

Columbus Marathon

Written by Matt McGowan

Monday, 17 October 2011 07:26 -



Columbus October 16 - A record crowd of 17,000 athletes toed the line for the start of the 32nd annual Nationwide Insurance Columbus Marathon and fifth annual Columbus Half Marathon. Many runners' goals were to just finish while others wanted to run a qualifying Boston Marathon time while a few runners were trying to make the USA Olympic Marathon qualifying standard.

Former Malone University athlete Paul Robinson now living in Flagstaff would take the lead early with Kenyan runner Peter Kemboi drafting off of Robinson as they hit the halfway point together in 1:09:03. Perrysburg's Matthew Folk would be would hit the halfway point in 1:09:48. Robinson would get a two second lead on Kemboi at the 20 mile mark with his 1:46:25 clocking with Folk 34 seconds back. As many marathoners know the race is really the last six miles and Folk would pass a fading Kemboi at the 23 mile mark and would then focus on closing on Robinson. Folk would pass Robinson just before the 25 mile mark Folk would go on to win his second Columbus Marathon 2:19:47 (also won in 2008) and take home the \$3,000 top prize money.

The 35 year old Folk who manage a Second Sole Athletic Store in Perrysburg was hoping to reach the Men's Olympic Trials Marathon standard of 2:19. Folk finished 50th in the USA Men's Olympic Trials in 2004 and was 39

in 2008. In 2008 the USA Track and Field Men's Distance Committee had an "A" standard of 2:20:00 and a "B" standard of 2:22, but the men's long distance committee eliminated the 'B' standard this year.{ad}

Robinson who also was trying to reach the USA Men's Olympic Marathon standard finished second in 2:20:30 and win \$1,500. Kemboi hung on for the bronze and \$1,000 prize. Cincinnati's Christopher Reis had hopes of going to the Marathon Trials finished fourth in 2:21:39. Oklahoma's Scott Downard (2:25:33), Ann Arbor's Ian Forsyth 2:26:55), Massachusetts' Danilo Corderio (2:28:07) and Van Wert's Brendon Moody (2:28:38).

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Bellbrook's Ann Alyanak who had already reached the USA Women's Olympic Marathon Trials "B" standard was in town try to reach the women's "A" standard. The USA Track and Field Women's committee created an "A" standard of 2:39:00 which would cover the expense of going to the trials in Houston, Texas on January 14, 2012. The "B" standard for women is 2:46:00. In 2008 the standards were "A" – 2:46:00 and "B" 2:47:00. Alyanak who finished 8th in the 2007 Boston Marathon and 8th

in the 2008 USA Women's Olympic Marathon Trails took off hard at the start. Alyanak would blaze the first half of the race in 1:17:32. Alyanak legs would get heavy and she slowed to run a 1:24:21 second half marathon. Alyanak would finish twenty third overall on her way to her first marathon win and \$3,000 with her 2:41:53 clocking.

Columbia, Missouri's master Angie Turner took home the silver in 2:45:01 to earn a spot at the starting line for the USA Women's Olympic Marathon Trials. Russia's Ludmila Stepanova finished third in 2:46:26. Xenia's Christina Johnston captured fourth in 2:48:27. Archbold's Rachel Kinsman, a 2000 Olympic Trial qualifier in the 5,000 and 10,000 meter and a 2004 and 2008 USA Women's Olympic Trials qualifier, placed fifth in 2:48:53. Orrville's Beth Woodward (2:48:56) and Oklahoma's Jenny Graef (2:49:32) finished next.

Russia's Maxim Zobow (2:30:42) finished eleventh overall to win the master title. Cincinnati's Thomas Lentz (2:35:48) finished second while Dublin's Thomas Goldsby (2:41:18) finished third.

Canada's Wendy Turner (3:07:17) captured the women's master runner up honors after Turner finished second overall. Dayton's Ellen Vaughn (3:08:24) finished third.

Oakdale, Pennsylvania's Jeffrey Salek (2:53:48) won the grand master crown. Dublin's Joe Patrick (2:54:46) and Orion, Michigan's John Arsen (2:54:51) rounded out the top three.

New Brighton, Pennsylvania's Sabine Kane (3:20:16) won the women's grand master title while Canada's Ellie DeSousa (3:23:10) finished second.

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Canada's William Clew (3:13:38) won the senior gold while Leetonia's Ralph Barnhart (3:23:18) was second.

Pepper Pike's Barbara Broad (3:19:55) won the senior gold while Columbus' Linda Evans (3:57:53) finished second.

Chad Johnson of Charlestown, Indiana had a repeat win in the marathon wheelchair division in a time of 1:47:14. Jeff Fisher of Medina placed second in 2:29:

The sold-out, record registered field of 17,000 marathon and ½ marathon runners and walkers enjoyed the support of tens of thousands of spectators and more than 100 live bands and other entertainment along the course which includes parts of Columbus, Bexley, German Village, Short North, OSU campus, Upper Arlington, Grandview Heights and Victorian Village.

The 33rd annual Nationwide Insurance Columbus Marathon and ½ Marathon will take place Sunday, October 21, 2012.

Check out RUNOHIO race photos - <http://www.runohio.com/index.php/images>

Check out the race results - <http://www.runohio.com/index.php/results>

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Check out the RUNOHIO Grand Prix - <http://www.runohio.com/index.php/grand-prix>

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