

# ZUMBRO

## TWO SECONDS, AFTER 100 MILES

by Alex Kurt

Sprint finishes and two-second margins of victory are usually the stuff of short races on the track or the road – the Olympic 10K final, an NCAA championship, or the Boston Marathon in especially epic years; remember the “Duel in the Sun?”

But that’s also how the Zumbro 100 came down to the wire on April 14 in southern Minnesota, where Bob Gerenz out-kicked Matt Aro to win 21:16:04 to 21:16:06. Both runners also bested the previous course record by over half an hour.

“I ended up catching him with about half a mile to go,” Aro said. “He asked what loop I was on, and I told him it was my last loop. I asked him the same question, and he also said it was his last loop. So, that’s when I first realized that it would probably come down to Matt and I going for the finish line.”

“We were running like crazy down that road [with our pacers], holding position,” Gerenz said. “We passed the green gate into the camping area and the finish was somewhere around 150 or 200 yards ahead of us. The finish was all lit up and Matt and I just ran and ran.”

“I didn’t know how close he was,” Gerenz added. “I just knew I had a step on him.”

Joseph Boler was third in 21:28:05, also under the previous course record. Though the 100-mile course was changed from last year, it was “tougher,” according to Race Director John Storkamp.

In the women’s 100-mile race, Susan Donnelly defended her title for the third consecutive year, in 30:10:06. Donnelly, who traveled from Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for the race, has won all four runnings of the Zumbro 100 and owns the women’s course record of 26:13:36, set last year.

Things were just as exciting at the other end of the 100-mile race, where Rick Bothwell finished in 33:58:39 and Anjanette Arnold finished in 33:59:33, both coming in just under the 34-hour cutoff.

Sixteen-year-old Logan Polfuss was the youngest 100-mile finisher, coming in fifth overall in 26:08:21. Allan Holtz, 62, was the oldest, finish-



A motley crew shakes out the early race jitters



Arika Hage is all smiles

ing 13th overall in 30:07:02. And while Edward Sandor was the only member of his family to finish (he was seventh overall in 26:49:06), several members of the Sandor family started the 100-mile race together.

“This is an awesome trend we hope to see continue,” Storkamp wrote on the race website.

Of 44 starters in the 100-mile race, 30 finished. Becky George not only won the women’s division in the inaugural Zumbro midnight 50-mile race; she was first overall in 9:30:32. Joseph Attendahl won the men’s race and finished second overall in 9:56:39. Following Joseph across the line in 10:22:04 was the second female finisher, Pam Nielsen, 35.

“Having two women in the top three is awesome,” Storkamp said.

But perhaps the most impressive performance in the 50-mile was Tony Overson, the oldest finisher at 65, who completed the course in 17:41:40 after lugging around thousands of pounds of water jugs as a race volunteer in the two days before the race.

Out of 55 runners who started the 50-mile race, 39 finished.

Storkamp noted that Zumbro was indebted to the 85 volunteers – including some who also competed – who put in countless hours before and after the race marking the course, manning and supplying the aid stations, and assisting with race management.

“As always, the volunteer support was outstanding,” he said. “We couldn’t put on such a great event without them.” ■

### ZUMBRO | WABASHA, MINNESOTA | APRIL 13 | ▲ 3,3

#### 100 MILES

1. Bob Gerenz, 44	21:16:04	18. Daryl Saari, 49	30:56:17	4. Kirk Kittell, 31, WI	10:34:20	22. Troy Feustel, 37	13:08:10
2. Matt Aro, 32	21:16:06	19. Ryan Carter, 35	31:22:38	5. Nicholas Keller, 33	10:45:12	23. Angela Barbera, 51, WI	13:23:38
3. Joseph Boler, 32	21:28:05	20. Ronnie Riddle, 30, MI	31:31:17	6. Ryan Chukuske, 30	10:56:19	24. Nelson Soken, 47	13:43:30
4. Brian Ortell, 45, IA	24:37:41	21. Nicholas Koenig, 36	31:58:01	7. Julie Treder, 36, WI	11:05:16	25. Scott Mark, 40	13:43:31
5. Logan Polfuss, 16, WI	26:08:21	22. Jason Laplant, 32	32:11:05	8. Keith Thompson, 28	11:07:03	26. Jess Burdick, 28	13:45:08
6. Robert Gryfe, 45, ON	26:27:25	23. Jeremy Lindquist, 24	32:18:54	9. Barry Nordstrand, 49	11:10:37	27. Robert Kohl, 40	13:45:09
7. Edward Sandor, 29	26:49:06	24. Beth Simpson-Hall, 53, IL	32:22:12	10. Ben Sorensen, 27	11:14:06	28. Kamie Slegers-Nicholls, 33	14:00:02
8. Aaron Schneider, 34, WI	27:24:03	25. Casey Lopez, 35, WI	32:22:20	11. Ross Jilk, 47, WI	11:31:37	29. Jamie Saeland, 37	14:01:49
9. Brian Woods, 47	27:38:27	26. Arika Hage, 36	32:25:46	12. Ron Hendrickson, 45	11:33:26	30. Dan Cairns, 51	14:06:10
10. Aaron Buffington, 38	28:43:54	27. Roberto Marron, 37	33:26:28	13. Andy Wolf, 48, WI	11:35:59	31. Travis Thiede, 38	14:10:31
11. John W Taylor, 50	29:27:44	28. Wayne Nelson, 45	33:29:59	14. Travis McCathie, 31	11:37:14	32. Tracy Harrison, 46	14:11:06
12. Erik Dalgaard, 48	29:47:48	29. Rick Bothwell, 50	33:58:39	15. Steven Sjolund, 61	11:37:49	33. Steve Greseth, 58	14:19:35
13. Allan Holtz, 62	30:07:02	30. Anjanette Arnold, 36	33:59:33	16. Ashley Kumlien, 27, WI	11:53:41	34. Chris Swenke, 41, WI	14:29:51
14. Susan Donnelly, 49, TN	30:10:06			17. Jenny Marietta, 34, WI	12:14:53	35. Omar Rosas, 30	14:29:52
15. Gary Sheets, 59	30:26:58			18. Chris Scotch, 35	12:27:05	36. Greg Allen, 47	16:48:40
16. Bob Murphy, 53, NE	30:26:59			19. Maria Barton, 46	12:35:40	37. Misty Schmidt, 34	17:19:36
17. Matt Lutz, 26	30:37:03			20. Aaron Benike, 39	12:48:20	38. Thomas Repas, 43, SD	17:41:19
				21. Scott Huston, 47	13:04:26	39. Tony Oveson, 65	17:41:40

#### 50 MILES

1. Becky George, 29	9:30:32
2. Joseph Attendahl, 30	9:56:39
3. Pam Nielsen, 35	10:22:04