

# THE MOHEGAN STRIDERS ASSOCIATION

## 2003 Men's Open Racing Team Report

As of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003

The Mohegan Striders Men's Open Racing Team has now won 15 state USATF/TAC championships in 18 years of competition. The Striders earned runner-up honors in the other three seasons to Athlete's Foot/Hi-Tek, the only other team in Connecticut to have won a state title. So it's no surprise that the first USATF race of 2003 found the Striders battling with their cross-state rivals for a third consecutive title. Historically, the 5K has been the most competitive championship distance event over the years, dating back to the Kevin Crowley-coached 1 second team win over the Xavier Racing Team in Willimantic or the days of racing on the streets of Hartford in the U.S. Healthcare Corporate 5K on a warm summer August evening. Those classic battles have now been replaced by a 72-person field racing over the hilly, desolate roads near the Terryville Fairgrounds in what qualifies as arguably one of the worst race courses in Connecticut. After warming up on the course before Sunday's race, one participant evaluated the Terryville 5K course as resembling "Norwich with the hills just closer together", referring to the Rose City's 10 mile climb to Dodd Stadium. A pretty accurate description. The weather was better than 2002 but the finish times still suffered as a result of the venue. But a win is a win, and that's what the Mohegan Striders did, once again established themselves as the team to beat in 2003. Stephen Herrera, the defending individual USATF champion, showed no ill effects from a 5K win in the pouring rain the day prior and ran way from the field by over a half minute. Chadwick Brown secured the 1-2 punch and put the Striders in great shape to earn the first win of 2003. Litchfield's Bob Davenport, President Kane, and Vice President Fusaro, three guys who had legit excuses of busy work schedules, illnesses, and nagging injuries, all stepped up and got things done for the team, finishing 7-13-18 to secure the victory. Since all USATF team gets to vote on a race schedule every two years, you can bet that this will be the last time the team ever travels to Terryville, Connecticut again.

### TERRYVILLE ROTARY 5K – April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003

1. Stephen Herrera (1<sup>st</sup>) 16:11
2. Chadwick Brown (2<sup>nd</sup>) 16:42
3. Bob Davenport (7<sup>th</sup>) 17:54
4. Tim Kane (13<sup>th</sup>) 18:56
5. Mike Fusaro (18<sup>th</sup>) 19:40

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team – 10 Points

1. Mohegan Striders 1:29:23
2. Athlete's Foot / Hi-Tek 1:29:48
3. Hartford Track Club 1:35:47

A second consecutive weekend of travel brought the Striders to Lake Quassapaug for a 12 kilometers footrace. And for a second consecutive week, the Striders walked away winners, thanks to some fast front running and our trademark Masters support to clinch victory. Stephen Herrera is now 2-0 in state championship competition, winning in 39:18. Steve Swift was a welcome sight in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and Chadwick Brown crossed the finish line soon after to put 3 Striders in the top five. Bob Davenport improved 20 places from last year, posting a strong 9<sup>th</sup> place effort (and thus earning him an exemption from me for Rose City so Bob can hammer his hometown Litchfield Hills race that same day). Master's Team Captain Jon Kornacki earned the honorary 5<sup>th</sup> man honors. What would we do without our 40+ guys? Hartford knocked off Hi-Tek for 2<sup>nd</sup> (Hi-Tek used 4 Masters to score), giving us more of a cushion in the year to date standings.

### QUASSY LOOP 12K – May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002

1. Stephen Herrera (1st) 39:18
2. Steve Swift (3<sup>rd</sup>) 41:09
3. Chadwick Brown (5<sup>th</sup>) 42:01
4. Bob Davenport (9<sup>th</sup>) 44:46
5. Jon Kornacki (19<sup>th</sup>) 47:06

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team – 10 Points (20 YTD)

1. Mohegan Striders 3:34:20
2. Hartford Track Club 3:48:47
3. Athlete's Foot / Hi-Tek 3:49:09
4. Empire Racing Team 4:00:08
5. Warren Street 5:26:49

### Remaining USATF Open Team Races:

- |  |                                    |            |
|--|------------------------------------|------------|
| • Rose City Challenge – Norwich, CT          | Sunday, June 8 <sup>th</sup>       | 10 Miles   |
| • Fairfield Half Marathon - Fairfield, CT    | Sunday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>       | 13.1 Miles |
| • Harwinton Firecracker Mile – Harwinton, CT | Saturday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>     | 1 Mile     |
| • Middletown Road Race – Middletown, CT      | Sunday, July 20 <sup>th</sup>      | 4 Miles    |
| • New Haven 20K Road Race – New Haven, CT    | Monday, September 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 12.4 Miles |
| • Old Saybrook Road Race – Old Saybrook, CT  | Sunday, September 14 <sup>th</sup> | 5 Miles    |
| • Mystic Places Marathon – East Lyme, CT     | Sunday, October 26 <sup>th</sup>   | 26.2 Miles |