Champions gather for 50th Paavo Nurmi Marathon

By JASON KINU

WISCONSIN—BEN SCHNEIDER has won more than 1/3 of all the Paavo Nurmi Marathons. It was 30 years ago. Since that time, he has been a dominant force in the sport, winning many more races, and setting records that have stood the test of time. Today, he attends the 50th anniversary of the Paavo Nurmi Marathon in Ashland, Wisconsin, and reflects on his experiences.

In 1988, Schneider ran in the race for the first time and finished the full marathon in just over 2:30. He returned the following year and set a new record for the 10K race. Schneider continued to compete in the Paavo Nurmi Marathon throughout the years, winning multiple times in the marathon and half-marathon events.

Schneider’s most notable win came in 1990 when he defeated the legendary athlete Paavo Nurmi. This was a significant victory for Schneider, who was only 25 years old at the time. Schneider credits his success to the support of his family and friends, especially his wife, Candice, who has been his constant companion through the years.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Schneider has also been involved in various community and charitable causes, including the Bad River Lodge & Casino, which is a key sponsor of the Paavo Nurmi Marathon. Schneider’s dedication to the sport and his community has earned him recognition both locally and nationally.

Despite the numerous challenges faced by athletes, Schneider remains committed to the sport and continues to inspire others with his passion and dedication. His legacy will continue to be celebrated as the Paavo Nurmi Marathon marks its 50th anniversary.

For more information on the Paavo Nurmi Marathon, visit www.badriver.com. Support Ben Schneider and the Paavo Nurmi Marathon by purchasing tickets for the event or donating to the causes that mean so much to Schneider. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who participate in this special event.
The endurance training
really helped me on the
pace course, and in turn,
my races at Paavo strength-
ened me for races such as
fromm Wisconsin, which is
held in early September,
and the World 10K cham-
pionships, which are held
in the fall,” she said.

Winning eight Paavos in a row is no easy feat with
improving times so often while training for long-
miles events.

“I’ve been hindering Heaslett more recently.

“Let me know how frequently the aid-stations
occur at the Paavo,” how
stressed they are, and
what a good job the vol-
teers do of taking care of
the runners,” she said.

“Even the hot years, I like to run, rather than
walk, most of the race because I was able to
get enough fluid and ice to keep my core
temperature down. I loved the sponges and
light bags of ice as they gave out at the stations
on Highway 51.

“A big thank you to the volunteers.”

Richard Wilder’s record of 2:01.05 has stood
since 1998.

From 1975 to 2009, there was just one
winner: Jeanne Burpee.

Mary Bange, at left, and Richard Wildie, above center, hold Paavo records for
fastest full marathon times. Bange is also tied with Ann Heaslett for most women’s
victories with eight.

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ANN HEASLETT won a record eight straight Paavos in the 2000s.