympic Trials qualifier William Moore of Dallas won in 16.7 and current Olympic Trials qualifier Melisa Christian of Dallas took the female race in 17:07. At the Big D, winning the marathon male and female divisions were Austin Saylor of Frisco (2:45:56) and triathlete Tiffany Freer (3:21:35) of Round Rock. In the half marathon, winners were Jeff Dupre of Dallas in 1:21:08 and Laurie Shea of Prosper in 1:25:34. Winning the respective 5K titles were Michael Madison of Austin (16:54) and Gemma Steel of Frisco (21:19). Then in Fort Worth, an estimated 4,000 participated in the Marine Mud Run near LaGrave Field.

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The Rathjens of Dallas had big day on Sunday, too: Natalie Rathjen keeps adding to her impressive feats. The 14-year-old and Sonya Correa finished the America's Run 5K with identical 17:49 times, second best in the race that Melisa Christian won. Laura Rathjen, also 14, came in at 21:06 as she and Natalie finished first and second in their age division. Also, Sarah Rathjen, 51, was third in her age division with a 22:31. Natalie's other feats include finishing second in last year's Dallas Turkey Trot 8-mile run with a 48:06, and being selected the USA Track & Field Athlete of the Week in December, 2009, for winning the Youth Girls Division at the 2009 USATF National Junior Olympics Cross Country Championship in Reno, Nev., by running a 14:58 in the 4K competition. Natalie, who was an eighth grader at High Park Middle School at the time, was running for the Dallas Metro Striders.