

RUNNING SHORTS

A family called to run

McCalls making Huntsville proud through collegiate competition

By Darren Grant

Sometimes running is a solo act—and sometimes it's a family business. I know lots of running families around town. Some are even multigenerational, such as the Moreno's or the Spencer's, with children, parents, and grandparents all attending races together.

There may be no family in town that is more dedicated to running than the McCall's. Father Chris teaches social studies at Huntsville High, where he also coaches cross country and track. Mother Debra works in the Criminal Justice school at SHSU. Daughter Briana is also at SHSU, getting her graduate degree in physical therapy following a great undergraduate track career there. Son Fabian is a sophomore at that same institution, which he will represent tomorrow in the 4 x 100 meter relay at the NCAA National Track and Field Championships in Oregon.

Huntsville is a good place for young runners like Briana and Fabian to find their feet. "They played other sports," Chris told me, "but I think they always knew they were fast. So it just came naturally that running was what they did."

By middle school, Mom and Dad had some real competition. By the time they entered high school, Chris said, "we couldn't keep up."

Not that they didn't try. When they raced against each other, "I was trying to beat them and they knew it, so they gave it all they had," said Chris. "Debra too—oh yeah!"

The kids ran in middle school and high school, and in summer programs in Huntsville and Houston. The benefits were not limited just to them. Being out there, "watching Coach Earl and Coach George in Huntsville during the summer, and Coach Cash and Coach Wilson and Coach Lehman at the high school—that has made me a better coach," Chris said.

The cross country coaching partnership of Coaches Lehman and McCall has gone strong for several years, and I expect it to continue for many more. The future looks bright for the kids as well. "I think Briana may continue to run," her father said, "maybe longer distances" than the half-mile at which she excelled in track. As for Fabian, "he has been every bit as successful as Briana," said Chris. In the end, "he might decide to try turning pro or maybe even to go to the Olympics."

(Ken Johnson compiles the race results for this column. Send him yours at 1941runner@sbcglobal.net.)

Recent race results:

Sunday Night 5K, The Woodlands, June 3

Ken Johnson, 77 41:49

Run Houston! Clearlake 5K, June 3

David Keithley, 36 30:37

Lauren Ryan, 24 35:59

Heights 5K, Houston, June 2

Ken Johnson, 77 42:10

Unforgotten Heroes 5K, Arlington, May 28

Donna Freeman, 43	27:29
Danny Freeman, 62	32:00

Memorial Day Run, Huntsville, May 28

5K

Emily Villines, 21	20:53
Jacob Gautreaux, 46	20:59
Steve Pecina, 37	22:55
Loren Sheffer, 45	23:45
Jody Slaughter, 55	23:56
Max McKinney, 21	24:10
Jessica Kohers, 15	24:26
James Spencer, 37	26:10
Art Morgan, 52	26:36
Doug Caraway, 59	26:51
Jose Moreno, 57	27:01
John Slate, 62	27:21
Dana Formon, 29	27:45
Shannon Ramsey, 48	28:24
Nicole Kohers, 15	29:08
Angelina Santos, 53	29:22
Bill Moeller, 62	29:26
David Keithley, 36	29:31
Jeffery Johnson, 62	30:05
Michael Luna, 57	30:20
Gretchen Dixon, 40	30:30
Damaris Amaya, 25	31:34
Peggy Breland, 62	32:17
John Epperson, 65	32:18
Esther Cochran, 46	33:25
Mary Kaplan, 79	34:49
Gene Gaskins, 58	35:21
Sylvia Culver, 57	35:35
Mike Mangan, 76	36:05
Jan Parks, 61	36:52
Holly Randall, 28	37:28
Naomi Broussard, 21	37:30
Holly Herber, 33	37:34
Kinsley Bailey, 9	41:35
Josie McMahan, 15	41:37
Kelli McMahan, 51	41:44
Kirstie Legerski, 48	42:56
Bridget Moeller, 61	45:24
Jeannie White, 49	46:34

Robert Cates, 31	46:52
Marsie Grant, 56	48:32
Heidi Morse, 58	48:32
Richard Jones, 67	48:37
Melinda Cobb, 56	49:57
Gatlin Ramsey, 9	50:40
Jesse McMahon, 14	50:44
Dave McMahon, 49	50:47
Colleen Spencer, 66	51:02
Valorie Cobb, 13	51:32
Rachel Bailey, 34	53:06
Marla Bost, 61	53:37
Paul Burley, 60	53:38
Becky Kemp, 45	53:40
Jerry Flanagan, 78	54:39
Myriam Cates, 58	56:08
Johnny Cates, 32	56:09
Carol Wilson, 68	56:19
John Cates, 67	56:22
April Russell, 42	1:02:49
Theresa Patty, 54	1:04:50

1-Mile

Toben Edney, 10	7:06
Jose Avelar, 56	11:02
Sio Avelar, 30	11:05
Jackie Avelar, 21	11:38
Cheri Villines, 55	21:51
Bill Dwyer, 61	21:55
Darren Grant, 53	37:51

Run the Woodlands 5K, The Woodlands, May 26

David Keithley, 36	30:22
Ken Johnson, 77	41:33

Old Town 5K, Leander, May 19

Gene Gaskins, 58	34:10
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Upcoming races in Huntsville:

- June 15 – Run with the Pack 5K & 1-Mile, Kate Barr Ross Park
- June 16 – June Bug 5K & 1-Mile, Spring Lake Sub-division
- July 7 – Huntsville Diamonds 5K, Hospital area
- July 21 – Dog Days 5K & 1-Mile, Elkins Lake Sub-division

For more information about these races and others in the area, visit the Seven Hills Running Club website at <http://www.7hills.us> and click on Race Schedule.

