

Hot time in Dallas; water problems acknowledged

The humidity was high and the temperature was climbing toward the 90s, but those factors weren't enough to deter runners from tackling the Hottest Half and 10K on Sunday morning (Aug. 15) at Norbuck Park in Dallas. The event's name should give a hint of what to expect. Heading the 989 finishers in the half was Andrew Cook of Flower Mound, who finished in a 1:15:01.68 (gun time) to beat runner-up Osmani Hofstatter of Cedar Park by almost a minute. On the female side, Niccole Crank of Austin won with a 1:27:59.05 to win by a comfortable margin. Hofstatter, 40, did win the male masters division and Laura Nelson of Grapevine, who has been bagging several masters titles recently, added to her collection by winning the female masters title in 1:39:11.45. In the 10K, which had 569 finishers, Jason Trevino of Irving won the male title with a 35:49.68 and Kim Rogers-Tracy of Plano took the female title in 43:25.51. Masters winners were Jesus Lopez (40:24.18) and Leona Sloan (44:03.33).

Race founder/director Lewis George acknowledged there were some water issues at some of the aid stations. He was "freaking out" about it because he couldn't understand why. Now he knows. "Someone stole some of my water containers before the race. I was 30 percent short of containers." Before George began delegating the pick-up and distribution of the containers, he would be among those loading and unloading them. "If I were still doing that, I would have noticed right away we were short." However, when he was informed of the problem, he sent his staff from the start/finish area to help replenish the water. "I don't think any station didn't have water for more than five minutes," he said. Because it was a hot and humid day, George said there were 30,000 water cups used and 7,500 12-ounce bottles of liquids consumed by the 1,500 participants and spectators. Besides the water he supplied, George said there are five water fountains on the course, and a couple of training groups had water stations set up. "No one should have gone without water for very long," he said. He also noted there were 12 heat-related problems, but that only five runners were taken off the course. "We had medics, fire department staff, two bike riders and communications at every aid station. We were within at least a quarter of a mile of anyone in trouble."

Runner's World writer wins age division at the Hottest Half

John Hanc, a contributing editor for Runner's World magazine competed in the Hottest Half on Aug. 15 to experience the expected Texas heat (he wasn't disappointed as the temp was climbing toward the 90s) and gather tips on hot weather running for an upcoming article in the magazine. The New Yorker (Farmington) apparently handled the heat and humidity well as he won the 55-59 age division with a 1:40:19.54, averaging 7:39 a mile. It should be an interesting read after sweating through the morning.