

Snow! puts chill on record attempts at Uptown

Just as the nine elite runners were lining up at the start line in their 8K world record attempt, a snow flurry (albeit small flakes) blew through Dallas. Snow? This was Saturday, April 7, the day before Easter. There's not supposed to be snow.

Yet, there it was, along with temperature in the mid 30s. That chilly start and a brisker breeze conspired to prevent anyone from challenging the 8K world record of 22:02.2, set in 1996 by Peter Githuka at the Crazy 8's in Kingsport, Tenn. The best attempt came from last week's Carlsbad 5000 winner Simon Ndirangu of Kenya. He finished well over the record pace with his 22:32 over the course that starts near the Morton Meyerson Symphony Center on Pearl Street. Runner-up Luis Juan Barrios, who also was second at Carlsbad, finished in 22:46.

The three women elites also failed to challenge the 24:27 world record time. Caroline Cheptanui of Kenya won in 26:46 seconds, edging out Russian Tatiana Chulakh by a second.

Ndirangu, 21, said he wasn't ready to break the record, saying he didn't know the course and didn't have a strategy. "Now, I know the course. Next year, I'll map out my strategy and be ready," he said. He made his American debut at Carlsbad when he ran a 13:28.

The cold also was a factor, he said, noting that his legs were somewhat tight at the start.

In the 5K conducted earlier, Dave Matlack of Dallas won the men's title in 16:23. It was his first road race since sustaining a stress fracture in his left knee about seven months ago. He said he began running again about January, but the birth of his second child in March slowed his training somewhat. Matlack said he'll be turning 40 in June, and getting older makes running a little tougher. "The effort's always there, but the time isn't."

Jennifer Prim of Dallas won the women's title in 18:39, and said it's been a battle to regain her speed since running her marathon debut, the Grandma's Marathon last June in Duluth, Minn.

She said she liked the new 5K course because "I like turns and there were a lot in there." Jennifer said her most recent race was the Cowtown 10K in February and "I didn't do well."

She said her training for Grandma's was going great, but then "I just died about three weeks before." Jennifer said the marathon was a struggle, and she finished in about 3:20 something 4."

Since then, Jennifer said she has been trying to regain some speed, ``so I'm really pleased with my time today."



Men's 5K winner Dave Matlack of Dallas made his first return to racing since suffering a stress fracture in his right knee about seven months ago. He won in 16:23.



Jennifer Prim, trying to rebound after her first marathon effort at Grandma's in Minnesota in June, won the women's 5K in 18:39.

Borden Uptown Gallery 1



The 5K runners line up on Pearl Street in Dallas for their 3.1-mile trek on the rather chilly (in the 30s) morning. Dave Matlack, shown in the red singlet in the photo on the right, won in 16:23. The 5K was conducted before the Special Olympics and the Post Apartments Invitational.



If the elites look cold, there was good reason. Temperature was in the mid-30s on Saturday, April 7, and, although the snow flakes aren't visible, a snow flurry was whipping across Pearl Street in Dallas. The men's winner was Simon Ndirangu of Kenya. He didn't threaten the 8K world record to win a \$10,000 bonus, but he did win \$3,000 for first and \$1,000 for a prime, being the leader after the first lap around a two-lap finish. He finished in 22:32.



The elites were off at 9:30 a.m. on Pearl Street in Dallas. The winner among the three entered women was Caroline Cheptanui, second from the right. She won in 26:46, well off the women's 8K world record of 24:27.

Uptown Gallery 2



A bundle of balloons were released to mark the beginning of the Borden Uptown 5K on Saturday, April 7, in Dallas.



The Borden Uptown Run & Trolley Walk benefits Special Olympics, and one of the highlights of the event is the Special Olympian run/walk that starts just before the Post Apartment Invitational.



Simon Ndirangu won the Post Apartments Invitational, but the Kenyan couldn't take home the \$10,000 bonus being offered for an 8K world record. he ran a 22:32, well of the 22:02.2 men's record.



Caroline Cheptanui of Kenya won the women's 8K Invitational in 26:46. The women's world record is 24:27. Even though Simon and Cheptanui didn't set records, they earned \$3,000 for their winning efforts.