

2003 Wayne County Challenge Awards Presentation

January 31, 2004
Springwood Park Pavilion
Richmond, IN

WCC Fun Run - Luncheon - Awards Ceremony
11:00 a.m. 12:00 noon 12:30 p.m.
Temperature -10°F @ 8:00 am 10 mph W wind
(Yes, that's 10 below!)

Wayne County Challenge Interesting Facts:

Participants in the 2003 WCC	Total	<u>542</u>
	Male	<u>348</u>
	Female	<u>194</u>

9 WCC Races

370 runners participated in only 1 race		
74 runners participated in 2 of the 9 races	172	2 or more
35 runners participated in 3 of the 9 races	98	3 or more
23 runners participated in 4 of the 9 races	63	4 or more
14 runners participated in 5 of the 9 races	40	5 or more
6 runners participated in 6 of the 9 races	26	6 or more
5 runners participated in 7 of the 9 races	20	7 or more
6 runners participated in 8 of the 9 races	15	8 or more
9 runners participated in ALL of the races	9	

985 total participant entries earned points (Average of 109 runners per WCC Race)

- 67 people earned 200 or more points in the 2003 WCC.
- 32 people earned more than 300 points in the 2003 WCC.
- 19 people earned more than 400 points in the 2003 WCC.
- 13 people earned 500 or more points in the 2003 WCC.
- 4 people earned 600 or more points in the 2003 WCC.
- 95 people came out to participate in only one race *and* came in last in their age group.
- 4 people participated in two races *and* came in last both times in their age groups.
- BUT . . . No one who participated 3 times came in last in their age group all three times. (Maybe the third time is a charm.)

The Awards:

0-12 Female 6 participants

The winner of this category participated in only one WCC race, but it was enough. Barely. The point totals were a tie. The first tie-breaker wasn't able to break the tie since there was no head-to-head competition. The second tie-breaker was needed. According to WCC rules for this age group, the second tie-breaker goes to the youngest participant. The winner of the 0-12 Female WCC is 8-year-old Paige Thompson.*

0-12 Male 30 participants

The winner of this category participated in five of the WCC races. He met the challenge of the heat and trails of the *Sizzlin' Summer Classic 5K*, the speed of the *Home Run Trot 5K*, the hills of the *Jubilee 5K*, the distance of the *Turkey Chase 7K* and the cold of the *Frostbite 5K* to win this age group. A great list of accomplishments for this young man with a bright future in running. The winner of the 0-12 Male WCC is Jordan Kearney.*

13-15 Female 28 participants

The winner of this category participated in eight WCC races, amassing an impressive 463 points, good enough for WCC 4th overall Female. She started off the year with a 3rd overall finish in the *Girls, Inc. 5K*. She wrapped up the age group title early when she placed 3rd Female in the *Levi Coffin 10K*. She finished the year strong in the *Frostbite 5K* as she finished first out of 13 in her age group with an outstanding time of 21:35, more than one minute ahead of her nearest rival. An outstanding young talent, the winner of the 13-15 Female WCC is 13-year-old [Krissy Alyea](#).*

13-15 Male 27 participants

The WCC scoring system is designed to reward participation as well as speed. In a category that has many outstanding runners, outworking everyone else gets you to the top of the heap. The winner of this category participated in 7 of the WCC races. He built a big lead early in the year, participating in the first 5 races. He solidified his lead when he was the only one in his age group to participate in the *Levi Coffin 10K*. A consistent runner who amassed a total of 360 points in a very competitive age group, the winner of the 13-15 Male WCC is [Karl Kurtz](#).*

16-18 Female 20 participants

The WCC was designed to reward participation. In a category that has many outstanding high school runners, just showing up more often than your rivals can give the edge needed to win. The winner of this category participated in five WCC races and was the only one in her age group to participate in the *Home Run Trot 5K*. It made the difference in a close placing. She placed 5th overall female at the *Girls, Inc. 5K*, running a 23:02. The winner of the 16-18 Female WCC is [Lindsay Toler](#).*

16-18 Male 41 participants

While the WCC scoring system rewards participation, it also rewards those individuals who can run near the front. The winner of this category participated in only four of the WCC races, placing 2nd overall in three of the four and 3rd in the other. He was able to accumulate 568 points, the 4th highest Male total points for the entire WCC. He ran the *Run for the Roses 5K* in an excellent time of 16:13, and broke 23 minutes in the *Turkey Chase 7K*. An extraordinary running talent, the winner of the 16-18 Male WCC is [David Andrews](#).*

