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## **DRANEY, STRAIT BATTLE COLD TEMPERATURES TO CLAIM TEXAS10 CONROE CROWNS**

CONROE, TEXAS (December 9, 2013) – Even though The Woodlands' **Samantha Draney** is originally a Michigan native, Saturday morning's average 10 miles per hour winds and temperatures that hovered just above freezing didn't exactly give her the edge everyone thinks it might have.

"I get that a lot," the 25-year-old former Western Michigan University track and cross country standout. "In a way I was (feeling an advantage), but at the same time, the humidity in the air was pretty bone chilling."

That and her legs carried Draney, nonetheless, to a 58-minute, 29-second overall win Saturday in the second annual Texas10 Conroe here at Lone Star College – Conroe Center to close out the 2013 Texas 10 Series.

Fidelity Investments The Woodlands Marathon elite athlete coordinator **Chris Strait** celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday a day early by capturing the men's overall title in 1:01:46 just one day after the race he was scheduled to run -- the MetroPCS Dallas Half Marathon -- was canceled due to hazardous weather in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

The duo were also the first runners on the two-loop, 10-mile course to reach the five-mile split and both went home with an additional \$75 to go with the \$150 winning purse.

Strait knew that Draney, who is training in hopes of competing in next month's USA Half Marathon Championships in Houston, was in great shape entering Saturday's race.

"She was ahead of me at Run Thru The Woods (on Thanksgiving Day where Draney was the fourth female overall)," he said. "I ran next to her for the first mile in 6:00 and quickly realized that I already had a decent lead on the next guy."

"I didn't have to beat her. I just had to beat the next guy."

Draney said she and her Team Green Running coach **Dan Green**, the legendary former boys' cross country track coach at The Woodlands High School (who also won his 65-69 age group in 1:23:05 on Saturday), planned for her to go with whoever showed up – regardless of gender.

"With the cold and windy conditions, we were thinking it was going to be a competitive kind of day, not really focusing on time," said Draney, who bettered her 10-mile time by nearly two minutes after winning October's Ten For Texas in The Woodlands.

"With the course, being windy aside, all I could think about was how good my body felt and how coach's training plan has been benefitting me."

Draney's winning time was the fastest of any women in the first four races in the Series, surpassing San Antonio's Kristine Burciaga's 1:01:48 win at Texas10 Katy this September by more than three minutes.

Team Green Running teammate **Amanda Stephens**, 27, was second in 1:08:00 while College Station's **Emily Schmitt**, 29, was third in 1:13:34.

Strait led Houston's **Rafael Romero**, 29, and The Woodlands' **Pablo Dominguez**, 43, across the finish line as the duo finished second and third in 1:03:10 and 1:04:43, respectively.

Conroe's **Eric Scott**, 42, and The Woodlands' **Sabrina Tillson**, 49, won the companion 5-mile race in 32:56 and 34:44, respectively.

Tillson's time was the best ever by a female in a Texas 10 Series five-mile race.

With Texas10 Conroe closing the books on the 2013 Texas 10 Series, runners and clubs ran briskly in the chilly conditions Saturday to stake their claims to just under \$10,000 in the Armadillo and Ten Gallon Club Cup competitions.

Forty-one of the 46 runners who will earn \$200, \$150 or \$100 in the Armadillo Cup competition completed Saturday's race here to receive \$7,300 while five clubs will be awarded \$2,600 in the Ten Gallon Club Cup competitions.

Winners will be announced on Tuesday, December 10, 2013.

The seven-city 2014 Texas 10 Series, which will include the introduction of the Texas 10 Charity Challenge, will kick off on Sunday, February 2, 2014 at the inaugural Texas10 College Station.

Online registration for all future events, results from past events and details of the Armadillo and Ten-Gallon Club Cup competitions is available at [www.texas10series.com](http://www.texas10series.com).

### **About Texas 10 Race Management, LLC and WinWin Events**

Founded in 2012 and located in The Woodlands, Texas 10 Race Management, LLC and WinWin Events combines the talents and expertise of some of the best event producers in the nation. Texas 10 Race Management, LLC and WinWin Events aims to provide local running communities with a new premier running series. Our mission is to promote the advancement of running while supporting the community with positive economic impact, health initiatives and educational benefits.

