

MINNESOTA MASTERS 15K USATF CHAMPIONSHIP
September 17, Edina

"What a great day for running!" is what we said last year. This year was even better! Temperature in the mid-50's even at the finish and no wind! Forty-eight runners claimed PR's, compared with 34 last year, and seventeen state records were set instead of "just" eight in 1994. Two men under 50:00 for the first time since 1983 and five women under 60:00 for the first time ever. Who says masters are past their prime? Not all of them!

Leading the record setters was Marie Boyd, who grew up in Buffalo, played volleyball at Gustavus, and then started running. A physician in Albuquerque, she was back in Minnesota for a medical conference. Her time of 54:05 took nearly two minutes off the state open 15K record that Marcy Gilles set last year in this race.

The men's race was expected to be a duel between Rob Whetham and Mike Seaman. Neither knew or reckoned with newly-minted master Jess Koski. "We went back and forth the first few miles," says Whetham. "He seemed to be toying with us. He put in a few surges, then a big one at 5 miles and never looked back."

Runners were "age graded" by the WAVA age-graded tables. The top man and woman on this basis were each awarded a trip to the 1996 USATF Championship of their choice. Congratulations, Marcy Gilles and Mike Seaman!

The Masters 15K gives awards in "Novice" divisions to runners who have never won their age group in any race, ever. Congratulations to John Borgfelt, Rick Letourneau, Stan Sippola, Bill Berneking, Larry Parker, Marlee Meshbesh, Jill Meyers, Mary Ewert-Knodell, Elizabeth Sumpton, and Peg Tyler, who have now broken that habit.

Thanks to BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota, who have now sponsored this race a baker's dozen years, and to Q Cumbers, now a five-year sponsor.