

Jan. 30-31 Highlights

By Charles Clines

* Sometimes this race lives up to its name, but on Sunday (Jan. 31), it definitely didn't as participants were greeted with a cool, but warming morning at the **Too Cold To Hold Half Marathon, 10K, 5K** in Dallas. Even though the temp was heading toward the 70s later in the morning, masters runner **Jerry Cherra**, 44, of Decatur must have enjoyed the weather as he sped to about a four-minute victory in the half with a 1:22:37. Behind him was **Sergio Ramirez**, 37, of Frisco (1:26:23) and another masters runner **Gerald Jackson**, 51, of Carrollton was third with a 1:27:16, three seconds in front of **Andrew Dawson**, 36, of New Market, Va. **Amanda Moore**, 29, of Richardson sailed to the overall female title with a 1:31:37, good also for sixth overall. The younger male set took over the 10K as **Elijah Cardenas**, 16, of Corinth won with a 38:45, 15 seconds in front of 10-year-old **Riley Nedrow** of Justin. The overall female was on the opposite end of the age scale as 52-year-old **Mary Alico** won with a 40:13, which was seventh overall. In the 5K, **Brandon Womack**, 28, of Dallas sped to a minute victory with a 16:12. **Emily Field**, 34, of Dallas won the overall female award and was fourth overall with an 18:10.

* The **Lake Benbrook Half Marathon and 5K** also enjoyed a warmer morning on Saturday (Jan. 30) than many long-time participants are accustomed as the day started off fairly cool but began heading toward the 70s. It was no sweat for **Gabriel Zambrano**, 22, of Fort Worth, though, as he zipped to an easy victory with an impressive 1:11:58. The first female was **Kaytlin Barfield**, 23, of Hurst with a 1:43:30.

* There were three half marathons in the area, counting Lake Benbrook, as many participants tested their fitness for upcoming marathons. Only 12 seconds separated the male winner and runner-up at the **Mansfield Run With Heart Half Marathon**. **Chris Myers**, 19, won with a 1:13:57 and **Gerardo Nava**, 20, came in at 1:14:18. The female winner was 49-year-old **Leslie Burke** of Mansfield with a 1:32:38. At the **Heroes for Hope 5K & Half Marathon** in Fort Worth, 45-year-old **Keith Grisham** was the first finisher with a 1:26:34, a minute in front of **Carlos Vallejo**. **Candy Blocker** had an easier time winning the overall female award with her 1:36:26. The 5K overall winner was female competitor **Carly Kitts**, 22, with an 18:59.

* **Lee Dukes**, a 62-year-old, finished second in the **Raider Run 5K** in Wylie with a 21:20. Winning the overall male award was **Wesley Massey**, 16, with an 18:14.

* A couple of duels for the overall male and female awards highlighted the **GHS Filly Trot** in Grapevine, where the younger participants dominated. **Hayden Murphy**, 18, earned the male award with a 16:35 and was followed by **Kyle Brozovich**, 18, with a 16:51. Taking the female award was **Lauren Edwards**, 12. Her 19:21 was 24 seconds in front of **Rachel Sutliff**, 14.

* Winners had to gut it out at the **Plano Pacers Fresh Start 5K and 10K**, too, as **George Shupe's** 18:08 was 10 seconds in front of **Preston Wilschetz**, who nipped **Teru Nii** by two seconds. In the 10K, **Brandon Brown** crossed the finish line six seconds in front of **Brian Schmidt** with a 35:35. Local elite runner **Melisa Christian** breezed to the overall female award with a 37:13.