

## April 16-17 Highlights

By Charles Clines

\* For the second time in two months, Benson Chesang and Logan Sherman hooked up in a half marathon duel and again Chesang was declared the winner though both finished with a 1:14:01 at the inaugural Texas Big Star Half Marathon in Frisco. The posted results show they were toe-and-toe at the 5K mark with 18:07 times. Sherman, 30, of Dallas nudged ahead by a second at the 10K mark with a 35:25, but Chesang, 32, of Irving was awarded the overall award after they both crossed the finish line almost together. On March 20, they dueled for the overall award at the Humana Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon in Dallas and Chesang won with a 1:08:45 and Sherman was five seconds behind. Chesang probably is accustomed to close victories as he also won the First Dallas Easter Run 4-Mile race by eight seconds over Alfred Kiplagat with a 19:01. Besides these two high profile local runners, Dawn Grunnagle, who competed in the Olympic Trials this year, won the female overall award with a 1:22:43 and wasn't challenged. The male masters award also was quite a battle as Jeff Schmitt, 43, was trailing 61-year-old Kyle Heffner of McKinney by more than a minute though the 10K mark, but the Rockwall resident came back to win by 12 seconds with a 1:28:08. The race for the female masters award wasn't quite as close, but winner Michelle Pippin, 46, of Rowlett had to keep looking over her shoulder as Kelly Palmer, 42, of Frisco was just a few steps behind. Pippin won with a 1:42:54 and Palmer finished with a 1:43:01. The 5K also had some challenges for the male overall award as Wyatt Wingard, 14, of Frisco held off Cameron Hunter, 13, also of Frisco with times of 17:13 and 17:29. Wingard has won at least three overall awards this year, including the It Takes 2 10K on Feb. 13. Teens made it a clean sweep for the 5K overall awards as Maddie Hatfield, 14, of Forney won the female race with a 19:36, which was eight seconds faster than when she won the Most Good 5K on April 2 in Dallas. The event attracted more than 1,500 participants.

\* Another close duel unfolded at the Irving Marathon with Richard Chelimo, 34, of Toledo, Ohio, nipping Paul Kendall, 33, of Dallas with times of 3:03:28 and 3:03:44. Among Chelimo's achievements is a victory at the 2015 St. Louis Marathon, where he ran a 2:36:11. There wasn't a huge separation from the first and second place finishers in the female race, either, as Elizabeth Johnson, 23, of Plano won with a 3:18:50 and Breann Johnson, 26, of Dallas come in with a 3:19:13. In the 10K, Nick Romanow, 17, of Flower Mound won with a 35:24 though he had 49-year-old James Jackson of Denton in close pursuit. Jackson finished with a 36:17. Danielle Barron, 22, of Euless won the female race with a 50:35. Isabella Iseley, 14, of Irving held off Kathryn Sumner, 26, of Dallas for second with a 51:13 to 51:20. More than 2,200 finished the marathon, half, 10K and 5K.

\* While rain was moving through the Metroplex area on Sunday morning (April 17), some road races apparently were able to conduct their events before the wet stuff began falling. One such race was the Wellington Family Fun Run 5K in Flower Mound, where the younger set dominated the overall awards. Ryan Fillingim, 14, of Flower Mound won the male race with a 19:11.99 and Sydney Corbett, 13, took the female overall award with

a 21:38.88. Other notable achievements of the younger set occurred at the Kids Chase by the Lake at Stewart Park in The Colony. In the mile event, 10-year-old Dante Pasello led the boys with a 6:04.49. He was one of seven 10- to 11-years-old boys to beat seven minutes. On the girls side, another 10-year-old led the way as Isabella Zanoni nailed a 6:22.21. Two other 10-11 girls also broke seven minutes. In the half-mile race, 8-year-old Camden Williamson zipped to a 2:59.69 to win the boys race and 9-year-old Cayley Beaumont won the girls race with a 3:02.94.

\* Masters runner Cathy Buchanan, 52. was edged for the overall female award by 14-year-old Laura Ogletree at the Donut Dash in Burlison on Saturday. Buchanan did nab at least her fourth female masters award this year. Heston Irons, a 9-year-old, logged an impressive 22:26.41 to win the 12-younger division.