

McKinney Labor Day run offers great ambiance and sunny course

By Fiona Green



I decided to check out the Labor Day run in McKinney on Monday (Sept. 5). Runners could choose between a 5K and a 10K, which started and finished at the Tupps Brewery. This probably is one of the coolest breweries I've visited. There is a definite artistic feel to the outdoor decorations and as one runner commented, it was the type of place where it would be fun to hang out even if you didn't drink beer.

The 5K course consisted of an out-and-back on a shadeless course, which seemed to always be heading into the sun. One family almost scooped both overall awards in the 5K. On the female side, 14-year-old Madison Lopez (shown below on right) outran the women, finishing in 21:35. Despite her age, Lopez speaks about running like a seasoned veteran. She even commented to me that the course felt slightly long. I was glad to hear she felt that way as I thought it was just me!



Her brother, 14-year-old Wyatt Wingard, led for the entire race but took a wrong turn about quarter of a mile before the finish line. He realized his error and returned to the course but it was too late for him to catch up. 24-year-old Aaron Purser took the overall title, closely followed by his father, Steve, who took home the Masters trophy. I had spoken with Aaron before the race as he was sporting



what could only be described as thong-like sandals. He had explained it was his first time racing a 5K in them although he had run 3K. After the race he acknowledged he had tied them too tightly and, as a result, his feet ended up paying

the price. (Wyatt Wingard and Aaron Purser shown above). (Photo on right might express the sentiments of some participants).

On receiving the overall trophy, Purser immediately handed it to Wingard and told him it belonged to him. Surprised and taken aback, Wingard thanked him. A moment later Wingard returned the trophy, telling Purser that he had earned it and that he was happy as he had won an age group medal for his efforts. Runners really are the nicest people!

I didn't have a chance to speak with the 10K winners but results have been posted online.