

# UP AGAINST THE WALL RACE TAKES ON NEW MEANING

By DON SIKORSKI  
*Special to the Bulletin*

A few social drinks between a former Road Race Director and a Community Service organizer can yield very positive results. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, runners will be the beneficiary of these ideas when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Up Against The Wall 5K Road Race takes place at the Montville Polish Club. Shaun Tine of the Montville Lions Club and Kevin Gallerani of Uncasville, a long-time runner and former Race Director, have combined their efforts to bring the event back again and for another very worthwhile cause. Gallerani, along with former St. Bernard and East Lyme High School Cross-Country coach Doug Sharples, had conducted the Up Against the Wall event in at Ocean Beach Park in New London years back and are enthusiastic about resuscitating the event in Montville and working with the Lions Club. "I was getting the itch to put a race back on and looking for a cause," explained Gallerani of the event's creation. "I had stopped by the Polish Club and ran into Shaun (Tine), who was there selling Christmas trees for the Montville Lions Club. We thought that the club would be a great place for the race and for a great cause. After three bottles of wine and one hangover, we had put the thing together."

The race begins from the Montville Polish Club at 10:00am sharp, with the first 150- registered runners receiving a complimentary race T-shirt. Awards and a terrific post-race picnic area will take place outside at the Polish Club in conjunction with the annual Montville Lions Picnic. The race course features two challenging hills on the way out and a flat and fast return to the finish line, with professional race timing provided courtesy of SNERRO. There will also be a Montville Lions 1/2 mile "Kids Race for Kyle" that will follow the main event, starting at 10:30am. The Kids Race is open to all ages 6 and up with prizes for all participants (under 6 years are welcome if accompanied by an adult; better known as the stroller division). Walkers are also welcome. Gallerani felt that last year's race was successful enough to make it an annual tradition and anticipates an even better event this year. "I had almost forgotten how to put a race on," he explained. "We've tweaked the course and have hopefully made things even more organized for everyone".

Over 200 runners and walkers are expected for this year's race. All proceeds from the day's event will benefit Kyle Tempesta and his family. Kyle is an 8-year-old Montville native who is suffering from a rare degenerative disease that has begun to affect his eyesight. Due to the lack of available treatments for Kyle's condition, his family has continued to incur large medical expenses not covered by insurance. The Montville Lions Club chooses a cause each year, and helping Kyle Tempesta and his family will be their focus this year. "The 'Up Against The Wall' name used to refer to the wall along Pequot Avenue in New London (site of the former race course), explained Gallerani. "Now, 'The phrase refers to the medical challenge were facing. Kyle had been diagnosed with a rare, degenerative disease, and his family had been incurring huge medical costs," Gallerani said. "We're doing anything we can to help him".

The race fee is only \$10 and includes the post-race picnic, divisional prizes, a plentiful raffle, and live music with Vince Thompson and Company. The Lions Club Picnic will insure that plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers, salad, beer, and wine are available. E-mail Shaun at [Shauntine@aol.com](mailto:Shauntine@aol.com) or Kevin at [kgallerani@telaid.com](mailto:kgallerani@telaid.com) for additional race information. All potential hangovers aside, runners won't find a better bargain for a better cause next weekend than next weekend in Montville.

## This Month in History

**The Danielson Springtime Festival Road Race - May 15, 1993** – It's hard to believe that it was 15 years ago, but Danielson one had earned the tradition amongst the road racing community of hosting one of the most competitive road races each spring in conjunction with its Springtime Festival. Madison's Mike Cotton, a former Track Coach at the University of Virginia and 2:16 marathoner, was in town for a second Danielson appearance and keep his record perfect, outdistancing Hartford Track Club teammates and Connecticut Mutual Insurance Company co-workers Kevin McCafferty (15:24) and Kevin Pigeon (15:25). Although Cotton's addition to the field was a late decision, the state's top runner was out to insure that the 5K race would not come down to the final stretch down Main Street. An aggressive first mile under warm conditions was followed by a steady surge at halfway, and soon Cotton, 34, was clear out on front of his pursuers. He crossed the finish line in 15:13, under control but short of any bonus prize money for a sub 15 effort. McCafferty held on to fend off a fast charging Pigeon, a former Killingly High standout with plenty of hometown support from the Springtime Festival crowd. Mohegan Striders runners, led by Sean Delaney's 4<sup>th</sup> place finish, claimed 8 of the next 11 places. On the women's side, Rhode Island's Kim Goff, 32, earned top honors in her Danielson race debut (17:46) ahead of Carla Thompson of Norwich (2<sup>nd</sup> female in 18:03). Lisbon's Don Roy (40-44, 17:50), Danielson's Ernie Dumas (50-54, 17:14), Danielson's Glenn Stacy (60-64, 24:51), and Canterbury's Geraldine Palonen (Female 50+, 23:33), all claimed divisional titles. The Springtime race was one of the state's first races to offer cash prizes to the top finishers, with \$100 to win, \$20 for earning a top 20 finish, \$25 for division winners, and additional financial incentives for time bonus and age group records. There were over 350 finishers.

1993 DANILESON SPRINGTIME 5K ROAD RACE RESULTS

1	MIKE COTTON	MADISON	15:13
2	KEVIN MCCAFFERTY	MARLBOROUGH	15:24
3	KEVIN PIGEON	NEW BRITAIN	15:25
4	SEAN DELANEY	OLD SAYBROOK	15:39
5	ED ZUBRITSKY	NORWICH	15:48
6	DON SIKORSKI	NORWICH	15:54
7	GEARY DANIELS	DUDLEY, MA	15:54
8	AL SWENSON	WOLCOTT	15:59
9	JOE LIVORSI	OLD LYME	16:02
10	TOM DEGNAN	OLD LYME	16:07
11	GUI RAMOS	NORWICH	16:31
12	MARC HEILEMANN	BROOKLYN	16:34
13	MIKE FUSARO	NORWICH	16:44
14	PAUL MOSCA	WATERFORD	16:56
15	JASON THAYER	DAYVILLE	16:58

FEMALES:

1	KIM GOFF	GREENVILLE, RI	17:46
2	CARLA THOMPSON	NORWICH	18:03
3	CATHY CROSS	VERNON	20:03
4	MARK SHARKEY	THOMPSON	20:05
5	COURTNEY BELLOWS	ASHFORD	20:15

**Don Sikorski writes a twice-monthly running column for the Norwich Bulletin. His "Coach's Corner" column can be accessed at [www.moheganstriders.org](http://www.moheganstriders.org). He can also be reached by e-mail at [kdcsikorski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kdcsikorski@sbcglobal.net).**