

Youth wins at Haltom



Molly Tucker

Valentine's Day morning (Feb. 14) was indeed one for snuggling and drinking hot chocolate as the temperature was slowly inching toward 40 degrees, yet more than 330 showed up for the 23rd Haltom Stampede 5K and 1-Mile. When the horn sounded at the Haltom Recreation Center, youth led the way in the 5K over a revamped course. The 1-mile fun run already had been completed.

Craig Lutz, a 16-year-old Flower Mound Marcus standout, won the male division by zipping to a 15:46.6. He said it was his first 5K since the Nike Cross Nationals in Portland, Ore., on Dec. 6 when he placed fifth with a 15:25.



Craig Lutz

Molly Tucker, a 12-year-old who won the female overall title last week at the Fillie Trot in Grapevine, won by logging a 19:13.7 over the new course through the nearby Community Center neighborhood. Molly, running for the Carroll seventh grade team, also ran an unofficial 5:20 mile in a recent UIL meet at Meadowmere Park in Grapevine.

Clint Bell of Dallas, who won the overall men's title last year in 15:28, had invited Lutz to join him this year so they could spur each other to fast times. Bell, 29, however, wasn't able to maintain his 2008 pace and finished in 16:21. Bell, disappointed with his run, said he and Lutz got off course somewhere in the neighborhoods and might have run a long second mile. He said there wasn't a lead vehicle, or, at least, he didn't see one.

Lutz said they ran together about a mile and a half before he was able to break away from Bell. Lutz had placed third in the Nike Cross Country Nationals South Regional at The Woodlands with a 15:12.4 in November, coming in behind Reed Connor of The Woodlands (14:56.8) and Chris Brown of the Carroll cross country club team (15:08). Connor also won in Portland, but Brown finished 22nd.