

Big Isle Runs

By Gerry DeBenedetti

One thousand runners from all over Hawaii participated in the January 28 Volcano Marathon and Rim Run on the Big Island. Swirling rain, mist and volcano steam were the prevailing conditions from daybreak on. It was the pits! However, it was still fun to run through an unbelievable place where the volcano was alive and bubbling and, as a matter of fact, became very active two days after the run.

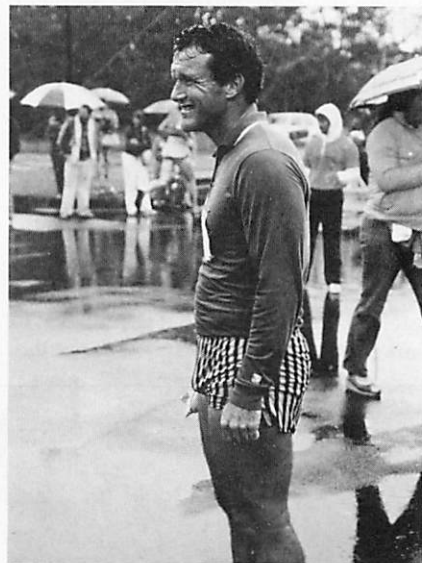
Several 'Riggers were there with garbage bag raincoats (remember "The Bag Boy of Haleakala?") and while it may have looked funny, several people asked if large bags like that were for sale. Maybe the Bag Boy could finance his trip in 1985?

It was cold and wet and anyone who finished in any time at all was a winner. Johnny Faerber, the coach of the U.H. women's track team and the Faerber's Flyers, was with our family and he entered the marathon feeling fairly confident about his condition and competition. However, a head injury received the night before in the airport parking lot, the rain, and the total struggle were too much, and he was helicoptered off the course at 21 miles.



The soggy finish line of the Volcano Marathon and Rim Runs.

Injuries to others took the form of colds, blisters, abrasions, and aches and pains, but nobody really said "never again." We have already reserved The Volcano House for two nights in January 1985, and we encourage other enthusiasts to do so now. The 1985 date is Saturday, January 26. It's best to fly to Hilo on Friday, the night before, so you have plenty of time to get into your garbage bag raincoat at 6 a.m.



Fred Hemmings keeps smiling in spite of the rain.

5.5-mile Kilauea Iki Run (366 entries)

Grant Senner	54:26	163 overall	M12-18th/31
Heath Hemmings	57:47	192 overall	M12-22nd/31
Suzi Hemmings	56:35	177 overall	F30-16th/74
Gerry DeBenedetti	1:03:41	249 overall	F40-9th/20

10-mile Crater Rim Race

Maxine Marantz (no time available)			
Fred Hemmings	1:25:32	98 overall	M30-41/

Marathon No known OCC entries

Please declare yourself if you participated in any of these runs.