Arana Becomes First Repeat Winner

By SCOTT NOVAK
Daily News Sports Writer

So much for how unlucky the number 13 is. Laredo Junior College sophomore Loreto Arana broke a 12-year-old jinx by winning back-to-back individual titles in the National Junior College Athletic Association's National Marathon Championships.

It was the 13th annual event staged in Dowagiac, but it was Arana's second, and the first time in his history that a man has successfully defended his crown. Arana caught and ran away from teammate Marcos Garcia at the 11-mile mark to post the title. Arana finished with a time of 2:26:19.

Brevard's Laura Finch captured the women's title as she out-dueled Renee DeChambeau of Macomb Community College. Finch finished the 26-mile, 395-yard course in a time of 3:21:01. It was the first marathon for the Brevard standout.

It was the most exciting NJCAA Marathon ever as the men's team race came down to a placer. Haskell Indian Junior College won its third straight team championship as it edged Laredo by one point, 14-15. Haskell won the championship by seven runners, which did not count on the team points, moved back a Laredo runner one place. Host Southwestern Michigan College finished third with 19 points.

Macomb won its third straight women's team championship as it topped Haskell, 9-15. It was Haskell's first-ever women's team.

There was both joy and sadness in the Laredo circle as the team came here with just two goals. The first goal was accomplished when Arana won his second championship. However, goal number two was to win the team title. It was Laredo's last appearance in the NJCAA event due to the fact that its program has been cut.

"I knew I could win it," said Arana in his thick Mexican accent. "I wanted to become the first man to win two in a row. I wanted to win this very badly. The first 10 miles my legs felt bad. I tried to catch my teammates, but I couldn't. About the last five or six miles I started to feel better."

Laredo Coach Ramiro Barrera knew that Arana could do it, but he also felt that his team would be champions, too. He was both happy and disappointed.

"I was kind of hoping that we could make this a double win with Loreto taking an individual title and the team winning," he told the Daily News following the announcement of the team standings. "But I'm not very disappointed. Garcia has run a 2:26 marathon before, but he just went out too fast. I'm very pleased with our effort."

For Brevard's Finch the race was more difficult than she had imagined it would be, however, she said after finishing that she really had to try it in.

"After the 22-mile mark I had to talk my way through the rest of the race," she smiled. "I kept telling myself that I had come this far and I wasn't about to stop. When I saw the finish line I felt like crying."

Finch, who qualified for the 10K event and the cross country national finals, but did not compete, said that she began running between 50-60 miles a week once track was over.

Wright Junior College sophomore Mitchell Kopacz, who finished eighth last year, came in second Saturday well behind Arana with a time of 2:34:55. SMC's Paul Diaz, who had never run a marathon before, finished third with a time of 2:35:15.

"Diaz ran a super race," praised Head Coach Ron Gunn. "Paul ran an even pace the entire race and almost got second. It's a real nice tribute to Paul to work a 40-hour week, attend college and train as hard as he does."

Conran Levanteno led the way for Haskell with a fourth place finish (2:37:21), while Filiberto Mancillas of Laredo and Jeffrey Quale of Haskell (2:38:40) rounded out the All-Americans.

The remaining top 10 finishers were Roger Knorr, His Gun (Haskell), Danny Charley (Haskell), Curt Castetter and Matt Stack (SMC).

"Stack and Castetter ended their SMC careers on a real upbeat note," said Gunn. "They run very conservative at the start and just kept coming. They both ran smart, gutsy races."

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Loreto Arana</td>
<td>Laredo JC, TX</td>
<td>2:26:19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mitchell Kopacz</td>
<td>Wright JC, IL</td>
<td>2:34:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Paul Diaz</td>
<td>Southwestern MI</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dowagiac, MI</td>
<td>2:35:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Conran Levanteno</td>
<td>Haskell JC, LS</td>
<td>2:37:21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Filiberto Mancillas</td>
<td>Laredo JC, TX</td>
<td>2:38:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jeffery Quale</td>
<td>Haskell JC, LS</td>
<td>2:41:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Roger Knorr</td>
<td>Haskell JC, LS</td>
<td>2:42:09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Danny Charley</td>
<td>Haskell JC, LS</td>
<td>2:48:42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Curt Castetter</td>
<td>Southwestern MI</td>
<td>2:51:37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matt Stack</td>
<td>Laredo JC, TX</td>
<td>2:54:36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TEAM RESULTS

**Men**

1. Haskell Indian JC (Lawrence, KS)          3:44:07 14
2. Laredo Junior College (Laredo, TX)        3:44:10 15
3. Southwestern Michigan (Dowagiac, MI)      3:44:59 19
4. Oakton Community College (Des Plaines, IL)| 3:45:14 19
5. Barton County Community College (G. Bend, KS)| 3:46:17 48
6. Cayuga Community College (Cleveland, OH)  3:48:19 48

**Women**

1. Macomb County Community College           3:46:19 12
2. Haskell Indian Junior College (Lawrence, KS)  3:46:39 12

All American

JUCO REVIEW - SEPTEMBER, 1986 25