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## Start to 'pew'

### Record number of runners, from hard-core to novice, take part in JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge

story by [Kevin Oklobzija](#) staff writer | photos by [Carlos Ortiz](#) staff photographer

HENRIETTA — Uma Rao knew she wasn't going to win the JP Morgan Chase Corporate Challenge.

She'd only been training for about three weeks with co-worker Charlene Noel, another running novice, for the 3.5-mile race.

But as she crossed the finish line, Rao found herself feeling very much like a winner. She'd left Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy in her dust.

"I was running with Mayor Duffy the whole way and the last half-mile I ran really fast to run past him," said Rao of Rochester, an employee at Carestream Health.

From the hard-core, running-is-their-life athletes to the company workers who just wanted to join the party, a record 10,397 people entered the 17th annual race which took place at Rochester Institute of Technology.

"It's such a big deal in Rochester, we wanted to do it," said Noel of Clarkson. "I felt every footstep. But to do it with Uma, it was so much fun."

Jeff Beck of Perinton defended his overall title, blazing the course in 16 minutes, 52 seconds on a warm, muggy night. Jessie Webb of Elmira was the women's winner (20:08).

Walkers were finishing an hour after the start, including a man who crossed the line talking on his cell phone.

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