

13-year-old wins Shannon Brewery 5K

By Fiona Green



It was evident that many of the 1,000 plus runners and walkers participating in the Shannon Brewery 5K in Keller on Saturday morning (March 12) were motivated by the amber-colored recovery drinks. This was not the case for the overall male winner Martin Chavez, who at 13 years of age, is still a few years shy of his first legal beer.

Chavez, pictured above at the award ceremonies, was thrilled to win the overall title, clocking 18:58, an impressive time considering the course consisted of three major hills. Chavez is a motivated young athlete whose passion for running is clear. His times have dropped dramatically over the past few months and he was quick to acknowledge the role of HB Wise, who recognized his talent, and Joe Boyle, founder of the Texas Running Center, who has guided and motivated him to be a faster, more efficient runner.



For Chavez, running is the perfect stress reliever. Whenever he feels the need to blow off steam or focus on a homework assignment he heads out the door for a "quick run" then returns 40-50 minutes later, energized and ready to take on the world.

Inspired by runners like local runner John Valentine, he understands that results come through hard work, dedication and sometimes a little pain. He quoted his uncle Joe Gonzalez, also a runner, who told him "If you don't like pain, then you have no business running." Chavez is ready and willing to work through the pain and has some pretty lofty ambitions -- he would like to qualify for the Olympics in the 5K. After telling me this, he corrected himself, stating that one day he *would* qualify for the Olympics. We wish him luck!

On the female side, masters runner Laura Nelson, 50, won an exciting sprint finish, setting a new course record of 21:29. Laura is pictured on right with this reporter and the inimitable Denny Maietta, whose costume was definitely one of the most creative!

Because there were some problems with the results, they had yet to be posted by Sunday early afternoon.