

Winter Blast, Grandville

Winter Blast Blooms in Nick of Time

Scott Sullivan

GRANDVILLE (2/15/14) — It was 11:30 Valentine's night before race director Laurens TenKate finally felt ready for the next day's Winter Blast 5K.

Volunteers know their roles? Check. Participants' packets prepared, course cones ready and snowy streets salted? Check. Flowers ordered for women finishers? Check. Valentine's flowers for wife, Jan? Uh-oh.

Not even the next day's winners, Kris Koster and Emma Doorn, ran faster than TenKate did to his car, driving from there to the all-night flower store and back in time to meet deadline.

"After that, the race was a breeze," he said.

Not a warm breeze. Sunshine belied low-teens temperatures that had 225 entrants exhaling steam as they rambled between high snow banks on streets behind Calvin Christian High, then finished in warmth of the school's gym.

Koster, 32, a former Calvin College star, led all comers for the fourth time in the Winter Blast's five runnings, easing home in 16:35. Next came CCHS all-state junior Logan Jurgens, 17, in 16:51.8.

Doorn, 16, also a Calvin Christian all-state junior, paced the women in 19:24.4. Sarah Sandorn, 32, of Portland placed second in 19:51.8.

Doorn joined her dad, Alex, winning the first-year parent-child team race with a combined time of 44:09.

Leading the masters were Brent Seinen, 40, of Portland in 18:27.1 and Gayle Kuipers, 48, of Holland in 21:52.

Jan TenKate earned more than her last-minute Valentine's flowers, winning her age group the following morning too.

Harold Plaisier, a default winner in the men's over-80 age group created specifically for him, also claimed bragging rights over "young pup" Rod Smith, 77, edging his friend by 47 seconds.

A 1K Winter Flurry children's fun run after the main event reddened cheeks and warmed hearts as well.

For complete results, visit <http://michianatiming.com/winter-blast-5k-results/>.



Photo by Scott Sullivan

Rachel Ross, of Wyoming, is happy about her 24:35 finish.

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Rod Smith, of Grand Rapids, took age group honors.

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