

# Arana Becomes First Repeat Winner

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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 the first time in its history that a man has successfully defended his crown. Arana caught and ran away from teammate Marcos Garcia at the 11¾-mile mark to post win the title. Arana finished with a time of 2:26:19.

Brevard's Laura Finch captured the women's title as she outdueled Renee DeChambeau of Macomb Community College. Finch finished the 26-mile, 385-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 displacer. Haskell Indian Junior College won its third straight team championship as it edged Laredo by one point, 14-15. Haskell won the championship because its four runner, 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 nipped Haskell, 9-12. 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 teammate, 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 the 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 was ready to try it again.

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

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

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



THE CHAMPIONS — Loreto Arana (left) successfully defended his individual marathon championship, the first man to do so, while Laura Finch, running in her first marathon, won the women's championship. Arana, of Laredo Junior College, ran a 2:26:09, while Finch, of Brevard, finished with a time of 3:21:10.  
(Daily News Photos by Scott Novak)

In the women's portion of the event Laura Tenaglia earned All-American honors with a third place finish. Rounding out the women's division were Cheryl Sarracino (Haskell), Alberta Martin (Haskell), Ada Wolf (Cuyahoga), Diane Riley (Haskell) and Sherrie Jelsone (Macomb).

"Once again the volunteers did a fantastic job and the event was a big success," Gunn concluded.

## INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

* 1. Loreto Arana, Laredo JC, Laredo, TX	2:26:19
* 2. Mitchell Kopczk, Wright JC, Chicago, IL	2:34:55
* 3. Paul Diaz, Southwestern Michigan, Dowagiac, MI	2:35:15
* 4. Conran Levantonio, Haskell Indian JC, Lawrence, KS	2:37:21
* 5. Filiberto Mancillas, Laredo JC, Laredo, TX	2:38:40
* 6. Jeffery Qualo, Haskell Indian JC, Lawrence, KS	2:41:50
7. Roger Knows His Gun, Haskell Indian JC, Lawrence, KS	2:42:09
8. Danny Charley, Haskell Indian JC, Lawrence, KS	2:48:42
9. Curt Castetter, Southwest Michigan, Dowagiac, MI	2:51:37
Matt Stack, Southwestern Michigan, Dowagiac, MI	2:51:37
11. Marcos Garcia, Laredo JC, Laredo, TX	2:54:26
12. David Kelly, Cuyahoga Community, Cleveland, OH	2:56:19
13. Jim Rubeay, Oakton Community, Des Plaines, IL	2:57:35
14. Tony Vodicka, Oakton Community, Des Plaines, IL	3:13:59
15. Doug Horan, Monroe Community, Rochester, NY	3:16:55
16. Bruce Bower, Oakton Community, Des Plaines, IL	3:17:18
17. Tony Myers, Barton County CC, Great Bend, KS	3:17:41
18. Don Bannon, Barton County CC, Great Bend, KS	3:18:17
19. Laura Finch, Brevard CC, Cocoa, FL	3:21:01
*20. Renee DeChambeau, Macomb CC, Warren, MI	3:22:41
21. Layne Berryman, Barton County CC, Great Bend, KS	3:31:47
22. Earl Redrick, Cuyahoga Community, Cleveland, OH	3:36:15
*23. Laura Tenaglia, Macomb CC, Warren, MI	3:36:55
24. Cheryl Sarracino, Haskell Indian JC, Lawrence, KS	3:49:00
25. Alberta Martin, Haskell Indian JC, Lawrence, KS	3:53:49
26. Ada Wolf, Cuyahoga Community, Cleveland, OH	4:17:48
27. Diane Riley, Haskell Indian JC, Lawrence, KS	4:20:58
28. Sherrie Jelsone, Macomb CC, Warren, MI	4:24:30

## TEAM RESULTS

### Men

1. Haskell Indian JC (Lawrence, KS)	3-4-6-7	14
2. Laredo Junior College (Laredo, TX)	1-4-10	15
3. Southwestern Michigan College (Dowagiac, MI)	2-8-9	19
4. Oakton Community College (Des Plaines, IL)	12-13-14	39
5. Barton County Community College (Gr. Bend, KS)	15-16-17	48
Cuyahoga Community College (Cleveland, OH)	11-18-19	48

### Women

1. Macomb County Community College (Warren, MI)	1-2-6	9
2. Haskell Indian Junior College (Lawrence, KS)	3-4-5	12

\*All American