19-24 Female 24 participants

While participation is important to success, outstanding talent is also rewarded by the WCC scoring system. The winner of this category caused quite a stir this summer when she ran the *IU East Sizzlin' Summer Classic 5K* in a sizzlin' 18:48 and then followed that with a 17:12 in the *Home Run Trot 5K*. Those two outstanding performances were enough to hold up for the remainder of the season and win the age group title. The winner of the 19-24 Female WCC is [Anne Clinton](#).*

19-24 Male 29 participants

A combination of speed and consistency is tough to beat in the WCC. The winner of this category participated in 5 of the WCC races. He placed 4th overall in the *Sizzlin' Summer Classic 5K* and followed that with an impressive overall 3rd place in the tough *Jubilee 5K*. In a category with many very fast and competitive runners, the winner of the 19-24 Male WCC is [Matthew Weddle](#).*

25-29 Female 20 participants

The winner of this category participated in 3 of the first 4 WCC races. After the *Home Run Trot 5K* in early August, she had a 90 point lead. Not much, considering that participation in one race is worth 50 points and there were 5 races to go. And even though she didn't participate in another race the rest of the year, that slim early lead amazingly held up. The winner of the 25-29 Female WCC is [Gina Clark](#).*

25-29 Male 21 participants

Less than 50 points separated the top 3 participants in this age group. The winner of this category participated in 4 of the first 5 WCC races, running consistent times, and was in second place after the *Jubilee 5K*. But participation in this age group was sporadic and unpredictable. So when it came down to the *Frostbite 5K*, the WCC was up for grabs. Although he didn't quite run the kind of *time* he had been running earlier in the season, he met the challenge to claim the age group prize. The winner of the 25-29 Male WCC is [Jason Newton](#).*

30-34 Female 16 participants

The winner of this category participated in 8 of the 9 WCC races, missing only the *Sizzlin' Summer Classic 5K*. A consistent runner, she was the WCC 6th overall female and one of only 6 female runners to amass over 400 points this year, which was more than double her nearest age group rival. The winner of the 30-34 Female WCC is [Stephanie Hill-Alexander](#).*

30-34 Male 32 participants

The winner of this category participated in all 9 of the WCC races. He accumulated 515 points, placing 8th Male overall. All that running and racing paid off. He made tremendous improvement over the course of the season, running the *Frostbite 5K* in a time that was over 3 minutes faster than his time in the *Run for the Roses 5K*. He's the only one I know of who ran the *Frostbite 5K* faster than he ran the *Home Run Trot 5K*. The winner of the 30-34 Male WCC is [Charlie Marshall](#).*

35-39 Female 24 participants

The winner of this category participated in 8 of the 9 WCC races, missing only the *Home Run Trot 5K*. She was the WCC 5th overall female, finishing the season with 427 points. In addition to participating in the WCC, she is active in Henry County running, serving as secretary of the Henry County Runners Association. The winner of the 35-39 Female WCC is [Christine Casteel](#).*

35-39 Male 33 participants

The winner of this category participated in all 9 of the WCC races. He accumulated 558 points, placing 6th Male overall. He placed first in his age group at the *Levi Coffin 10K* and the *Girls, Inc. 5K* and defeated an average of over 6 age group rivals per race over the entire season. Competition in this category was fierce, as 6 participants accumulated over 300 points. Consistency won out in the end. The winner of the 35-39 Male WCC is [Ken Walschlager](#).*

40-44 Female 22 participants

The winner of this category participated in 5 of the WCC races. Consistently improving her times over the course of the season, she finished the *Frostbite 5K* in December in a time that was over a minute faster than she had run the *Run for the Roses 5K* in June. Her combination of participation and improvement in speed resulted in a WCC 8th place overall female finish. The winner of the 40-44 Female WCC is [Mary Ann Stienbarger](#).*

40-44 Male 46 participants

This age group had the most participants and three of them participated in all 9 races. Four participants accumulated over 500 points. The winner of this category participated in all 9 of the WCC races, accumulating 568 points . . . good enough for 5th Male overall. He was a very consistent runner all year, not only participating but performing at a high level. Highlights include 11th Male overall in the *Levi Coffin 10K*, 7th Male overall at the *Jubilee 5K*, and 5th Male overall at the *Hope House 5K*. The winner of the 40-44 Male WCC is [Walter Hickman](#).*

45-49 Female 14 participants

The winner of this category dominated her age group, placing first in her age group in all five of the WCC races in which she participated. She placed 3rd overall female at the *Hagerstown Jubilee 5K* and 4th overall female at the *Levi Coffin 10K*. She finished the season strong by defeating 6 age group rivals in the *Frostbite 5K* in an outstanding time of 21:45. The winner of the 45-49 Female WCC is [Brenda Burns](#).*

