Steve Kinderman photo / Augusta native and UW-Stout All-American Tim Nelson won the 13th annual Water Street Mile on Saturday.

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Nelson wins second consecutive Water Street Mile

By Ron Buckli
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Tim Nelson returned once again to his racing roots.

"I remember pushing him in a stroller when he was 4 or 5 years old," said Joanne Nelson, Tim's mother. "We returned for a lot of races through the years."

Obviously, it was the start of something big. Nelson, the NCAA Division III track athlete of the year for UW-Stout, made it two straight in the Indianhead Track Club's Water Street Mile on Saturday morning.
The 22-year-old Augusta native couldn't match his record time of last year but crossed the line in 4 minutes, 21.9 seconds — a 10-second gap over runner-up Connor Olson.

The female winner was 14-year-old Aubrey Roberts, who outdistanced her older — and younger — rivals with a time of 5:30.

A 5K race was held in conjunction with the mile for a first time and featured a winning brother and sister combination — Tony and Amy Bye — for the first time.

In all, there were 308 finishers who ran under sunny skies in high-70s temperatures in the 13th annual event.

Nelson, the 5,000- and 10,000-meter national champion who has eligibility left for cross country this fall, said he led from the start and didn't look back.

"I went out too hard and slowed a little," he said. "It was just for fun and I was happy to win. It's a real nice race."

Nelson said he ran youth races but didn't get passionate about running until his senior year at Augusta when he ran a 4:57 mile. That blossomed into his sensational career at UW-Stout.