

Celebrating Mardi Gras in Dallas and Fort Worth



Richard Stingley

Mardi Gras celebrations in Dallas on Saturday afternoon (Feb. 21) included the Mardi Gras 5K, and more than 1,000 participated in the downtown run. In fact, there were 1,035 finishers in the 3.1-mile race won by Chris Strait of McKinney in 16:27. The female winner was Elizabeth Meraz of Dallas in 20 minutes.



Sean Hailey

Then on Sunday morning (Feb. 22), the Fort Worth Runners Club conducted its Mardi Gras 6K, and club board member Richard Stingley was among those showing his party spirit with his wild hat (pictured). Easily winning the men's race was Shawn Hailey, a former McMurry runner now coaching at Hardin-Simmons, in 20:47. Women's winner was local runner Eva Contreras in 24:56. He said he was in town to visit his girlfriend, and wanted to enter his first competition since summer. "I was a little disappointed in my effort," he said, noting the 6K distance might have contributed to his somewhat lack-of-effort finish. He said he was a little slower than he should have been for the last 1K, but was mostly pleased with his performance. He said he might return to Fort Worth and run the

half marathon at The Cowtown on Feb. 28.