

Michael Booth

Michael Booth didn't start out to be a runner. He wanted to be a pro hockey player. He made it to AAA and to the Manitoba provincial team. One day, he looked in the mirror and at his height and weight and concluded that the NHL was not looking for someone of his stature. He had always been pretty good when called upon to run at school, and attended his first track meet at age 13. Although he didn't win much at first, he progressed steadily and had a successful career in high school and university in cross-country and track. He did his first road races at age 14 and ran a few 5 kms.

One of Michael's most satisfying and exciting achievements in running was making the national senior cross-country team at age 19, the youngest member on the team, a team that included Eric Gillis, Reid Coolsaet and Simon Bairu, all runners who went on to impressive careers on the track and roads. At those world championships, the short course team included Graham Hood and Kevin Sullivan, two of Canada's greatest ever middle distance runners. Michael was thrilled to be sharing the Canadian uniform with such stellar teammates.

A highlight for Michael on the roads was coming second in the national 10 km championships, held in Winnipeg around 2005. To be in such a big race and to have family and friends cheering him on was a great boost.

Michael won the Manitoba Marathon full course race 4 times. His fastest time, though, was at the Toronto Waterfront Marathon in 2004 in 2:23:39. His fastest Manitoba Marathon time was 2:28.

Michael's best times were 14:48 for the 5 km, 30:16 for 10 km, 50:35 in the Gimli 10 miler, and 1:07:45 in the MB Marathon half marathon.

Michael's favourite road race was the Ron Melnichuk half marathon in Bird's Hill Park, a race his Dad organized. Ron had been Michael's coach during one period. Michael was coached by the late great Chris McCubbins from 1999 – 2009.

Michael's favourite memory from road racing was all the people he met over the years, each with her or his own reasons for running. His least favourite memory was getting stung in the mouth by a wasp while he was racing. Another time, he fell on his face in a race and needed stitches.

To see Michael's Hall of Fame plaque, [click here](#).