

Holiday Half Caps Off Championship Series

Saving the longest for last, the half marathon on December 20th will determine the winners of the 2014 Championship Series. Gamini Sugathadasa clinched the men's title by earning 14 points with his second overall at the recent Turkey Trot 10, giving him 132 points and an insurmountable lead over the rest of the field. Among the women, the title is still up for grabs.

Assuming there are only 15 points available in December, Gamini can't be caught. But James Alejandro—currently runner-up with 113 points—can. James has run his full allotment of 10 races and at best can only earn a couple of substation points in December. Eric Hosafros, with 107, can easily bypass James if he runs the Holiday Half on the 20th.

The final two spots for the top-5 men's awards are locked in by Sergio Ibarra with 97 points and Jake Mazone with 91. Dominic Henriques, last year's winner, stands sixth with 71 points.

The real battle for the bowls among the women comes down to Toshie Bertsch and Erica Schramm. Toshie leads Erica by two points, 114 to 112, and both have a race in hand. Erica earned the full compliment of 15 points by winning the Turkey Trot 10K while Toshie placed fifth, earning 11 points. So it all comes down to who runs in December. Erica will be tough to beat, but if Toshie can stay within one or two places of her Overall she would win or share the top spot.

The other three places in the top 5 for the women comes down to “four for three.” It could not be more diverse group age wise. Currently, Maria Riach with 92 points and Rosalie Montoya with 90 are third and fourth. Amy Leonard is fifth with 87 and Ojesa Kwong, the teenager, is sixth with 84. Complicating things for Maria is the fact that she has already run her full compliment of races and at best can earn only three points—by winning her age group (substituting 10 for 7, earned earlier in the year). As with the contest between Toshie and Erica, it comes down to who runs and how stiff the competition is. Last year at the inaugural Holiday Half the field was small and competition to win your age group often non existent. This year? TBD.

