

ROGER SCHWEGEL

Athlete

Roger Schwegel has indeed left a large indelible footprint on road running in Manitoba. Only three Manitoba runners have ever raced a marathon faster and then by only a little over a minute. His running nickname could be Mr. Manitoba Marathon for his many top 5 finishes in Winnipeg's annual Fathers' Day event.

Roger is a very modest individual who downplays his accomplishments as an elite road runner. He resided in the northern Manitoba community of The Pas during most of his stellar road running career. His consistent, high placing performances and record of participating annually in our province's signature running event, The Manitoba Marathon for the Mentally Retarded, for over a decade from 1983 to 1994, attracted a lot of favourable media coverage and public interest for the event, boosting the profile of the Marathon and road running in the province. Throughout his lengthy running career, he was a positive role model for others with his unassuming character and dedication to good sportsmanship portraying our sport in it's best light.

Some highlights of his marathon running career include finishing 10th overall in the 1984 Montreal International Marathon and top Canadian in 2:20:23. This marathon time ranked him 4th on the all-time Manitoba native marathon performance list where he still stands today 38 years later. In 1990 he placed 1st in the Manitoba Marathon in 2:20:52 and was the first native Manitoban to win our Marathon. Other high finishes in the Manitoba Marathon were 1983 - 5th, 1984 - 3rd, 1985 - top Canadian and Canadian Marathon Champion, 1986 - 3rd, 1987 - 3rd, 1989 - top Canadian, 1991 - 3rd, 1993 - 3rd, and 1994 - top Manitoban.

When asked what running has meant to his life and what he learned as a runner he eloquently answered "I ran thousands of miles and I ran behind some of the best runners of the day. I learned a lot about how hard work will get you further ahead. I learned what I had to do to be successful at running. I made great friends through running. I learned how to handle fear and how to perform under pressure. I was lucky to have a body built for my running. I believe I took my running about as far as I could, I knew where I stood in the world of running. I sleep well at night knowing I went as far as I could go with my God given talent."

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