45-49 Male 31 participants

8 participants accumulated over 200 points. The winner of this category participated in the final 7 WCC races after missing the first two. He took the lead when he won the age group at the *Jubilee 5K*, then held off a determined charge over the last 4 races of the season to win the category. He was 8th Male overall at the *Hope House 5K*, and his 379 total points placed 14th Male overall. Not bad for missing the first two races. The winner of the 45-49 Male WCC is [Bob Covington](#).*

50-54 Female 9 participants

The battle for this category didn't get serious until late in the season. Going into the last two races of the year, even new-comers had a chance to come in and win this age group. But the winner of this category wasn't about to let that happen. She ran the *Turkey Chase 7K* in 41:39 and then won the *Frostbite 5K* age group title in 29:51 to lock up the win. The winner of the 50-54 Female WCC is [Karen Weaver](#).*

50-54 Male 29 participants

The winner of this category participated in 6 WCC races. He won all 4 head to head match-ups with his closest rival. He was the 7th Male overall at the *Levi Coffin 10K* in a time of 42:30 and blazed the *Home Run Trot 5K* in 18:03. The very talented and very deserving winner of the 50-54 Male WCC is [Gary Rodefeld](#).*

55-59 Female 5 participants

The winner of this category participated twice - in the last two WCC races of the season. She came in second both times - out of two participants. But as we all know, you can't win if you don't race. The WCC encourages and rewards participation. And because she raced more times than anyone else, she is the winner of her age group. The winner of the 55-59 Female WCC is [Jan Jennings](#).*

55-59 Male 19 participants

The WCC scoring system was designed to reward both speed and participation. So . . . if you're not fast enough, you need to run more races. The winner of this category participated in 6 WCC races. He didn't win any individual race age-group titles this season. He didn't win any of the 8 head-to-head match-ups with his 2 closest rivals. But he was able to earn this award by gaining enough participation points to put him over the top. The winner of the 55-59 Male WCC is [Bob Patton](#).*

60-64 Female 6 participants

The winner of this category participated in only one WCC race, but it was enough. Barely. The point totals were a tie. The first tie-breaker wasn't able to break the tie since there was no head-to-head competition. The second tie-breaker was needed. According to WCC rules for this age group, the second tie-breaker goes to the oldest participant. The winner of this category participated in the *Turkey Chase 7K*, finishing in 52:19. The winner of the 60-64 Female WCC is [Ruth Houk](#).*

60-64 Male 4 participants

The winner of this category participated in 8 WCC races, missing only the *Hope House 5K*. He took the lead on the first day of the WCC and was never challenged. It's a shame there aren't more participants in this age group because the times this guy runs would stand up to a lot of competition. ---20:09 in the *Home Run Trot 5K*. ---44:00 in the *Levi Coffin 10K*. ---29:58 in the *Turkey Chase 7K*. ---21:00 in the *Frostbite 5K*. We haven't seen anyone in Wayne County who can challenge his speed or his participation. The winner of the 60-64 Male WCC is [Gene Black](#).*

65-69 Female 1 participant

The winner of this category participated in the *Home Run Trot 5K*, finishing in an excellent time of 28:32. That's a time that could stand up to a lot of competition. It's too bad there wasn't any. The winner of the 65-69 Female WCC is [Ruth Neff](#).*

65-69 Male 5 participants

The winner of this category participated in 2 WCC races early in the season. He ran a 30:31 on the trails of the *Sizzlin' Summer Classic 5K*. He followed that with a 27:25 in *Home Run Trot 5K*. Those two performances were enough to hold up for the rest of the year and earn this award. The winner of the 65-69 Male WCC is [Sam Neff](#).*

70+ Female 1 participant

It's been said that 80% of success is just showing up. In this age group it counts for even more than that. The winner of this category participated in the *Turkey Chase 7K*, finishing in 62:02. Don't we all hope to be able to continue participating into our 70's? The winner of the 70+ Female WCC is [Patricia Bird](#).*

70+ Male 2 participants

This category came down to one race, the *Turkey Chase 7K*. Head to head. Man to man for all the marbles. It wasn't even close. The winner of this category won the 70+ age group by defeating the second place finisher by over 23 minutes with an excellent time of 36:41. The winner of the 70+ Male WCC is [Garland Gowen](#).*

A note of interest:

(0-12 age group winner) Jordan Kearney and (70+ age group winner) Garland Gowen battled it out down the stretch of the *Turkey Chase 7K*. Garland was able to hold off the youngster to finish in 36:41, one second ahead of the Jordan's strong finish. (I did a little calculation and found that Garland is old enough to be Jordan's great-grandfather.) Great run, guys.

Jordan, I'll be betting on you to beat him this year, if I can get anyone to take that bet!

