

# Des Moines Marathon Report

## All 26.2 Miles Covered

Notebook compiled by the Register's Lance Bergeson

They all finished.

All eight Des Moines Roosevelt High School students who attempted to finish Sunday's Des Moines Marathon made it through 26.2 miles to Nollen Plaza.

The eight teenagers, plus five in the half marathon, were on the See-Us Run Des Moines team formed by Iowa Kidstrong founder Cindy Elsbernd. Most of the students had never run in a distance race. They trained for six months.

"There were a lot of nervous kids and excited mentors," Elsbernd said. "A lot of them have said it's the hardest thing they've ever done, but the most worthwhile thing, too."

All eight marathoners made it to the finish line by 6 hours and 1 minute. The fastest was William Shepard in 4:03:27.

Four adult mentors also ran in their first marathon.

The marathon finishers were Shepard, Javier Sanchez, Max Rice, Jordan Rhodes, Saif Hameed, Rachael Hammes, Keeghan Corcoran and Christopher Henry.

Miasem Abidulrazaq, Brennan Veal, Haifaa Meri, Celeste Love and Ellie Davenport completed the half marathon.

"It's been an amazing journey," Elsbernd said. "I don't know what I'll do on Monday. We hope we can grow it to other schools."

### First on the new bridge

Jeff Weaver and Mason Frank were the first runners to cross the new Center Street Bridge in a race Sunday.

Weaver went on to win the 5-kilometer race, which incorporated the bridge on a new course, in 16:01.

"I liked going over the bridge. It was nice, cool," said Weaver, a Des Moines University student from Grand Rapids, Mich. "I was hoping to win it after what happened last year."

Weaver lost a photo finish to Vince Temu in last year's race. Both had the same time of 15:50.

### Record 7,777 entered

A record 7,777 entered the Des Moines Marathon and its support races. Race director Chris Burch said walk-up registration for the half marathon on Saturday was more than anticipated. Organizers ran out of bibs and medals, which have to be ordered in advance. He also said a water truck had to be

brought in.

"The (cool weather) conditions allowed us to accommodate all of the runners," Burch said. "I was thankful for that. "A hot day would have taxed our support along the course."

### Captured on video

The Des Moines Marathon set up a huge video board at Nollen Plaza.

Tape-delayed video of the runners, footage shot by Mediacom, was shown.

"We're excited that we'll have footage all day," said marathon public relations coordinator Elizabeth Keest Sedrel.

Will live video be coming soon?

"That's next," Keest Sedrel said.

### Running for Kenny

Team Kenny was one of the many charity teams racing Sunday. A group of 17, five from Ankeny and the others from northwest Iowa and South Dakota, raised money for the American Cancer Society.

The race team members were running in memory of former Alton, Ia., resident Kenny Konz, who died of cancer last year at age 53.