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Venice's Lomas wins 15th Annual Canes Classic race

Benton wins women's event

By JOHN LEMBO
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BRADENTON -- When he crossed the finish line Monday morning, Ricardo Lomas didn't stumble through the chute or fall flat on his back.

He barely looked winded.

Maybe it was because Lomas was one of the most relaxed runners in the field of 400 who competed in the 15th Annual Canes Classic at G.T. Bray.

Regardless of where he finished the 5K race, Lomas could have deemed the day a victory. After all, he has lost weight. He no longer gulps down eight sodas a day.

He has learned to love oatmeal.

Yet there he was on Labor Day, crossing the finishing line before anyone else. The overall winner, Lomas, 41, of Venice, finished with a time of 17 minutes, 27 seconds.

"For where I am right now, I'm happy," Lomas said. "I'm looking forward to rest of the year."

On the women's side, Christa Benton was the overall winner with a time of 17:30.11. The 23-year-old finished the race quick enough to break the record of 17:40 she set in 2005.

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