

Edinburg 10k All American City Run Feb. 7. 2009

Combining a 2k walk with a 10k run - it is the race we could only wish was more than just once per year. The 27th annual didn't disappoint. Finishers 1,448 in the 10 k with 6000 in the combined races including the 2 mile walk. From 3 years of age to over 80 they came from out of the woodwork to participate or duke it out real time.

Prize money 25 deep in both male and female divisions, well you never saw so many Kenyans except in Eastern Africa. John and Julie Mcallister, Jesse Real, Anita Perez and I along with several others from Corpus Christi attended. A small contingent but as age competitors - well we represented Corpus well.

The race started 10:30 with a really strong wind, into your face in several of the really long straight segments. Our estimate is that without the wind times might have been 2 min faster. Winning time 29:12 by a skinny Kenyan - actually the first 25 were basically all Kenyans. Making a rare sight in 4th overall was a white guy - Andrew Lemoncello an English steeple chaser running 29:23. I attempted to count the white guys at an out and back, our John Mcallister was 4th white guy by my count. John 39:34 or 6:22 pace for 1st Senior Master worth \$100. He spent his fortune on a birthday dinner for his daughter that evening.

Prior to race start I talked with several 65-69 friends from the valley that I have raced over the years. One reminded me of a time I passed him at 4 miles into this race. I have aged up so I didn't have to race the young guys 65-69 and won the 70-74 age group 50:55. I would have been 3rd in the 65-69 age. Jesse Real won 75-79 with a time of 1:02:23 while a 80+ guy ran 52:42 perhaps the best age graded time of our bunch.

On the girls side, Julie Mcallister ran 54:27 a 10k PR and good for 6th in the age. Anita Perez - really looking good and racing well 40:08. Anita ran 1:21:06 San Antonio Rock and Roll half marathon. Liza Galvan 36:30 5:53 pace.

Others you might know Rafael Martinez 40:57 2nd 50-54 and Gilbert Perez 48:35. An really old friend once on my Beach to Bay team Jesus Escobar 1:03. He was always much faster than I but one victory for Don. How many times he beat me - I don't have enough fingers and toes.

That's a wrap. Into the scrapbook Next year your name can enter my scrapbook!

See you at the Races UltraDon Don Winkley