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SPORTS

Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008

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Brown defends Manatee River Run crown

Darren Brown is turning the Manatee River Run 5-miler into his own play thing.

The 23-year-old University of Texas graduate defended his 2007 title by winning Saturday's race in 24 minutes, 59 seconds at Emerson Point Park on Sned Island.

Though Brown's time was off the course-record pace of 24:43 he ran last December, he still easily outpaced the field that participated in the event designated as the Florida state 5-mile championship by the Road Runners' Club of America.

Andrew Begley was second in 26:33.8. Nathan Krahn was third in 27:29.9.

Amy Yoder-Begley, who ran the 10,000 meters at the Summer Olympics in Beijing, won the women's race in 26:39.5. Alexandra Crabb was second in 28:39.5. Kate Koski was third in 29:30.

A total of 491 runners and walkers finished the eighth running of the race that winds its way through the trails and the roads of the park.

Ann Hunsader, a 1981 graduate of Manatee High who lives in Cincinnati, was honored before the race for having run all eight.

Eddy Hellebuyck, 47, was seventh overall and won the men's masters division (40-49).

Jack Silva, 53, won the men's grand masters (50-59) in 30:43.6.

Albert Wieringa, 62, won the men's senior grand masters (60-69) in 32:28.1.

Joe Burgasser, 70, won the men's veterans grand masters (70 and over) in 33:08.1.

The women's masters winner was Denis Skinner, 52, who finished in 34:31.1.

Debra Donald, 50, won the women's grand masters in 36:06.6.

The women's senior grand masters was won by Sandy Meneley, 61, in 37:24.8.

The women's veterans grand masters winner was Joanne Egan, who finished in 1:12:05.5.

For complete results, go to manateeriverrun.com.

— Roger Mooney, Herald Staff

Baseball

GIANTS — With two recent back surgeries behind him, Randy Johnson is refreshed and focused on being a baseball player again this winter — rather than a pitcher limited to rigorous rehabilitation work, his case the past two offseasons.

The 45-year-old Big Unit has been playing catch for three weeks already — and now, he's busy preparing to join his new San Francisco Giants teammates come the start of spring training in February.

Johnson joins fellow Cy Young winners Tim Lincecum (2008) and Barry Zito (2002) in an intriguing rotation that also features promising right-hander Matt Cain and lefty Jonathan Sanchez.



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