

Alton Half Marathon offers scenic course, beautiful day for runners

by Dan Brannan, Content Director
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Around 400 dedicated runners turned out for the annual Alton Half Marathon and 5K event on a beautiful morning to run across the Clark Bridge and the scenic course.

Dave Janet, 23, of Alton, blazed the trail to take first place in the race with a record time of 1 hour and 13, minutes 56 seconds. The female first place finisher was Lisa Cary, 31, of Eureka, Mo., with a time of 1 hour, 24 minutes, 48 seconds.

Mike Nenninger, 41, of St. Charles, Mo., won the 5K race in a time of 23:34. Ashley Holt, Noblesville, Ind., was the top female 5K finisher with a time of 24:58.

Barbara Horstman, a race co-director, said those who come to the Alton Half Marathon and 5K race, love it.

"We rarely get anything negative said about it," she said. "We have a great volunteer team. I couldn't do it without that team. It is a great time and a very nice course. I think crossing the Clark Bridge and the scenic view add a lot to the race."

William Ames, 72, of Godfrey, came in at 25:13 in the 5K for eighth overall place in that division.

Tom Gelesthorpe was second in the half marathon race on Saturday with a time of 1:21.08; followed by Jon Yoch (1:21.30); Andrew Munie, (1:23.42); and Micahel Lewis (1:24.12).

In the 5K, Mike Nenninger was the overall winner (23:34); followed by Jared Loyd (23:30); Tyler Hazelwood (23:52); Racheal Bond (24:05); and Aaron Leese (24:22).

Other noticeable area finishers in the half marathon were Monica Stump of Edwardsville (15th place, 1:37.52); Jeremie Studnicki of Alton (17th place, 1:39.30); Rebecca Bradley of Edwardsville (19th, 1:40.16); Kyle Pinkard of Godfrey (1:41.24); and Kelly Funke of Godfrey (28th, 1:43.06).

The race benefits the Alton Education Association.

Runners came to the race from all over Illinois and St. Louis, but also Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota and even Maryland, Horstman said.













