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## Once again, Black wins on Labor Day

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Lesley Chaplin, right, and Abby Booth race toward the finish line during Monday's Macon Labor Day Road Race women's 5K. Chaplin edged Booth for the win.

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**Black adds to Labor Day Road Race title collection**

Before the 37th annual Macon Labor Day Road Race had even started, the talk around the finish line really wasn't about who would win the men's 10K competition as much as when he would be coming in. That's the kind of respect that 39-year-old Alan Black of Hillsboro has in Macon's running community.

Black did not disappoint, as he cruised to his 13th Macon Labor Day Road Race title with a time of 33 minutes, 47 seconds.

"It was so sticky out there (Monday) that it felt like it was raining," said Black, who won his fifth 10K title to go along with eight 5K wins. "I looked back at about mile 3 and saw that I had separated from everyone else, so after that I was able to concentrate on my pace and really didn't have to race.

"This is basically just a training session for me, because I am in the middle of training for a half-Ironman next month in Augusta, but being able to come out here and get to race is always a nice break for me. I know that when I come to Macon that everyone expects me to win, and not winning is really not acceptable. I have always received great support here and have a lot of friends in the area, so it's just a great way to start the day."

The winner of the women's 10K was also a repeat winner. Deanna McCurdy from Peachtree City, who won in 2011, was able to better her time from two years ago by six seconds.

"I would never say I come here and expect to win this race, because we never really know who will show up," said McCurdy, who said she usually finds time to run every day in between her duties as a full-time mom. "I mean, I am 39 years old now and I come out here and have to compete with all these young girls and sometimes I know it's going to be very tough to win. (Monday) I was able to hang with some of my teammates from the Peachtree City Running Club, and that was a huge advantage because I run with them every day and I know the pace they are keeping, and I was able to start with the lead and hold it the entire race."

RaShaun Tanner from Tennile was the youngest winner of the day. After placing second in the race three times, Tanner outdistanced Valentin Alvarez by 20 seconds to win the men's 5K race for the first time.

"It feels great to finally win the race," said Tanner, who recently had a 12th-place finish in the NAIA marathon national championship running for Emmanuel College. "I have trained very hard this summer, and I feel like I am probably better at longer distance, but I really felt great (Monday). I was able to take 22 seconds off of my best time in a 5K, and I think that is probably all the training paying off."

The closest race of the day saw Lesley Chaplin defeating Abby Booth by one second for the women's 5K title, with Tiffany Mountin third by only 11 seconds.

"I really was not expecting to win here," said the 55-year-old Chaplin, who won the masters division last year and is the holder of the American masters record in the mile. "I knew that I was having a strong race after the first mile. I thought there was a female in front of me and I was trying to catch that person, but that ended up being a guy. After that, I never looked back and was able to hang on at the end. I think it's pretty cool that I can still win at my age."

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