

Kenyans Koskei, Samoei win at White Rock

James Koskei of Kenya won the Wellstone's White Rock Marathon on Sunday (Dec. 9) with a 2:15:09. Koskei broke from a pack of six runners with about three miles to go to finish three seconds in front of Edward Kiptum to post his first marathon victory. Emily Samoei, another Kenyan, won the women's race despite fighting cramps the last three miles.

Koskei, 38, won \$10,000 for his first place finish and pocketed another \$25,000 for winning the Cooper Complete Gender Challenge after passing women's leader Samoei at about the 24-mile mark. Samoei, who said she began cramping near the 23-mile mark, won the women's race with a 2:35:25.

Koskei said he had been training for the Chicago Marathon in Oct., but had to drop out late in the race when he developed a blister. He had finished fourth at the Boston Marathon in April with a 2:15:05.

In the half marathon, which had a \$500 payoff for the male and female winners, Ridouane Harroufi of Morocco took the men's title with a 1:03:03, and Jacqueline Nyetpei of Kenya, who had her first child just six months ago, won the women's crown with a 1:11:45.

The thousands of runners who took off in from American Airlines Center were greeted with goose-bump temperature in the 40s (about 47 degrees), and it became colder as the morning progressed (about 42 when the lead runners finished). Rain also began falling late in the race, but nearby storms bypassed the event. Eventually, 5,156 finished the half marathon and 3,328 finished the marathon.

Rain had fallen earlier in the morning and was predicted to be a hit-and-miss situation for the participants. For much of the morning, the runners and walkers had avoided the rain.

The telecast over WFAA, Channel 8 was a mixed bag. The features of the patients at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children were great. Coverage of the race was hampered by the weather as the helicopters used for overhead coverage provided only occasional glimpses. And Larry Barthlow, who brought in many of the elites and who was on the course, didn't provide too many insights as he apparently was not in touch with the lead pack at all times. Fortunately, Frank Shorter continued to save the telecast, as he did last year, with his insights. He also had to correct co-announcer Todd Whitthorne's introduction that Shorter was the only American to have won a gold medal in the Olympic marathon. Shorter didn't correct the statement until later when they were talking about Joan Benoit-Samuels, who was running the half marathon along with Bill Rodgers. Joan won the first women's Olympic marathon.

One of the other crazy moments came when on-course announcer Corby Davidson began trying to run with an elite woman runner and trying to strike up a conversation. That's about akin to asking Tiger Woods what he's thinking as he lines up a critical putt.

Then there was confusion at the finish about who won because the marathon runners had blended in with the half marathon runners. It was finally cleared up just before the telecast went off the air, but Julie Henner, who was following the elite winner, said the women's champ had run a PR by three minutes. Her PR actually is 2:28. She didn't come close. The elite women were given an 18:35 head start.

FW Turkey Trot winner places eighth at White Rock

Koby Styles of Holiday, winner of the Fort Worth Turkey Trot's 10K, finished eighth overall at the Wellstone's White Rock Marathon on Sunday (Dec. 9) with a 2:25:47.

It was his first try at the 26.2-mile distance. Styles, 23, who finished his collegiate career at UT-Arlington, also was third at the DRC Half in November. Also, women's Don Zetnick Arlington Winter Run 10K winner Meagan Newsom finished 10th among the women in the half with a 1:26:28. She was 76th overall. The Dallas Turkey Trot men's winner, Kyle King, 26, of Tulsa, finished 11th overall in the half and third in his age division, running a 1:06:47.

Here's how some other notables and area runners fared: Joan Benoit Samuelson, who won the first women's Olympic Marathon in 1984, won the women's 50-54 age division in the half marathon by running a 1:22:21....Connor Adams, 15, of Flower Mound placed second in his age division with a 1:17:45. He also had placed second in his age division on Sept. 3 at the Disneyland Half Marathon, but his Dallas time was almost 9 minutes faster....Cora Turner, 39, of Alvarado won her age division in the half, logging a 1:27:19. One of her more recent overall women's victories was at the BG Squirrel Run 10K in Fort Worth on Nov.

10....Defending women's half marathon champ Rose Koskei of Kenya finished second to Jacqueline Nytipei with a 1:13:22. She had been in Fort Worth and Dallas in November and had won the Lancaster Avenue Mile in Fort Worth (Nov. 3) and the DRC Half (Nov. 4). She ran a 1:15:44 at the DRC Half to win \$800. She collected \$500 in Fort Worth, and picked up \$2,500 for her runner-up finish at White Rock...Todd Reynolds of Fort Worth, winner of the Miracle Match Marathon in Waco this year, ran a 2:50:38 to finish 44th overall in the marathon....Defending men's champ Moses Kororia placed third, being nipped at the finish by Edward Kiptum, but edging Stephen Biwott by a step. Kororia crossed the line at 2:15:33 and Kiptum at 2:15:11. Biwott also was clocked at 2:15:33. They had been part of a pack of six for much of the last half of the race. Men's winner James Koskei began his surge on Summit Ave. at about 23 miles when the runners headed back toward downtown....Ken Hall, winner of several D-FW races, placed 36th in the half marathon and first in the men's 40-44 age division when he finished at 1:19:03....Yolanda Hopping, another regular in area races, won the women's 45-49 division with a 1:30:38....Fiona Green of Keller, who has won several masters and overall titles in the area and who has contributed articles and pictures to this website, won the women's 40-44 age division in the half with a 1:31:47.



Meagan Newsom of Fort Worth finished 10th among the women in the half with a 1:26:28.