



Kiplimo to be among Cowtown Marathon challengers as he tries to become fastest in his family and win a bet

With Keith Pierce, winner of the past three Cowtown Marathons, not returning to try for a fourth title, the question is who will be the 2010 marathon champ this Saturday (Feb. 27)? Can't answer that, but one of the challengers could be Kiplimo Chemirmir of Flower Mound. He won the Fort Worth Marathon in November (2009), despite limping in on dead legs after hitting the "wall" at about mile 18. He finished in a relatively slow 2:57:57.8, and proclaimed that he wouldn't be running another marathon for a while. But what marathoner hasn't said that?

He instead has bounced back by placing second at the Miracle Match Marathon in Waco on Jan. 31 with a 2:37 and fourth at the Austin Marathon on Feb. 14 with a PR of 2:33:25. He managed that time despite stopping twice, once because of tenderness from what he said was a stress fracture caused by stepping on a stone five days before the marathon and then because of stomach problems. Kiplimo said he had to visit a spectator's house to use the bathroom and had a hard time regaining his rhythm once he returned.

He was hoping to beat 2:30 so he could stake the claim at being the fastest runner in his family. Kiplimo said his mother is the fastest, noting that she (Chepchumba Chemirmir) ran a 2:31:10 in 1997. "To win Cowtown (would) mean something great to me, but to break my Mom's time means everything to me 'cause if I run sub 2:30, I know a sub 2:20 is around the corner," he said.

Kiplimo decided to continue running marathons after saying he wouldn't because of an African proverb that says "Sometimes when the lion is hungry, it eats grass." That essentially means if something is hard (such as catching prey) one shouldn't stop trying. "When someone tells you that in my tribe, it means you can never do it. So, I decided to change my mind."

He also made a bet with his mom. If he can beat her time by year's end, she will cook for the five runners who will stay in his house for nine months. If he doesn't beat her time, then he'll buy her a car. Now, that should provide some incentive.