Middle of the Pack Award Winners:

The Middle of the Pack Award was devised as a fun award. It is awarded to the runner whose point total is closest to the calculated average of points earned in the WCC.
total # of points earned in the WCC series (56,428) divided by # of participants (542).
104.1 points

We have a pack of three at the middle of the pack. The three runners who earned 104 points all participated in 2 WCC races. The winners of the Middle of the Pack Awards are:

Darrell Chew	23 M
Stephanie Eilar	20 F
Samantha Herdrich	16 F

Wayne County Challenge Top 3 Awards:

Third Overall Female

The third place overall female accumulated a total 514 points. She earned those points by participating in all 9 WCC races, one of only 2 females to accomplish this feat. As runners, we all know that running is about making improvements, whether that means running faster times, racing longer distances, logging more miles or just enjoying better health. It takes planning, discipline, persistence and dedication to make improvements. The third place overall female met every challenge of the WCC, ran consistent times all season long and improved her 5K time by 30 seconds over the course of the season. That hard work has put her into this elite group. The winner of the Third Place Overall WCC Female is Kelly Hale.*

Third Overall Male

The third place overall Male accumulated a total of 602 points. He raced in all 9 of the WCC races, meeting every challenge of the WCC. He ran consistent times all season long. You could say he was a model of speed and consistency. He ran the *Run for the Roses* in 19:23. He finished the *Hope House* in 19:24. And he covered the *Frostbite* in 19:20. He earned top 5 points at the *Jubilee*, the *Hope House* and *Levi Coffin* races. The winner of Third Place Overall WCC Male is Dale Bolser.*

Second Overall Female

The second place overall female accumulated a total 534 points. She officially participated in 7 WCC races, and volunteered to work the 8th race even though she was ineligible to receive points for that work. She steadily improved her running over the course of the season, running the July *Sizzlin' Summer Classic* in 21:00, the September *Hope House* in 20:38 and the December *Frostbite* in 20:08. She ran the longer *Turkey Chase* in an excellent time of 28:12, a faster per mile pace than any of those 5K times. She earned top 5 points in every event in which she raced. A very talented runner, the winner of the Second Place Overall WCC Female is Aletha Stahl.*

Second Overall Male

The second place overall Male accumulated 643 points - - narrowly missing the championship by a mere 4 points. He ran in only 4 WCC races and won all 4, topping off the year with an amazing 15:23 in the *Frostbite 5K*. We're all impressed by that time! A tremendously talented runner, the winner of Second Place Overall WCC Male is Cecil Franke.*

Female WCC Champion

The Female WCC Champion accumulated a WCC best total of 859 points. In the WCC, speed and participation are an unbeatable combination, especially if you earn maximum points for both. Our Female Champion participated in all 9 WCC races, winning overall first place in a record setting 7 races. And even though at the end of the season the WCC championship wasn't in doubt, she won the final race, the *Frostbite 5K*, in an excellent improved time of 19:00. She's a great ambassador of running in general, and of the WCC in particular - a very talented, a very dedicated and a very consistent runner, the very deserving Female Champion of the First Annual WCC is [Pamela Mertz](#).*

Male WCC Champion

The Male WCC Champion accumulated a total of 647 points. He accumulated those points through a combination of speed and participation by racing near the front in all 9 WCC races. Like the champion he is, he ran a season best 5K time of 18:03 in the final race, the *Frostbite 5K*, to maximize his age group points and lock up the title. A very talented, a very dedicated and a very consistent runner, the very deserving Male Champion of the First Annual WCC is [Joseph Parker](#).*

Nine runners met every challenge by participating in all nine of the WCC races in 2003. In special recognition of this achievement, the WCC Committee presents a certificate, a water bottle and a specially designed t-shirt to:

Pam Mertz
Kelly Hale
Joe Parker
Dale Bolser
Walter Hickman
Ken Walschlager
Charlie Marshall
Kevin Shelley
Tom Hale

So . . . now I'd like to leave you with a few of my favorite running-related quotes:

From Ultra-Trail Runner [Dan Baglione](#):

"No matter how well you know the course, no matter how well you may have done in a given race in the past, you never know for certain what lies ahead on the day you stand at the starting line waiting to test yourself once again. If you did know, it wouldn't be a test; and there would be no reason for being there."

From the Chinese philosopher [Confucius](#):

"It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop."

From English Author [C.S. Lewis](#):

"If one could run without getting tired - I don't think one would often want to do anything else."

From the Bible: [Proverbs 4:25-27](#)

"Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Take heed to the path of your feet, then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil."

Speaking for all of the race directors and the WCC committee, we thank you all for coming today, for participating in the WCC and for making this first year of the WCC a success. Thank you very much and good luck in the 2004 Wayne County Challenge.

Michael King