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Fall Classic runners brave chilly temperatures

BECCA OWSLEY The News-Enterprise Oct 29, 2018 Updated 5 hrs ago



Matt Hoyes crosses the finish line Sunday as the overall winner of the Elizabethtown Fall Classic Half Marathon.

BECCA OWSLEY/The News-Enterprise

Runners got up early Sunday morning to participate in the Elizabethtown Fall Classic Half Marathon and 5K.

Elizabeth Ray of Elizabethtown was one of them, competing in her first Fall Classic and completing her third 13.1-mile marathon event.

Ray, 39, was the top female finisher, completing the run in 1:46.04.

“My goal was to finish with a smile on my face knowing I’d given my best and that I had fun,” she said. “I achieved that and it feels good.”

She said she’s been running on and off for around 20 years, taking some time off when she had her children.

After having children she came back to running. “I can’t quit,” she said.

The cool morning temperatures were cold for volunteers but suitable for the runners.

The course went through Elizabethtown and Cecilia, beginning and ending at Elizabethtown Sports Park.

Matt Hoyes, 44, of Bardstown, was the male winner, finishing in one hour, 16 minutes and seven seconds.

He only decided to run the night before.

“It was a spur of the moment thing,” he said.

It’s been a long time since Hayes ran a road track, he said. He mostly does trail running.

“I knew it was going to be pretty fast for my liking,” he said.

Hoyes and Anthony Kuntz of Elizabethtown were neck-and-neck most of the race, setting a pace for each other.

“Any time I’d pull up next to him he’d just surge,” Hoyes said of Kuntz.

He tried to stay relaxed and keep up with Kuntz’s pace.

Hoyes said he wasn’t familiar with the course and was concerned about a few of the rolling hills.

“I felt OK towards the end so I just let it roll,” he said.

Hoyes coaches cross country at Thomas Nelson High School in Bardstown.

Robert Rankin, 56, of Georgetown, also finished in the top 5 with a time of 1:31.30. —

He recorded a personal best for the third time in six weeks, he said. He's been running about five years and runs every day. Rankin started running half marathons last year and prefers them to 5Ks, he said.

New this year to the race was the addition of a 5K (3.1 miles). It included 40 runners and the winner was Logan Schrock who finished in 21 minutes and 28 seconds.

Jennifer Upton with 3 Way Racing said Schrock was 15 years old. The top female winner was Angela Hobbs, 41.

The 5K included some strollers and a few dogs as well, Upton said.

It's the third year for the half marathon, she said. This year 157 runners participated.

Along the course were water stops and encouragers to help the runners along. The race served as a fundraiser for the United Way of Central Kentucky and USA Cares, Upton said.

Many of the volunteers were from those organizations, she said.

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