

## Columbus ½ Marathon

Written by matt-mcgowan

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**Columbus October 16** - Over nine thousand runners and walker toed the starting line for the Nationwide Insurance Columbus ½ Marathon. Morocco's Abdelaziz Atmani who lives in Indianapolis, Indiana hit the 10km mark in the Columbus ½ Marathon in 30:25 while Bellbrook's Jason Ordway would be one second back. Atmani who has been cleaning up in Ohio prize money races this summer would pull away in the second part of the race and look to be on his way to the victory. However, Atmani who had a lead bike hugging to him would go thru the half marathon turn at Nationwide Boulevard. Atmani would have a few wheelchair athletes ahead of him but was the first runner to get to the turn were the marathoner who started with the half marathoners would continue north on High Street. Even though a large flashing sign said for the half marathoner to turn, I noticed when I walk by the area the sound system which was there last year directing half marathon to turn was missing. Plus, the numbers of bikes on the course made the event look like there was a bike event also being held, however, the bike with Atmani continue north on High Street when it should have turned and Atmani would follow.

Bellbrook's Jason Ordway who won the Columbus Marathon last year in his first marathon attempt and in doing so joined his brother Josh as USA Men's Olympic Marathon qualifier would make the turn to the half marathon finish to win in 1:05:11. Atmani retraced his step to the turn and would run more than 500 meters extra to finish second in 1:06:19. After Ordway told race director Darris Blackford of the mix up, Blackford decided to award both runners the top half marathon prize of \$1,500. Canton's Ryan Kienzle (1:06:37) finished third to win \$750. Kent's Andrew Carnes (1:07:15), Ashland's Jason Oswalt (1:07:28), Canton's James Zeuch (1:07:50 and Seven Hills' Chris Fyock (1:08:39) finished next.{ad}

Netherlands' Marisha Kramer (1:13:52) ran away with the women's half marathon on her way of establishing a new course record breaking Allison Grace old record of 1:14:20.

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Beavercreek's twin sisters Kara Storage (1:16:14) and Tara (1:17:44) captured the next two prize money spots. Dublin's Melissa Converse (1:19:22), Pittsburgh's Michelle Corkum (1:19:39), Fort Wayne's Crystal Reichert (1:19:44) and State College's Elizabeth Herndon (1:19:52) finished next.

Pittsburgh's Eric Shafer (1:11:53) won the mater half marathon gold. Kirkland's Brian Stern (1:15:59) and Texas' Brendon Cahoon (1:21:11) finished next.

Pittsburgh's Lisa Lucas (1:22:33) won the women's master top award. Mason's Tanya Thatcher (1:23:10) finished next.

Powell's Brian Loux (1:22:54) won the grand master title. Beach City's senior Ronald Legg (1:26:09) was the top 60 and over finisher. Mansfield's Kerry Green (1:26:51) was the third grand master to cross the finish line by the Nationwide Arena. North Canton's Vincent Russo (1:33:49) was the second senior to finish.

Maumee's Joan Mathews (1:37:38) won the women's grand master title while Malvern's Diana Furey (1:39:51) finished second.

Akron's Donna Serdinak (1:50:16) won the women's senior gold.

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>

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More on Columbus ½ Marathon - <http://www.columbusmarathon.com>

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