

Christopher Haynes takes 40th annual Rose City Run

By David Almeda

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THOMASVILLE — The 40th annual Rose City 10K Run was a humid one, but that didn't deter nearly 500 participants from taking their marks next to the Broad Street post office on Saturday morning.

Tallahassee's Christopher Haynes won the race with a time of 32:57, while Ann Centner took home the award for fastest female, with a time of 40:56. It was the first appearance in the race for both of the overall winners.

In the early stages of the race, Haynes was neck-and-neck with eventual second place winner Matthew Cashin (34:51) during the the first leg on Smith Avenue. After a couple of minutes of both runners keeping pace with each other, Haynes prevailed, eventually creating great distance between himself and Cashin — and ultimately taking the race by a margin of two minutes.

Haynes, 24, is originally from Jacksonville but moved to Tallahassee within the past year. He has been running since his sophomore year in high school, but he began to take the sport seriously in college.

"I liked the course," Haynes said. "It was super simple. They did a good job putting the event on."

Centner, 25, has a similar background, having been a runner since eighth grade. Originally from Watkinsville, she ran cross country and track at the University of Georgia and now resides in Blakely.

"I was naturally fast, I guess," Centner said. "I ran all through high school and college and now I just run more for health reasons and because I like it. I hope to come back next year."

Behind Haynes and Cashin, Mickey Moore of Tallahassee finished third with a time of 38:05. The fourth place winner, Dustin Reynolds of Brinson, started the early parts of the race in possession of or tied for the lead before ultimately falling back.

Thomasville's Chad Johnson completed the race with the best time among Thomas County residents, finishing in 43:24. Rosalie White was the quickest Thomas County female at 49:38.

The Mayor's Cup for the fastest public official went to Angela Gray of Monticello, Fla., who finished in 1:02:08.

In the 38th annual one-mile run for ages 12 and under, 12-year-old Joshua May crossed the finish line first with a time of 6:12. The fastest female winner was 10-year-old Anika Imhof, who completed the course in 6:58.