

March 26 Highlights

By Charles Clines

Saturday was the day before Easter, so guess what the themes were at many area road races? Bunnys and eggs seemed to be the favorite names. The weather was near perfect with temps in the high 50s for much of the early morning, and the breezes, which have been blustering through the area most days, were laying low.

* The **Stockyards Easter Run 10K and 5K** again was staged in the historic Stockyards area in Fort Worth, and the 10K was led by **Jason Parr**, 34, of Lexington, Ky. Parr won with a 36:32 and was followed by **Jesus Lopez**, 49, of Dallas (41:08) and **Bakari Samin**, 21, of Houston (42:12). Earning the female overall award was **Kaytlin Scarlett**, 23, of Hurst with a 45:03. **Kristy Deavers**, 43, of Fort Worth held off **Annie Nagy**, 27, of McKinney for second (47:57 to 48:11). Winning times were relatively slow for the second consecutive year after the lure of airline tickets again weren't part of the prizes for the 10K winners. For example, two years ago the male winner, **Ben Chesang**, ran a 33:08.6 and female winner, **Elizabeth Eder** (now Northern) ran a 35:54.2. In the 5K, **Derrick Nipp**, 17, of Alvarado won with a 20:44. 55-year-old **Roberto Torres** of Fort Worth was runner-up with a 21:09, which was 30 seconds faster than 10-year-old **Hauss Hejny** of Fort Worth. **Marian Smith**, 37, of Keller was the first female with a 22:52.

* Many of the area's faster runners opted for the **First Dallas Easter Run 4-Mile** where \$500 was being offered for the male and female winners, and \$125 for the masters winners. Overall runners-up won \$250 and third places earned \$125, **Benson Chesang**, a Kenyan living in Irving sped to a 19:01 through historic downtown Dallas streets to beat **Alfred Kiplagat** of Georgetown by eight seconds.. Chesang also won the Humana Rock 'n' Roll Dallas 10K last week. **Rachel Johnson** of Waco won the female overall award with a 21:32. Two well-known masters runners –**Agustin Hernandez** of Irving and **Mary Alico** of McKinney – won the 40-older awards with times of 21:55 and 25:42, respectively. They also won the masters awards last week at the St. Paddy's Day Dash Down Greenville where each took home \$125.

* Two masters runners topped the male field at the **Bunny Boogie XI** in Grand Prairie as **Bryan Girouard**, 46, outran **Chris Andrews**, 42, of Fort Worth for the overall award. Girouard finished with an impressive 17:52 and Andrews clocked in at 18:10. The female field also was led by a masters runner as **Laura Nelson**, 50, of North Richland Hills won with a 21:48.

* The **Geiser** family of Keller cleaned up at the **Eggstravaganza 5K** in Fort Worth. 8-year-old **Andy**, 11-year-old **Grace** and 21-year-old **Abby** took home first-place in the awards. 15-year-old **Ben** placed third in the male 15-19 division and **Diane**, 42, was runner-up in the 40-44 female age division while **Jeff**, 45, won the male 45-49 division. The **Paulsens** of Fort Worth also had a nice morning as **Carley**, 32, won the female 30-34 division and **Brent**, 33, topped the male 30-34 group. His 16:58.3 also was second overall. **Keith Kotar**, 25, of Benbrook won with a 16:25.2. Also, **Lauren**, 24,

and **Kaitlan Beretich**, 27, of Fort Worth were first and second in the female 20-24 division.

*Masters runner **Sean Shope**, 45, of Grapevine dueled 51-year-old **Mark Whittier** of Fort Worth before prevailing and winning **The Blast Wings For Change 10K** in Fort Worth. Shope clocked in at 44:24 while Whittier finished at 44:50. The race for the female overall award also was fairly close as **Miko Anderson**, 19, of Grand Prairie won with a 46:38 while runner-up **Jenny Rosell**, 39, of Fort Worth finished at 47:00.

* **Carly Kitts**, 22, of Arlington had a couple of challengers but she held on to win the **Firefly Run** in Plano, crossing the finish in 17:32. **Allie Lyda**, 13, of Flower Mound earned the runner-up award with a 17:40 and **Natalie Cook**, 12, of Highland Village took third with a 17:52. The masters award winner was listed as 69-year-old **Margaret Fair** of Dallas with a fast time of 19:44.