



Nearly perfect June weather greeted another outstanding field toeing the starting line in downtown Columbus for the “Oldest Race in Columbus” – the 41st annual HOKA One One Columbus 10K presented by RUNOHIO. The race again started across the river from the original site of the former Central High School which is now the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), however the course was slightly changed with completion of the Scioto Mile and Scioto Bike Trail.

Toledo's Eric Lagat (30:11) pulled away from the pack in the final two miles to take home the top prize money. Columbus' Victor (30:41) held off New Jersey's J.P. Flavin (30:54) for runner up honors. Columbus' Justin Taylor (31:19) and Jack Schlabig (31:25) rounded out the top five.

Dublin's Sakiko Minagawa took the lead by the mile mark and easily won in 35:20. Mansfield's Emma McCarron (36:21) took home the silver. Montgomery's Amy Robillard (36:36), Columbus' Jessica Hoover (36:41) and Springfield's Alexandra Brown (36:49) finished next.

Columbus' grand master Paul Stoodley (35:21) was the first master to cross the finish line. Columbus' Roger Honan (36:03) and Dublin's Ryan Arens (36:20) took home the next two master awards.

Hilliard's Laura Wetz (37:14) outran Springboro's Julie Mercado (38:02) and the rest of the masters for the crown. Franklin's Elizabeth Wells (41:48) was third.

Westerville's John Kellogg (37:17) and Dublin's Joe Patrick (38:02) were the next two grand masters to finish after Stoodley.

Columbus' Kathy Hayden (44:54) nipped Columbus' Mie Adams by a second for the women grand master gold.

Columbus' Doad Edwards (45:02) captured the senior crown and Westerville's Mark Schwartz (47:48) finished second.

Columbus' Mary Jablonski (47:18) ran away with the women's senior title.

Dayton's Christopher Thieke (49:24) and Galloway's Kathleen Gessel (1:20:53) won the 70 and over category.

RUNOHIO signed another two year agreement to be the presenting sponsor for the Columbus 10K. HOKA One One signed on to be the naming sponsor. "The Columbus 10K has always been a special event for me, said RUNOHIO's Matt McGowan. 41 years ago I came home from running the 10,000 meters in the Division III Track and Field National Championships and my younger brother, Jeff, asked me if I would run and go with him to this new race which the Citizen Journal newspaper and the local sport reporters were promoting. The race started at 6pm and the temperature was in the 90's. I was able to win the race. Years later when the race was starting to tail off I got involved and was the race director for 15 years until I asked Jim Jurcevich to take over as race director do to my high school track coaching conflicts. When I saw the race was looking for a title sponsor I decided to step up. I know the costs involved with races, especially in the downtown area. I hope to ensure the success of the race for a long time. The race has always been one of only a few races in the area to offer prize money to the top finishers. Hopefully, you will be able to run or walk next year's 42nd annual event and keep the tradition alive."

Jim Jurcevich served as race director since 2009, with Andy Harris taking over race directorship in 2014 with help from the Columbus Running Company .

