

MINNESOTA MASTERS 15K TAC CHAMPIONSHIP

September 18, Braemar, Edina

Records fell with the rain in the 9th Annual Minnesota Masters 15K. Although the storm occasionally caused the runners some concern with thunder and lightning, the main effect was to cool the runners off, and they responded with a dozen Minnesota age records, four age-group records, and a national age record.

Leading the parade was 65-year-old Lloyd Young, who broke the Minnesota 65-69 record by 4:22. Also claiming new age-group records were Patricia Larson, 51; Betty Haleen, 66, whose 1:20:39 was also a national record for women her age; and Francine Pahl, a 40-year-old for just 5 days. Mae Horns, 54, also broke the existing record for women 50-54. Also setting Minnesota records for runners their age were Alex Ratelle, 64; John Burton, 65; Bruce Mortenson, 44; Duane Fjelstad, 50; Mary Hiatt, 42; Mary Lou Carlson, 61; Helen Reiter, 71; and Judy Cronen, 46.

These runners were rewarded, not only with applause, but with prize money from a purse donated by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. The runners' times were "handicapped" with the Minnesota record for their five-year-age group. Young, in accepting the top prize of \$125, claimed he was taking it easy, "so I wouldn't put the record out of my reach next year". Interestingly, three of the top ten runners on the handicapped basis will be in an older age group next year. Ratelle ran five minutes faster than the record he'll be trying to break in 1989, and Horns was seven minutes under the time she'll be going against next year.

Another novelty this year was the first turkey in our nine-year history. Next year I'm bringing a shotgun.

First across the finish line was defending champion Bruce Mortenson, Minnetonka, who also will be in a new five-year age group in 1989. Coming off a hard effort at the City of Lakes 25K the previous weekend, Mortenson coasted to a 24-second victory over John Emmons, who caught Jim Bohn, the man who upset Mortenson at the Hennepin-Lake 5K, along Braemar Boulevard. First woman was Francine Pahl, whose 58:24 shattered the Minnesota masters women record by 1:24.

Besides the runners who set records for their age and sex, the race gives prizes in "Novice" divisions to runners who have never won their age group in their lives. Congratulations to Bill Moody, Lee Stauffacher, Thom Weddle, Rogers Anderson, Bonnie Fuglesten, Kathryn Carruth, and Andrea Kircher, who have now finally broken that habit.

Thanks to Blue Cross and Blue Shield, our sponsor these past six years, and Old Home Foods, who donated the yogurt that helped keep the runners happy while waiting for the awards.