

Big River Festival of Miles

Saturday Evening May 23, 2009



Saint Louis Track Club


FoxArchitects
www.fox-arch.com

PRONET



Event History:

On December 31st, 2007 Brigette Schutzman, a standout cross country and track athlete at Saint Louis University, was badly injured in a car accident on icy roads in central Illinois. Brigette's original diagnosis was not a good one but through determination, prayer and the help of doctors, family and friends she began to make improvements. Her teammates at SLU decided to raise money for Brigette's family through a unique event that would showcase her favorite sport and in particular one of her best events...the mile. The Brigette Schutzman Festival of Miles featured six mile races highlighted by an Elite Men's Mile that was won by native Missourian and Olympic Trials Qualifier Neville Miller. The event was a huge success, raising \$8000 for the Schutzman family on a cold, windy Monday night in April. To date Brigette continues to improve, walks under her own power and still continues to dream of one day running again.

This year's cause:

Last year, less than two months after the Schutzman Festival of Miles, Saint Louis University High School senior Mike Rathmann was paralyzed from the diaphragm down. Like Brigette, Mike was a track and field star, having just finished sixth at the Missouri State Track Championships in the High Jump. The 2009 edition of the Festival of Miles then, will be a tribute to both Mike and Brigette with all proceeds going to the Schutzman and Rathmann families.



The event:

The Festival of Miles will take place on Saturday evening May 23rd at Saint Louis University High School from 7pm - 9pm with a pasta dinner immediately following from 9:15pm - 10:00pm in SLUH's Danis Lobby.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

7:00	Introduction
7:15	National Anthem
7:20	Boys 100 meter dash
7:30	Girls 100 meter dash
7:40	Women's Mile
7:50	Masters Men's Mile
8:00	Junior High Boys Mile
8:10	Junior High Girls Mile
8:25	DASA Wheelchair Mile
8:40	Fox Architects Celebrity 100 Meter Dash
8:56	Saint Louis Track Club Elite Men's Mile
9:15	Pronet Pasta Dinner at SLUH with Elite Athlete Q & A



Event Tickets: \$5.00

available at the gates -- no pre-sale

Pronet Pasta Dinner Tickets: \$15.00

purchase in advance -- limited seats available!

download a form [HERE](#) or visit either Big River Running location

Every dollar goes directly to the Schutzman and Rathmann families. Our goal is to raise \$16,000!

What can you expect?

The Big River Festival of Miles will be two straight hours of non-stop entertainment. You'll see nine exciting races complete with music, meet announcer and track-side interviews with event winners.

The Fox Architects Celebrity 100 Meter Dash will be a chance to watch your favorite St. Louis celebs battle it out for local bragging rights. The Saint Louis Track Club Elite Men's Mile could be history in the making as the athletes will attempt to break the magical four minute mile barrier for the first time in St. Louis since 1963.

Last year we packed the stands with nearly 1,000 spectators and everyone had a great time. Let's come out and show the Schutzman and Rathmann families how great a community St. Louis really is!

Link to last year's meet website and videos [HERE](#)



Saint Louis Track Club

Saint Louis Track Club Elite Men's Mile:

Leo Manzano (3:35 1500, US Olympian)

A Nike-sponsored athlete Manzano represented the US in the 1500 meters at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing after finishing second at the US Olympic Trials. A multiple-time National champion at the University of Texas, Manzano is considered one of the brightest young stars in United States Track and Field.

Tommy Schmitz (3:58 mile)

Schmitz, a Marquette University grad, is on a tear in 2009. He ran a then personal best mile of 4:00.96 indoors before finishing eighth at the US indoor championships for 1500 meters. Outdoors he broke four minutes for the first time running 3:58 at the Brutus Hamilton Invite in California. He currently trains in Santa Barbara California and runs for the Wisconsin Runner Racing Team.

Adam Perkins (3:38 1500)

Perkins grew up in Liberty Missouri where he was a multiple time State Champion and one of the best high school milers in the country as a senior. He went on to compete at the University of Arkansas where he was a Division I All-American for the Razorbacks under Hall of Fame coach John McDonnell. He has run 3:38 for 1500 meters, the equivalent of a 3:55 mile and currently lives and trains in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Jordan Fife (3:59 mile)

Fife is a native of Indiana and ran collegiately for Indiana State University where he was a Division I All-American in the steeplechase. Post-collegiately Fife joined Team Indiana Elite where he is coached by former Indiana University coach Robert Chapman. Fife broke four minutes in the mile at the prestigious Meyo Mile at the University of Notre Dame in February of 2008. Fife was fourth at last year's Festival of Miles.

Ryan Kleimenhagen (3:59 mile)

Kleimenhagen was a Division III star at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Largely unheralded coming out of college Kleimenhagen joined Team USA Minnesota, a post-collegiate training group coached by Dennis Barker, after finishing his studies. He broke four minutes in the mile shortly thereafter and has qualified for several US Championships. He currently lives and trains in Wisconsin and runs for the Wisconsin Runner Racing Team.

