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*Note: Photos will change every 5 seconds*



**Left:** Division 1 Operator David Martinez, Jr., ran this year's Marathon in 4 hours, 50 minutes. A veteran of 18 of the 19 races, his personal best was 3 hours, 59 minutes. **Right:** Software Engineer Vazgen Vartanian completed his seventh LA Marathon, this year. With a time of 3 hours, 40 minutes, he placed 571 among all runners, tenth in his age group.

## Another LA Marathon 'Victory' for Metro Bikers, Runners

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(March 12, 2004) A squad of Central City Division 1 mechanics – four bikers and a runner -- was among the Metro employees who crossed the finish line, last Sunday, during the 26.2-mile LA Marathon.

Mechanics Eva Torres, a seven-year veteran biker; first-year bikers Mac Magruder and Fred Hines; biker James Wilson, who has both biked and run the Marathon for nine years; and runner Jose Martinez, in his second outing, all came home with participants' medals.

"There were more hills than last year," says Torres, whose race began at 6 a.m. "but it was good, with good weather."

Runner Jose Luis, a Regional Rebuild Center mechanic who has run in five of the 19 LA Marathons, found it tough going once the day began to heat up the hilly course. Even so, he turned in a 6 hour, 15-minute time.

Luis, who open-heart surgery in 1993, thinks 2004 may be his last year to compete. But, he thinks that every year. "I say no more, but then I see everybody getting ready and I run again!"

## A marathon in Germany

Paul Kim, a Metro Red Line traction power inspector, has run 23 marathons – 10 in Los Angeles. His events also include races in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and, last September, in Berlin, West Germany.

"The Berlin race was better," he declares. "The runners and spectators were very polite. The weather and the course were both good."

For Everett Wilson, an assistant auditor, this year's LA Marathon was his 19th, but he has compiled a string of 63 marathons over the years. Following surgery last fall, he was just getting back on the road again, only to be hit by the heat.

"I shut it down at mile 14," he says. "I lost seven pounds in this race, it was so hot!"

His pal, Marco Pedemonte, agreed. "I walked it!"

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