

Champs repeat in Raider Chase

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MARIETTA - Last year, Mitch Novy came all the way from Fort Wayne, Ind., to win the men's title at the Walton Raider Chase.

Now living in Woodstock, the 24-year-old Novy didn't have to travel quite as far this time, winning his second consecutive title with a time of 17:16 at the popular east Cobb 5K (3.1-mile) race at Walton High School on Saturday.

The women's race also saw a repeat winner as Kate Brun of Marietta finished in a victorious 20:50.

Novy and Brun were among the approximately 200 runners who braves the chilly conditions early Saturday morning.

Race proceeds will benefit Walton's cross country and track and field programs.

Novy held a slight lead over Walton cross country and track athlete David Forman through the first 2 miles. Novy then broke away and was all alone in front after that.

While Novy's winning time was slower than the 16:35 he ran to win in '08, he was satisfied with his performance.

"I'm pretty happy with the place I finished in," Novy said. "It was a great tempo run. Last year, I ran 16:35 and I hammered it hard. This year, I started out hard, but I was alone after 2 miles, and I kind of put on the brakes the last half-mile."

Forman, a sophomore at Walton, finished second and won the boys 15-19 age group with a time of 18:14. Eric Smith placed third, and was the top men's masters finisher, in 19:34.

The 22-year-old Brun, a former cross country standout at Kennesaw State, took another step forward in her comeback after missing six months with a stress fracture.

"It wasn't one of my best times," Brun said of her 20:50 mark. "I was out six months with a stress fracture, and I'm still building my base (mileage)."

Sara Hardin was the second overall women's finisher and the female 11-14 winner with a time of 21:14, while Walton senior cross country and track standout Aly Smith placed third overall among the women and was the top female 15-19 finisher with a time of 21:52.

June Vorster was the top women's masters finisher in 23:20.

Walton's Kylie Womack, the 2008 Marietta Daily Journal/Cobb County Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year, also participated in the race, finishing third in the female 15-19 age group with a time of 23:15.

Other men's age group winners were Jack Hogan (10-and-under, 34:10), Drew Lane (11-14, 24:39), Steve Petzel (20-24, 21:30), John Hollingsworth (25-29, 22:30), Michael Kincaid (30-34, 21:19), Greg Blashka (35-39, 20:45), Chris Peacock (40-44, 21:32), Gary Piligan (45-49, 21:41), Del Boyd (50-54, 21:10), Scott Dickson (55-59, 24:02), Jim Rainey (60-64, 24:40), Andrew Sherwood (65-69, 23:40) and Paul Cossior (70-and-over, 25:45).