

# Dana Miller Shatters Course Record at Wasatch

It used to be a tough course, it still is a tough course, it probably always will be a tough course... with 44 of the 67 starters finishing and a new course record by Dana Miller you have to be impressed by ability of the runners.

Either that, or masochism has reached a new level of popularity in this country.

Since the '83 and '84 winner Rob Landis opted to sit out this year, pre-race speculation gave the race to either Del Beaudoin, Odin Christensen, or Rick Gates. Three-time women's champion Laurie Staton-Carter was also not running, so the women's crown would be decided between Adrienne Light, Cindy Andrus, and Becky Nielson.

No one was surprised to see Christensen leading the pack at Francis Peak (10 miles) despite his unorthodox route along the ridge leading there (you're above treeline for 5 miles, you can see the Francis Peak radar domes off in the distance, there's no trail to speak of along the ridge...). A bit of a surprise, though, in second place was Andy Lapkass from Colorado; he'd run the Leadville 100 just two weeks earlier.

The next section through Hardscrabble Canyon can be a test for the most experienced trail runners, as overgrown trails and stream crossings are commonplace and you have to carry a lot of water as it's 20 miles between aid stations. Christensen negotiated the canyon well to keep his lead, but Lapkass began feeling the strain of two hundreds in two weeks and was passed by Rob Volkenand, a 54-year-young Wasatch veteran.

After a bit on a paved road (uphill, of course), comes the Big Mountain to Mountain Dell stretch from 38 to 50 miles, an ugly section of trail for those who detest rock running. Dale Sutton summed it up best when he said, "I spent the worst part of my life on Big Mountain." It wasn't easy for Christensen either, as he was passed by both Volkenand and Dana Miller. Miller is a soft-spoken mountain runner from Logan, Utah, and he didn't expect to be near the front at 50 miles, or at least he wasn't letting on. "I just want to finish in 35:59:59," were his comments on the entry form, in reference to the 36-hour time limit. He did say before the start that it would be nice to break 30 hours, but he wasn't giving any indication then of how well he would run. He passed Volkenand just after 50 miles and seemed to get stronger as the race progressed.

A little further along comes the Mill Creek (60 miles) to Brighton (75 miles) segment, a beautiful section of the trail. High up on the ridge, much of the time over 10,000', you can see Park City to the east and Desolation Lake to the west. Unfortunately, unless you're very fast or very slow you won't be able to see either as it will be dark. Here the altitude and severe ridge winds took their toll on many weary and unsuspecting runners. There were stories of hallucinations and difficulties in staying awake while moving along the trail; one runner kept stepping over logs that his running companion later said weren't really there.

When Miller reached Brighton he was all business. At this point he led Volkenand by over an hour, but he wasn't content to relax and enjoy the moment. Somewhat later Christensen and Del Beaudoin both decided to call it quits at Brighton as both were suffering from knee problems.

Miller continued to push hard, figuring his time might be about 24 hours. It wasn't until Pole Line Pass (85.5 miles) that he realized how well he was doing, when his father told him he had a chance for the record. But the 14.5 miles of road from the pass to the finish at Midway seemed never-ending; to make matters worse the city had spread a fresh layer of pea gravel on three of the last five miles, adding pain to already sore feet. But Miller didn't slow down, and he was rewarded with a course record by 28 minutes.

Volkenand hung on to take second, but he didn't realize how close it would be, as his nearly two hour lead over John Bandur shrank to barely two minutes by the finish. Rob ran an outstanding race; had he been able to run at the end as he had for the first 75 miles, then a 24-hour buckle would have been his.

In the women's race, it was close all the way even though Cindy Andrus led throughout. Becky Nielsen caught up to her at Brighton, but Andrus had been taking a rest and she headed back onto the trail as soon as Nielsen arrived. With 5 miles to go the lead was only 13 minutes, but Andrus pushed hard to the finish to win by 31 minutes.

There were many other noteworthy performances: Rene Casteran, Rick Gates, and Dale Sutton made the top ten for a second time. Don Spradling persevered to finish on his third attempt after being down for the count on several occasions. And ten finishers were able to resign from the

Wasatch Front 100 Mile Anonymous Club, an involuntary organization for runners who have DNF'd in previous years. The only way to get out of the club is an official finish under 36 hours.

Steve Baugh

Irv Nielsen adds:

The run was incredible - no one took this race lightly. Our motto was "Be prepared," and we felt on top of the world at the end.

And Steve Baugh finally finished!

## Wasatch Front 100 Mile Endurance Run

East Layton to Midway, Utah  
23,510' climb Sept. 7-8, 1985

1. Dana Miller, 34	21:32:26
2. Rob Volkenand, 54, OR	25:16:43
3. John Bandur, 47, WA	25:18:45
4. Rene Casteran, 37, OR	26:26:40
5. Mark Watson, 29	26:37:43
6. Richard Gates, 28	26:49:32
7. Bill Rammel, 27	27:14:15
8. Dale Sutton, 45, CA	27:29:27
9. Jack Boyd, 46, OR	27:36:35
10. Andy Lapkass, 27, CO	27:42:08
11. Robert Ash, 31	27:46:23
12. Ed Masters, 33	28:04:26
13. Richard Randall, 41	28:07:02
14. John McComish, 48, CA	28:12:47
15. Stephen Harvey, 41, CA	28:45:19
16. O.R. Petersen, 48, CO	29:10:33
17. Dennis Coffee, 37, CA	29:51:56
18. Jim Lloyd, 27	30:11:56
19. Matthew Hamby, 21	30:37:20
20. Nick Klaich, 40, NV	31:00:53
21. Joe Dugan, 47, NY	32:17:17
22. Tim Guinan, 38, WA	32:28:51
Gary Ruttenberg, 39, CA	32:28:51
24. Norman Klein, 47, CA	32:43:48
25. Joe Hayes, 36, NM	32:52:21
26. Ernie Baker, 48, CA	32:52:50
27. Robert Peitzman, 24, MN	33:52:50
28. Ferdinand de Souza, 32	33:54:57
29. Steve Schiller, 28, CT	33:59:52
30. Jim Wholey, 38, CA	34:03:59
31. Norman Schultz, 30	34:07:41
32. Cindy Andrus, 29	34:26:33
33. Russell Gamble, 35, CA	34:26:39
Bill Casteel, 57, CA	34:26:39
35. Cedric Blacker, 39, HOL	34:34:07
36. Richard Carriger, 43, CA	34:34:27
37. John Moellmer, 40	34:50:55
38. Becky Nielsen, 37	34:57:37
39. Irv Nielsen, 39	34:57:37
40. Jerry Blinn, 38, CA	35:01:03
41. Steven Baugh, 37	35:07:33
42. Paul Hart, 36	35:08:36
43. Peter Coffin, 40	35:15:17
44. Don Spradling, 35	35:20:59
67 starters	

### All-time best at Wasatch

Men	
1. Dana Miller, '85	21:32:26
2. Rob Landis, '84	22:00:48
3. Ben Dewell, '83	22:50:47
4. Del Beaudoin, '84	24:34:41
5. Rob Volkenand, '85	25:16:43

### Women

1. Laurie Staton-Carter, '83	32:02:05
2. Cindy Andrus, '85	34:26:33
3. Becky Nielsen, '85	34:57:37