

Dairy Festival: Ross Hicks outruns 102 participants to win Milk Run

Written by By FAITH HUFFMAN, News-Telegram News Editor
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Ross Hicks of Sulphur Springs outpaced all of the other 102 participants to become the overall winner and overall male finisher in the Hopkins County Dairy Festival 5K Milk Run Saturday morning.

Hicks, a 2009 graduate of Sulphur Springs High School, said he felt OK with his time of 18 minutes, 8.2 seconds Saturday even if it was a little behind his pace of past years, when he's come in second at the run. The 23-year-old says he hasn't run as often since graduating college last May. He did note that it felt a bit odd not to have Sulphur Bluff's Everett Wilder running too this year; Wilder, who has come in first several times in the Milk Run, now lives out of town and was unable to make it to the race due to work obligations, Hicks said.



The first place overall female finisher was 13-year-old Sienna Collins of Saltillo. She finished the run with a time of 22.03.4, and was the ninth person to cross the finish line Saturday.

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In addition to the top overall male and female finishers of the day, medals and awards were presented to the fastest finisher in each age division.

Victor Rodriguez of Sulphur Springs came in just behind Hicks' 18:08.2, with a time of 19:23.8; the 28-year-old also was recognized as the top overall male age 20-29. Finishing second in that group was Andrew Wallace, 22, of Sulphur Springs. Third went to Kiffer Davis, 22, of Sulphur springs.

Kathy Barajas, 25, of Sulphur Springs finished first overall among females ages 20 to 29 with a time of 27:53.3. Finishing second in that age category was 25-year-old Robin Castro of Sulphur Springs and 23-year-old Bonnie Grafton of Sulphur Springs.

The first overall finisher among girls ages 10 to 14 years was 13-year-old Emily Lamonica of Powderly; she crossed the finish line just behind Collins, the 10th person to finish overall with a time of 22:09.9. Finishing second in the 10-14 year girls category was Kristian Sutherlun, 14, of Powerderly. Third was Alli Fain, 13, of Brashear.

Coy Collins, 9, of Saltillo was first overall among boys ages 1-9 years. First overall in the boys ages 10-14 group was 12-year-old Chase Berry of Sulphur Springs.

Madison Ramirez of Sulphur Springs once again was recognized as the first overall finisher among females ages 15-19. The 18-year-old was the 11th person to cross the finish line with a time of 22:20.5.

First overall in males ages 15 to 19 years was Will Fain of Brashear. The 15-year-old crossed the finish line fourth with an overall time of 20:50.9. Finishing second in the age group was 16-year-old Tanner Ramirez of Sulphur Springs and 16-year-old Mark Maddox.

