

## Thornridge High School Track & Cross Country Alums

Hello to all!

I wanted to reach out and thank all who attended Saturday nights gathering in a most sincere way. In reflecting back, it was a different type of gathering than we have had in the past. Having Craig Virgin and the other "up and comers" was an opportunity that presented itself and I took it. My thought was that in an effort to keep it entertaining and fresh we could do something different. I hoped that Virgin, Derrick and Verzbicas's presence and reflections would serve as an inspiration to the younger athletes....our kids. Exposing someone to an athlete(s) of that caliber reminds me of going to the State XC championship with Coach Stolley in 1975....the year we just missed qualifying. Being exposed to great things makes you want them more.

With that said I would expect that next year we return to a less formal gathering and reflect back on our own heritage and successes. I fully appreciate everyone I ran with regardless of how fast we ran, what we won or lost, and how we ended our careers. The fact is we all put in an enormous amount of blood, sweat and tears to do the best we could.

Jeff Wagner, Coach Stolley and I attended the 30th reunion of the 1979 Maine East XC team last month....the night of this year's State Meet. Afterwards, I received correspondence from a member of that historic team. **He said that the greatest accomplishment they had was not winning the State title. It was that they worked together toward a common goal and fought like hell for it because more than anything, they loved each other and wanted to honor each other rather than themselves.**

Isn't that the essence of what we did and why we did it?

Not everyone that was present on Saturday is registered to receive this e-mail. If you know someone not on this list, please copy and paste this for them.

See you all next year!

J Galen