

MINNESOTA MASTERS 15K TAC CHAMPIONSHIP

September 24, Edina

As if to make up for the ghastly weather of a year ago, the powers that be gave the 10th Annual Masters 15K a picture-perfect day to race, if you could stand the 41o temperatures. A brisk wind from the south seemed to bother the runners, however, as they "only" set ten Minnesota age records. Among those was a national age record by Betty Haleen, who knocked nearly three minutes off the W67 mark set by Ellen McCoy on this same course two years ago, and more than a minute off her own year-old Minnesota age-group record. Alex Ratelle took four minutes off the Minnesota record for his new age group, set last year in this race by Lloyd Young, who said he was then holding back so as to make it easy for Alex this year.

The races for the overall championships were pretty ho-hum affairs, Bruce Mortenson and Francine LePage both finishing three or more minutes ahead of their closest contenders for the TAC Masters Championships. Gwen Kobbervig, Minnesota's leading W35 this year, trailed LePage by over a minute.

These six runners, plus Duane Fjelstad, from Chetek, Wis., were rewarded for their efforts by sharing \$700 of age-graded awards, thanks to our sponsor of these past seven years, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

Besides such record-setting runners, the Masters 15K gives prizes in "Novice" divisions to runners who have never won their age group in any race in all their lives. Congratulations to John Cretzmeyer, John R Brown, Tom Carter, Bob Spangler, Bill Alvord, John S Engebretson, Jacqueline Vos, Catherine Squires, Dianne Michelson, and Nella Timm, who have now broken this habit.

Next year we will host the U.S. National Masters Championships. It will be my last year as race director. I'd like to form a committee that would help with the extra hospitality chores, and would yield a race director for 1991 and thereafter. If interested, please call Jack Moran at (612) 920-0558. In any case, I hope you'll be back to run next year, on September 23.

Besides our major sponsor, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, we thank Old Home Foods, whose yogurt has helped the runners refresh themselves while waiting for the awards these past seven years.