

THE **SUNDAY** DECEMBER 14, 2008  
**HERALD-ZEITUNG**



**LOCAL**  
**BIG RACE**

Close to 1,000 participants — possibly the most ever — race in Landa Park. **Page 2A**

**SPORTS**  
**SEASON ENDS**

Smithson Valley meets its match in its semifinals game against Katy in Houston, losing 41-19. **Page 1B**

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**HERALD-ZEITUNG**

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**Almost 1,000 show up for race in Landa Park**

By **Scott Sticker**

Published December 14, 2008

Runner No. 841, 41-year-old Victor Viesca of San Antonio, wiped the sweat off his forehead Saturday morning and stopped his watch.

"Only 6 seconds off my record," he said between heavy breaths.

At 15 minutes and 46 seconds, Viesca was the first to cross the finish line Saturday morning at the 16th annual St. Jude's Ranch for Children's Jingle Bell 5k Run or Walk in Landa Park.

More than 900 runners and walkers of all ages participated in this year's event, which benefits emergency rescue funds for children, volunteer Lisa Short said.

The turnout Saturday was the biggest Short said she has seen so far.

"I've been volunteering for the past three or four years," she said. "Usually, only about 300 people sign up, so this year is huge."

Friends and family cheered the racers on through the finish line while Brent Boller from KTSA radio commented and called out their numbers.

Prizes were given to the top male and female finishers and masters. The top three finishers in each age group and the top three wheelchair athletes also received awards.

"It's a good course for a good cause," Viesca said while he caught his breath.

He was the first overall male in 2007 as well, with a time of 15 minutes and 55 seconds.

After the race, participants gathered for a party in the park, while children had their pictures taken with Santa Claus.

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