

**Cooks dash to the cash
while others dress
in green and sip suds**

By Fiona Green

While the Dash Down Greenville on Saturday, March 14 attracted many of the top runners in the Metroplex, most participants didn't even notice that there was a clock at the finish line. Their reasons for being there had little to do with competition and exercise and everything to do with having fun.

The popular event had 2,128 finishers on a cool (about 40 degrees) morning that was almost perfect for running. Though the ground was still somewhat wet from Friday rains, nothing seemed to slow the field. This was definitely a race with a difference with the first "water" stop offering green beer to anyone interested. Since it didn't look like Guinness, I decided to pass although from what I understand, several runners did enjoy a cold brew to help motivate them. Personally, I found motivation in trying to chase down the flamboyant runners with green hair or body paint who streaked ahead at the start.



Photos submitted by Stan Bell



Runners take off at the Dash Down Greenville on Saturday (March 14) in Dallas. Despite wet streets from Friday's rain, Jacob Phillips of Dallas (top right) ran a 15:02 to win the men's division and Melissa Cook of Flower Mound (bottom right) crossed the finish line in 16:14 to not only win the women's title and the \$150 for first, she also earned \$250 for beating 17 minutes.



Cooks have nice payday at Dash Down Greenville

For some participants at the Dash Down Greenville on March 14, the event marked their first 5K, like 7-year-old Connor Mclinden of Allen, who ran a solid 31:39. Connor, who happens to be of Irish descent, decided to run at the last minute when his soccer practice was canceled. He was cheered on by his family, who were all looking forward to the parade following the awards ceremony at 11 a.m.

Others like Casey Arfsten brought their pets along for the fun while a large number were quite simply there for the beer.

There were many familiar faces in the winning circle. The Cooks, Melissa and Andrew, earned some extra cash thanks to their fast feet. Melissa zipped to a 16:14 victory. In doing so, she not only won the female title and \$150, but pocketed an additional \$250 for beating 17 minutes. Andrew was five seconds behind male winner Jacob Phillips of Dallas with a 15:07. He earned \$100 for his effort, giving the Flower Mound couple a \$500 payday.

Phillips, 25, a former Dallas Baptist runner, crossed the line in 15:02 to win \$150. However, he was not able to beat 14:20 to earn the men's bonus. Women's runner-up was Emily Field of Dallas with a 16:59, and Katherine Stepp of Wichita Falls was third in 17:36. Behind Cook was Clint Bell of Dallas in 5:20. Masters winners were Dave Matlack, 41, of Dallas finishing in 16:02, and Janice Moore, 45, of Dallas finishing in 19:32. Janice's mother, visiting from Scotland, also entered the race and placed first in the 70-74 age group in 31:58.