

Gardner, Scheider win Big D

Andy Gardner, 28, of Kingwood, won the men's division at the windy, cool Big D Marathon on Sunday, April 5, with a 2:47:26. Gardner had finished ninth in February at the Austin Marathon in a 2:41:04. However, Sunday was a difficult test as a cold front moved in later in the morning and runners had to cope with gusting winds. Winning the women's division was Jessica Scheider, 25, in 3:17:28. Scheider, of Georgetown, was 6th at the Austin Half Marathon, running a 1:27:49.

In the half, Kiplimo Chemirmir got it right this year and won in 1:14:22. He had come in with hopes of breaking the course record of 1:12:38, but at least he didn't take a wrong turn this year as he did last. His bid for the course record, though, was hampered by the ever-increasing wind that blasted everyone on the course that began and ended in the Fair Grounds after looping through nearby neighborhoods and White Rock Lake. Laurie Shea of Prosper won the women's division in 1:25:11. In the 5K, Patrick Renoult, Dallas, won the men's race in 17:39 and masters runner Sandra Ricaud, 45 of Irving, won the women's division in 20:24.

Chemirmir won the race he probably should have won last year. Last year, he failed to make a turn where the half and marathon courses split and ran the marathon course after having built a big lead in the half. He said he was "glad I revenged from my last year upset of running 26 miles instead of 13 miles." He said listening to a Rod Stewart song helped him push Sunday while no one was pushing him. "The song kept me going and switched off from the race," he said.

Yet, he was somewhat unhappy with his time. "Every time I cross the finish line and look at my watch and see the time I just ran, something inside of me is saying, 'Shame on you Limo, look at what you have just ran! You can do better than that!'"