Dan Strackeljahn (3:42 1500)

Strackeljahn grew up just outside of Saint Louis in nearby Highland, IL. He attended Eastern Illinois University where he was a standout performer in the Ohio Valley Conference in cross country and track. Strackeljahn has run the equivalent of a sub 4 minute mile in the 1500 (3:42) but will look to break four for the first time at the Festival of Miles. He currently lives and trains in the Chicago suburbs and is the newest member of the Big River Racing Team.



Tentative Field, continued

Derek Scott (3:42 1500)

Scott was an NAIA National Champion in college at Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, MI. Like Fife, Scott joined Team Indiana Elite for his post-collegiate training and is currently enjoying a breakthrough season that includes a 13:47 5k pr at the Stanford Invitational. Scott was fifth at last year's Festival of Miles and has a 1500 meter personal best of 3:42.

Jeremy Doherty (3:43 1500)

Doherty is the top native Saint Louisan in the field and a graduate of DeSmet High School. A fourteen-time All Missouri Valley performer at Illinois State University, Doherty resurrected his running career a year ago when he ran 3:43 for 1500 meters at the American Miler's Series meet in Indianapolis. Doherty was fourth at last year's Festival of Miles and runs for Big River Running Company. He also currently lives and trains in Los Angeles where he works for Easton.

Ben Rosario (4:03 mile)

Rosario is the co-owner of Big River Running Company and perhaps the sentimental favorite in this year's event. He is a graduate of Saint Louis University High school and Truman State University where he was a Division II All-American. A two-time Olympic Trials Qualifier in the marathon, Rosario dropped down in distance in 2008 and ran a 4:06 mile. This past January he lowered his personal best to 4:03 and will look to break four minutes for the first time at the Festival of Miles.

Carter Snow (1:51 800)

Snow is also a native Saint Louisan having gone to high school at Lafayette before attending college at Central Methodist University where he was a six-time NAIA All-American. To this point Snow has been more of an 800 meter runner but he will try his hand at the 4 lap distance at the Festival of Miles.

Brian Lyons (4:04 road mile)

Lyons is another hometown favorite. He is the race director for the GO! St. Louis Marathon and is a two-time St. Patrick's Day Parade Run Champion. Lyons attended Missouri Southern State University where he was a Division II All-American. At last year's Festival of Miles he served as the rabbit and took the field through halfway in two minutes flat despite the cold and windy conditions.

Eric Fernandez (Junior XC All-American)

The lone collegian in the field, Fernandez runs for the University of Arkansas, a national track and field powerhouse. He is just now finishing up an outstanding freshman year that saw him finish as the Hogs' number two man at the NCAA Cross Country Championships in November. In February he finished ninth at the US Junior Cross Country Championships and he is currently training for the US Junior Track and Field Championships to be held in Eugene, Oregon this June.

Prize Money: 1st - \$1,000 2nd - \$600 3rd - \$400 *Big River Bonus - \$1,000 for a sub-four mile!

Fox Architects Celebrity 100 Meter Dash:

New to this year's event will be the Fox Architects Celebrity 100 Meter Dash. Local TV/sports/radio personalities will line up and challenge each other for the unofficial title of St. Louis' fastest celebrity.



Andy Banker

Banker co-anchors FOX 2 News Saturday Morning and reports weekdays on FOX 2 News at 9. Andy joined the FOX 2 News team in July 2002 and is a proud native of Millstadt, Illinois; a graduate of Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



Jim Campbell

Campbell, a former NHL star, played for the Saint Louis Blues from 1996-2000. He also had stops in Anaheim, Montreal, Chicago, Florida and Tampa Bay. He represented the United States at the World Junior Championships in 1992 and 1993 and at the 1994 Olympics. Campbell is currently the vice president of sales for the Saint Louis Bandits of the North American Hockey League and the co-owner of JP Fields in Clayton.



Martin Kilcoyne

Kilcoyne is the sports anchor for FOX 2 news as well as host of the KFNS morning show, Martin Radio, which he hosts weekdays from 7 am to 9 am. He also co-hosts the Talking Heads with Frank Cusumano from 9 am to 10 am. A native Saint Louisan, Kilcoyne attended CBC High School and gets his running in doing laps around Francis Park in South Saint Louis.



Kurt LaBelle

LaBelle has been a part of the team at KPLR-TV since 2006 when he came back to his hometown to produce the "Fan Show." He can now be seen nightly on the KPLR newscasts. LaBelle holds a home track advantage over the other celebrity competitors having graduated from Saint Louis University High School.



Brian McKenna

A longtime fixture on the Saint Louis sports radio airwaves McKenna is the host of the Men's Room on 1380 AM weekdays from 11 am to 2 pm. McKenna's athletic accomplishments include being named to the Lindbergh High School Hall of Fame after a stellar soccer career as a Flyer.



John Pertzborn

Pertzborn currently serves as co-anchor for FOX 2 News in the Morning from 7 am to 9 am Monday through Friday. Pertzborn joined FOX 2 in 1998. Prior to this, he served as a feature reporter from 1986 to 1997 at KSDK-TV and host of KSDK's Show Me St. Louis. Running-wise John showed his toughness by completing the GO! St. Louis Half Marathon in rainy conditions on April 23.

Big River Festival of Miles Sponsors:



Saint Louis Track Club



Contact Information:

If you have further questions, please e-mail Ben Rosario at ben@bigriverrunning.com or call 314.832.2400

