

## **Munterferings again claim Jack 15 crowns!**

**Alex and Chloe Munterfering again topped the field in the Jack 15 road race, which also proved to be a banner year for the race itself. The Munterferings, who in 2023 became the first husband-wife duo to win the Jack 15, handily won the men's and women's divisions of the oldest road race in the Midwest Saturday.**

**Alex Munterfering, a 35-year-old Parkston native who excelled as a collegian at the University of Oklahoma and Colorado State, has been on the SDSU track coaching staff since 2022. He ran Saturday's 63rd running of the Jack 15 in 1:24:21 (5:33 per mile pace) to win by more than five minutes. Munterfering cut 2:33 off his 2023 time of 1:26:54 and moved from No. 79 to No. 43 on the Jack 15 Top 100 list. For perspective, Munterfering's 2025 clocking sits between two Olympic marathoners with South Dakota roots. Buddy Edelen, a 1964 Olympian, is No. 39 at 1:24:09. Rod DeHaven, a 2000 Olympian and SDSU's head coach since 2005, is No. 49 at 1:24:56. Saturday's second-place finisher was Gabe Peters, 26, of Brookings. The former SDSU track and cross country athlete ran a solid race, but even with a strong pace of 5:54 per mile for 15.2 miles, Peters' time of 1:29:42 was a minute and a half from making the Top 100 list.**

### **Four females in all-time Top 100**

**Chloe Munterfering, 33, is the picture of consistency, clocking a 1:47:53 in 2023 and a 1:47:56 in 2025. She remains No. 23 on the Women's Top 100 list. She finished 11th overall Saturday. To illustrate the pace of this year's field, Munterfering's 2023 time placed her seventh.**

**Munterfering, who excelled at Mississippi State and Colorado State during her collegiate days, was followed by another former collegiate runner. Madison Berndt, 24, of West Branch, Iowa, competed for Liberty University. She ran a 1:53:41 to move to No. 47 and place 17th overall.**

**Finishing third in the women's division and 18th overall was Tanelle Steichen, 46, of Sisseton, who ran a 1:54:37 to move to No. 52 on the Women's Top 100 list.**

**Also cracking the Top 100 list was Adrienne Bender, 53, of Brookings, who moved to No. 89 with a 2:00:10 clocking. An 11-time Jack 15 finisher, her previous best time was 2:04:17 in 2013. She cut nearly a minute per mile from 2024 when she ran a 2:13:33.**

### **Most individual finishers in 43 years**

**The race itself went into the record books with 109 individual finishers, the most since 1982, when there were 160 runners. Dave Graves, who directs the Prairie Striders Running Club event with Brett Pettigrew, notes this year's number of finishers is more**

than double the count of 53 in 2021.

This year's participant list included eight runners from West Virginia, five in the individual run and three on a relay team. Each received a commemorative coin for finishing the Charleston Distance Run in their hometown and participating in the Jack 15, which are the only two 15-mile races in the nation. Both races have been held for decades but this is the first year for the commemorative coin and the first year to have a recognition program in place.

To encourage South Dakota participation in the 2026 Charleston Distance Run, which is held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, there was a drawing for a \$250 travel voucher. That was won by Ahna Schweigert of Brookings.

Counting relay runners, there were 189 participants Saturday, two more than last year. Full results, including relay team placings, can be found at <http://www.prairiestriders.net/jack-15-results.html> .

#### **Top 10 Jack 15s for participation**

**(Based on number of finishers, not entries)**

**192 — 1978**

**163 — 1981**

**160 — 1982**

**148 — 1980**

**144 — 1979**

**128 — 1977**

**109 — 2025**

**100 — 1983**

**98 — 2024**

**98 — 2023**

Race director Dave Graves presents Chloe and Alex Muntefering with the Shari Landmark and Tom Woodall awards for winning the women's and men's division of the Jack 15 road race Saturday. They completed the 15.2-mile race from White to the Coughlin Campanile on the SDSU campus in 1:47:56 and 1:24:21, respectively.