

## September 2016 *Wingfoot* Spotlight: Participants Beat the Heat at the 2016 AJC Peachtree Road Race

By Amanda Kowaleski

Sun, heat and humidity ruled the 2016 AJC Peachtree Road Race. Participants and spectators of the world's largest 10K welcomed the summer conditions on Independence Day after last year's rainy skies.

### 2016 Peachtree Cup

The second annual Peachtree Cup was awarded to the top overall male and female. The men's elite race ended with an exciting finish between three competitors. Gabriel Geay (Tanzania) narrowly beat out Daniel Salel (Kenya), who crossed the finish line first in the 2015 Peachtree Cup team competition. Geay finished in 28:48.50 ahead of Salel's 28:48.65. Kenya's Philip Langat was not far behind with a time of 28:51.40.

"I'm very happy to win this race," said Geay. "I didn't know when I won, because those two Kenyans are very strong. But I knew I had good speed."



For the women, two runners pulled away from the pack and dominated the entire race. Edna Kiplagat (Kenya) controlled the pace with Ethiopia's Buze Diriba right behind, until Kiplagat made her move just before mile five. Kiplagat added to her lead before finishing in 32:24; Diriba crossed the line at 32:28.

"I am happy today because I have tried three times to win this race and I didn't make it, but today I made it," said Kiplagat.

### Kilometer Kids Charity Chase

For the second year in a row, the Kilometer Kids Charity Chase matched up our nation's military branches in a two-part competition. In partnership with United Military Care, Team Air Force, Team Army, Team Coast Guard, Team Marine Corps and Team Navy competed for bragging rights in two areas: The fastest military branch and the team that receives the most donations for Atlanta Track Club's Kilometer Kids youth running program through an online fundraiser.



Team Air Force crossed the line first with a commanding lead to win the footrace portion of the Kilometer Kids Charity Chase. Captain Richard Elmore finished first for his team in 37:15. Team Air Force's cumulative time was 5:09:11.

Team Marine Corps won the fundraising portion of the Kilometer Kids Charity Chase, with 33% of donors choosing to honor the Marine Corps with their contribution. All proceeds will go towards expanding the reach and accessibility of the Kilometer Kids program in Metro Atlanta as part of a continued effort to encourage young people to achieve health and

fitness through running, including the Fort Benning program established through last year's Kilometer Kids Charity Chase. The Fort Benning program launched last fall and more than doubled in size for its spring season.

### **Media Race**

Eight Atlanta-based media personalities participated in the first-ever Media Race at the AJC Peachtree Road Race. Some of the area's favorite television, radio and newspaper talent competed for bragging rights in this "race within a race", lining up in a start wave of their own between waves B and C.

FOX5's Randy Travis claimed victory with a time of 47:32. Other participants included 11Alive's Kaitlyn Ross, CBS46's Sharon Reed, 680 The Fan's Ben Ingram, Jonathan Serrie of Fox News, George Howell of CNN, Derek Van Dam of CNN International and Lisa Schoolcraft of the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

### **Finisher T-shirt**

The 2016 AJC Peachtree Road Race finisher's T-shirt was a blue cotton-poly blend courtesy of Mizuno. A public vote chose Shay Harbaugh's "Heart & Sole" as this year's T-shirt design, which was inspired by three words: pride, heart and soul.

"With every step the runners take in the race, they are putting their heart and soul into getting closer to the finish line," Harbaugh explained.



### **Overseas Races**

While 60,000 participants packed Peachtree Road this year, 1,700 of our nation's military members ran their own version of the event. Satellite races were held in six locations around the world. Participants received official race numbers and the same finisher T-shirt as those who crossed the finish line on 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

U.S. Army Sgt. Samantha Kanatzar served in Kuwait last year and participated in one of the 2015 satellite races. This year she ran the AJC Peachtree Road Race right here in Atlanta. "Toeing the start line with other runners, many of whom have run this race for 20+ years, is one finish that I won't likely forget," says Kanatzar. "Celebrating the Fourth with fellow runners and lovers of our country was a win!" Kanatzar plans to run each race that she ran as a shadow here in America to pay tribute to the colleagues who introduced her to the sport.

### **Wheelchair Division**

Tatyana McFadden's victory in the Shepherd Center Wheelchair Division of the AJC Peachtree Road Race earned her the title of the winningest woman in the division. The Clarksville, Maryland, resident finished first at Peachtree for the sixth time in 23:14.

"It was definitely a busy weekend. There's not much time between [Paralympic] Trials and this race, but I wouldn't miss it for the world," says McFadden, who was named to the Paralympic Team the day before Peachtree after winning six events. "I'm really glad to come down and it's a great way to celebrate the Fourth."

Josh George (Champaign, IL) claimed his first wheelchair division win at Peachtree in what was his 10<sup>th</sup> time competing in the race (20:19).

"It feels great. The past few years I finished second or third, so to finally get the win, it's a pretty big one for me," said George.