

**Empire Runners Club
2010 HALL OF FAME**

Al Tagliaferri

b. 12/31/1947

‘Big Al’ ‘Tag’ Tagliaferri began running cross-country and track in the mid-60’s as a sophomore at Notre Dame High School in Utica, NY. As a junior, he qualified for the sectional meet and placed second in the half mile in 1:58. The next year, to the dismay of his coaches, he only went out for football and basketball. In fact, he really didn’t start running again until he turned 27.

College and celebratory years of youth left him out of shape and well over 200 pounds (“smoke—drank—partied”), but he methodically got himself back in shape and in 1978 ran the inaugural Utica Boilermaker 15K “and never stopped.” He eventually became director of that race (1980-83), which was the National 15K Championship. Since his first Boilermaker in ’78, Big Al has run 19 marathons, including several Bostons, most noteworthy a 2:38 at age 36 and a 2:57 at age 49.

Tag’s 10K PR is 31:56 (85.4% age-graded rating), accomplished at age 34 in Canajoharie, NY. Also at 34 he ran a 55:10 10-miler in Syracuse, NY (AGR 81.09%). He has run the half-marathon in 1:16 but his age-graded PR at that distance is 1:21:58 at the age of 48 (80.32%, Humboldt Half-Marathon, 1996).

Among his most memorable running experiences was running neck and neck with the eventual first place female winner of the 1981 Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC. Both finished in 2:40, but “I let her go first across the finish line!” Al was also a member of the 12-member Thirsty Boys men’s masters relay team that in 2002 captured the overall title of the 199-mile Providian Relay (Calistoga to Santa Cruz).

Tag coached track and cross country at Oriskany High School in Oriskany, NY, from 1980 to 1982. In 1983 he and his family moved to Dallas, Texas,



where for two years Al helped coach his son on the Skyline High School track team.

Al and his wife, Carley, moved with their children, Brian and Patrice, to Marin County in 1985, then five years later to Rohnert Park, their present hometown. They joined the Empire Runners Club in 1992. Al served as Club President in 1994 (“Damn Alec & Mojo for that!”) and directed the Kenwood Footrace in 1995 and 96.

1997 was the year Al and Carley took the big plunge. Al left his job as a mortgage lender to open Tagliaferri’s Delicatessen in Novato, the primo rendezvous spot for Empire Runners after races south of Sonoma County. The Club has benefited enormously from Al’s career move, as Tag’s Deli has catered the annual club party for several years and has become a major club sponsor.

Al is outgoing, generous, and naturally entertaining. Any run with Big Al is memorable, to say the least.