

## **James Kirwa wins White Rock Marathon**

James Kirwa, a Kenyan living in El Paso, won the MetroPCS Dallas White Rock Marathon on a chilly Sunday (Dec. 5) morning with a 2:18:37. Kirwa and defending champion Edward Tabut ran together for much of the way though they trailed Keith Pierce, a three-time Cowtown Marathon winner, for almost 17 miles. After they passed Pierce, they quickly pulled away and eventually made it a two-man race. Kirwa broke from Tabut with about a mile and half to go. Tabut finished second in 2:18:45 and Pierce was finished seventh at 2:24:40.

This was the first year the event was conducted at Fair Park after being at American Airlines Center since 2001 and a record 22,000 participants lined up and tried to stay warm in the mid-30 temperature. They were started in waves and final wave began almost an hour after the elite runners took off. Camille Herron of Oklahoma, coming back from hernia surgery, won the female title with a 2:42:30. In October, she ran a 2:38:23 in the U.S. Championships in Minneapolis to give her an A standard for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials.

Pierce was a surprise leader after joining the half marathon leaders after the start and moved into a lead that almost stretched to two minutes. He was coming off a 2:23:15 at San Antonio last month, which was good for a third-place finish.

In the half marathon, Jeff Sadler, a senior from Baylor, won the male title in 1:09:34 and TCU graduate McKale Davis won the female title in 1:17:35.

In a side race, a relay team of 16 high school runners tried beating the marathon winner, but finished third. Kirwa, who had run a 2:14 PR in October, not only earned \$3,000 for winning the race but also an extra \$1,500 for beating the high school team.

The male and female winners earned \$3,000 each. The top five in each division won money and masters winners pocketed \$500.