



20TH ANNIVERSARY: Alton Road Runners Club Dash-N-Splash once again big success

by Brent Feeney, Sports Writer
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WOOD RIVER – The **Alton Road Runners Club** brought another successful Summer Running Series – the 20th edition this year – to an end Sunday evening with the annual **Dash-N-Splash** running event and pool party at **East Alton-Wood River High School's Memorial Stadium track and The Aquatic Center**, located across the street from Memorial Stadium and the high school.

The series consists of three events aimed primarily at children – the Alton Memorial Hospital Family Run, the Hit-N-Run Pee-Wee Run and Sunday's Dash-N-Splash event. The Family Run is a run performed mostly on grass, much like a cross-country race, the Pee-Wee Run (held at Gordon Moore Park in Alton) takes place on a road like a road race and the Dash-N-Splash running part takes place on a track, much like the events of a track meet.

Sunday's runs were quarter-mile runs (one lap) for those under 6 years of age, a half-mile run (two laps) for those aged 7-14 and a mile run (four laps) for all participants aged 15 and over; those who took part in all three Summer Running Series events were awarded medals for their participation in the series after the non-competitive runs were finished. A swimming party was held at The Aquatic Center following the run; hot dogs and soft drinks were available to all participants during the event.

“People look forward to this one,” said **Road Runners Club president Russ Colona**, “getting a hot dog and a drink and then going to the pool. It's a good one. We've got a really good crowd today; we had about 160 for the Pee-Wee Run and I think we're pretty close to that today.”

The series gives a chance for all participants to discover the fun of running as well. “It's a traditional thing for a lot of people,” Colona said. “We see the same names come here year in and year out; they start at Pee-Wees and a lot of them are bringing their kids now.

“It's good for the community; that's what we're all about, to give back to the community for the kids and their families.”

The Road Runners Club still has their 57th Great River Road Run, a 10-mile run and a two-mile run/walk, scheduled for Nov. 26, and the club's annual Runner of the Year Banquet for area high school cross-country runners coming in December. For more information on the Road Runners Club or their upcoming events, visit www.altonroadrunners.com.



