

Visitor wins Walton 5K

Current rating:3 by 11 users.



Published: 02/03/2008

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MARIETTA - Mitch Novy will bring a nice souvenir home from his visit to the Atlanta area - the Walton Raider Chase men's trophy.

The 23-year-old Fort Wayne, Ind., resident was the men's winner with a time of 16:35 at the 29th edition of the 5K race Saturday at Walton High School.

Novy was among the 260 runners who braved the freezing early-morning weather to run the 5K (3.1-mile) course that started and finished on the Walton track at Raider Valley and wound its way through the school's campus.

Proceeds for the Walton Raider Chase, which also included a 1-mile fun run before the 5K, will benefit the Walton track program.

Novy is in town visiting his fiancée and decided to give the Walton Raider Chase a try.

Novy made the most of his opportunity as he led from start to finish, finishing 19 seconds ahead of runner-up Joshua Farris of Alpharetta (16:54) and third-place Atlantan Brennan Pratt (17:36).

"It was a good workout for me - a good tempo run," said Novy, who plans on moving to the Atlanta area after his marriage in August. "It was very cold, but it was worth it."

Kate Brun didn't have to travel quite as far as Novy to collect the women's trophy as the 21-year-old Marietta resident finished atop the women's standings with a time of 19:49.

"I was very comfortable," said Brun, who is preparing for the March 30 ING Georgia Marathon. "I wanted to come out and put on a good effort. I felt like I ran a good race."

Kelly Cameron of Stockbridge finished second in the women's division with a time of 20:08, with Walton track and cross country runner Lena Hamvas (21:14) in third.

Hamvas was one of many Walton runners participating in the Raider Chase and was the top Walton female finisher, while Daniel Heller (17:51) was the top Raider male with a fourth-place overall finish.

Wheeler track and cross country coach Jeff Townsend was also among the participants, finishing with a time of 24:13.

"I was running with my brother in law in the 5K and I ran with my son in the 1-mile fun run," Townsend said. "It was a good crowd and the course was very well laid out. It was a good run."

Mike Wien of Marietta, 56, won the men's masters race (19:31), while 43-year-old Suzanne Broussard of Woodstock was the top women's masters runner (23:05).

Men's age group winners were Noah Farris (10-and-under, 26:07), David Forman (11-14, 18:29), Farris (15-19, 16:54), Brent Sexton (20-24, 20:15), Brennan Pratt (25-29, 17:36), Daniel Butnaru (30-34, 19:35), Ken Brown (35-39, 18:14), Eric Smith (40-44, 19:56), Gary Piligran (45-49, 21:45), Andy Wicke (50-54, 20:10), Buddy Raybon (55-59, 20:45), Ron Creasy (60-64, 24:46), Bernie Wasserman (65-69, 25:08) and Harry Hall (70-and-over, 25:37).

Women's age group winners were Gabriella Quintana (10-and-under, 32:23), Sarah Hardin (11-14, 21:45), Hamvas (15-19, 21:14), Devan Ray (20-24, 24:04), Analise Zaunbrecher (25-29, 21:51), Kelly Cameron (30-34, 20:08), Kim Morris (35-39, 22:12), Tina Klein (40-44, 23:12), Bridgitte Ellison (45-49, 25:50), Susan Tuttle (50-54, 28:07), Kathy Givens (55-59, 36:09), Nancy Nichols (60-64, 38:01) and Anne Patrick (70-and-over, 47:15).

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