

10-Year-Old Wins Again

In her short running career, 10-year-old Molly Tucker already has



10-year-old Molly Tucker won the Run To Joe's women's title, her third road-race overall women's award.

won three overall women's titles after taking the 10th Annual Run To Joe's 5K title on Saturday (March 24).

She also set a personal-best for the second consecutive Saturday with an 18:43.2 over the loop course that finishes at Joe T. Garcia's restaurant. Just the week before, she had dipped under 20 minutes for the first time with a 19:29 at the Dash Down Greenville race in Dallas. The men's winner, Ken Hall is a masters runner who upstaged his younger challengers. Hall is 32 years older than Molly.



Men's winner Ken Hall and 10-year-old Molly Tucker, the women's winner.

The youngster continues to impress veteran fast runners who aren't accustomed to seeing someone so young challenging them. James Newsom, who showed up to help pace friend Leo Garcia, said he was just past the first mile in 5:47 when he heard some hard breathing just behind him. He looked back and saw Molly, though he didn't know who she was.

“I started to tell her that there still was a long way to go (and maybe she didn't want to be running so hard),” James said. “And then I thought this must be the girl I've been reading about, so I didn't say anything.”

The read more about Molly Tucker, see the earlier story on this website.

Ken Hall, who also has been featured on this website from a report by Fiona Green, won the men's title in 16:45.5. Read more about Ken, who ran in high school but didn't resume road-racing until he was in his 30s, in the Archives section. He too was impressed by Molly, “because this isn't an easy course. It has a long steep hill at the beginning and a couple of other hills.”

Hall said he took the lead just before the first mile and his main challenge came from runner-up Richard Hanson, who finished in 17:01.1.

There was some question by a few runners that the course was not run correctly. However, a map printed on the race's flyer was incorrect. The course was run correctly (the cones followed the correct course). This also marked the final year at the present location for the race, which is moving to the Samaritan House location on Hemphill next year. Proceeds benefit the Samaritan House.