

On a cold Christmas morning, some runners wrapped up but winner didn't

By Fiona Green

Photo of winners submitted by Marty Goins

Despite that it was Christmas morning and the temperature was in the low 40s, the first annual Holiday 5000 Christmas Day 5K, organized by Cox Racing Services, had an impressive turnout. While most runners donned tights, gloves, hats and even pajamas to keep warm, overall winner, 49-year-old Dave Holtsford (pictured with female winner Rachel Harp) once again proved just how tough he is by running in shorts.

Dave who has won several overall titles, was pleased to be able to add this to his list, explaining "At my age I'm not sure how many overall wins I have left in me." Knowing his love of the sport, he probably has quite a few. The overall female winner is no stranger to the podium, either. Rachel Harp, a 27-year-old teacher, narrowly beat Laura Nelson for the overall title and a Santa Claus trophy in a back-and-forth battle, which was decided in the final stretch. This was Rachel's first race for a while so her win was a pleasant surprise although she had expected a faster time. Her current training schedule involves daily runs at 4:45 a.m. so she can be finished before school starts. Recovering from a hip injury, she is pleased that her perseverance and dedication has paid off and is looking forward to a healthy and fast New Year

