

Where were you 20 years ago? Where were you in your running? If you are from the Daytona area, you probably know all about the DBTC Racing Teams. In the event you have forgotten or possibly didn't know at all, walk with me down the lane of memories.

In 1989 there was a lot of natural running talent in Daytona. 'Poetry in motion,' as Jerry Hiatt, team coach used to say. Having recognized such outstanding talent, Jerry consulted with Jim Montgomery who agreed to support a team financially.

Uniforms were purchased and in September, 1989 the men's racing team was formed. The original members were Tim Fortier (team captain), Mark Kathman, Mike Cain, and Jim Donnelly. Shortly after the season began Peter Hopfe, Rob Bennett, Eric Urff & Mike Starr were added to the team. Throughout the years, new members were added as slots became available. John Banks, Paul Rice, Frank Diego, Dom Vessa, Shawn Anderson, Joe Pilipczak & Dean Pepe were added. However, two members were constant on the team's roster. Mike Cain and Mark Kathman continued to turn in remarkable times. Mark ran a 14:59 in Jacksonville which was reported as the fastest time in Volusia County. Mike was running in the 15:00's and Eric Urff was voted most improved in the 10K running a 33:23.

Five team members made the trip to Atlanta to run in the Peachtree 10K that year. The cast were Rob Bennett, Tim Fortier, Mark Kathman, Michael Starr and Eric Urff. Besides running, the team learned how to play poker and stay up all night and still turn in superb running performances. One year, several members went to run in the Virginia 10 Miler in Lynchburg, Va. Again, the team gave super human performances on a hilly, hilly course making us all back home proud!

As runner's we train and race to achieve our own 'PR's' but these guys had a friendly rivalry as they continued to push each other and a true sense of comradeship developed. It was obvious, as they achieved their own personal endeavors in racing, so had they achieved the TEAM spirit.

The Track Shack Racing Team and Westinghouse A & B Teams were the teams to beat. However, Track Shack members were recruited from around the State. All ours were local guys. With the competition stiff, Track Shack broke off into two teams making the competition that much greater for the Daytona boys. Daytona had the one team and had double to compete against. Regardless, the Daytona Boys won the Overall Team Award at the Winter Park 10K in 1990.

Reflections From a Coach • Jerry Hiatt

As I look back to the days of the racing team, there are many things I recall as if it were yesterday. Working with the majority of the team members, I stood in awe with stopwatch in hand amazed at what they could do in training and racing, not to mention how high they raised their glasses after races. The farmers of barley and hops did very well during the racing team years!

These were young men with wives, starting families and having fulltime careers. Yet they still found time to train which was generally late evenings after working all day. I often wonder just how good they could have been had they been able to devote more time to training. I recall many late evenings at the Mainland High School track where they would lineup at the start and run mile repeats, exchanging the lead each lap until the final lap, then it was "hammer down," who would cross the finish line first? with the last one finishing no slower than a 4:45 or under!

Their recovery between the mile repeats was 1 minute or less. They all ran 16:00's or under, with a couple running low 15:00's, and one running under 15:00! As a matter of fact one ran against a couple of Kenyans in a 5k in Gainesville, Florida and ran a 14:57 finishing 3rd overall and catching the eye of a coach by the name of Roy Benson who was a former University of Florida coach.

Any one of these young men could compete with any Division I University and as a team would run with the best. As time passed and vacancies became available, the caliber of the team remained the same as more outstanding runners joined the team. They were not only winners in their racing but also in their camaraderie. Even to this day, they still share their camaraderie as most of them are competing against

each other in the Master's Division (40-49). They are still winners in running as well as in their personal lives. I am proud to call each one of them a friend.