

Overall Eagles Flight winners make strong comebacks

By Fiona Green



Myers

The 2nd annual Eagles Flight 5K at River Legacy Park in Arlington on Saturday (Feb. 20) provided fast times and close finishes.

On the male side, 19-year-old friends Christopher Myers and Martin Lopez ran neck-and-neck for most of the race to finish within a hair of one another. Myers was awarded the overall title with a gun time of 16:29.5 while Lopez clocked 16:29.6. It really doesn't get any closer than that!



Lopez

While the teens have completely different plans for the future -- Myers is studying architecture and mechanical engineering while Lopez is studying philosophy and hopes to enter the priesthood -- both share a love of running that brought them together many years ago when they represented their schools in San Antonio and Eagle Pass at inter school meets. They now train together at UTA.



Thompson

Lopez modestly conceded that Myers is the faster runner, with a PR of 14:56 for the 5K, but Lopez is clearly no slouch as his PR is a speedy 15:10. They treated the Saturday race as a good training run as Myers is recovering from a stress fracture in his foot.

On the female side, Arlington's Magaly Soto ran a close race with 30-year-old Jodi Thompson, eventually finishing three seconds behind her in 19:27. Soto had not intended to race but after doing a 7-mile warm up at the park, jumped in to the crowd at the last minute.

Thompson was thrilled with her win. Although the name Jodi Thompson might not be familiar to runners, Jodi was in fact a regular racer in the metroplex until a few years ago. I actually interviewed her as Jodi Hulett after she won the 10K at Joe Pool Lake in October 2010. The day after that race she moved to California where she married and spent the next four years.

She and her husband recently returned to the area and eight months ago welcomed their first child. Thompson continued to run during the first few months of her pregnancy but took a break from the sport until four months ago when she started jogging while pushing her daughter in a stroller. Saturday's 5K was her first race back and has given her the motivation to continue training.