

Dallas dentist finishes ninth among women at ING New York Marathon

Melisa Christian, a dentist surgeon in Dallas, placed ninth among the women in Sunday's (Nov. 4) ING New York Marathon with a personal-best 2:42:07. Melisa also is a qualifier for the U.S. Olympic Trials in the marathon. Paula Radcliff of Britain won the women's title in 2:23:02. Martin Lei of Kenya won the men's title in 2:09:04. The women's trials are scheduled in April at the Boston Marathon, the venue where Melisa qualified.

Other top D-FW finishers included Ernesto Caballero of Dallas (2:43:55 gun time); Todd Blanchard of Dallas and winner of the 2007 Cowtown Half Marathon (2:47:37); Jason Razo, Arlington (3:04:25); Jim Lukenich, Grapevine (3:16:36); Chris Hillen, Coppell (3:19:03); Francisco Torres, Fort Worth, (3:27:27); and Julie Brauer, Fort Worth (3:27:53).

In Saturday's (Nov. 3) men's U.S. Olympic Trials in New York, qualifier Andrew Cook, track and cross country coach at Flower Mound High School, didn't compete because of a conflict with the Class 5A Region 1 cross country championships in Lubbock. He told Debbie Fedderman of the Dallas Morning News that he has chosen coaching as his profession, not running. He said, though, he will compete in the U.S. National Half Marathon Championship in January in Houston.