

Victory and Vengeance at Volcano

By Don Eovino

Five mixed runners braved cold weather, extreme heat and cold, and 6,000 foot elevation changes to run 100K, 62 miles over the Old Saddle Road linking Waimea to Hilo in the 20th annual Saddle Road 100K run, May 2.

Tommy Damon and Heather Moore, Bob DeWitz, Don Eovino and Terry Field arrived as a mixed team to run mixed up legs from 1-6 miles each to average out 12.5 miles per runner. Don started the race and Bob drove over from Waikoloa at 3 a.m. to meet Don at the start. Tommy, Heather and Terry took a 5 a.m. flight, planning to hook up on the course one hour later in time for their hand off. Fortunately, it all came off without a hitch.

The team OCC lost to in

January, team BaBooz was not in sight this weekend. They must have heard we were returning for revenge and scooted to Kona to do the Cinco de Mayo Swim event. Nevertheless, OCC found itself paired up against a new Hilo team of five government related state forest reserve runners called the Konohiki Express (caretakers of the land) who were as interesting a bunch of individuals anybody would have the job of racing with. They shared their unique knowledge of the natural Hawaiian pristine forest environment we were passing as we ran the Saddle Road.

Since they were in a different division (men's Vs mixed), we suggested we race together to keep company over the long grueling distance ahead. All went well for the

first three runners as we developed plenty of local lore about the Kipuka's (patches of untouched forest preserves old flowing lava wrapped around and isolated). But the fourth runner, when paired up with Heather took it upon himself to keep a steady distance between them during his leg. After we closed the gap, we again suggested to their runners that we enjoyed their company and would be willing to run side by side.

All agreed again until Terry Field matched up with the same runner who dissed Heather and again kept a distance between the two. He then sprinted the last 20-30 yards to outstretch Terry who was just having a good time.

Well, two times was bad enough to show off, but now the

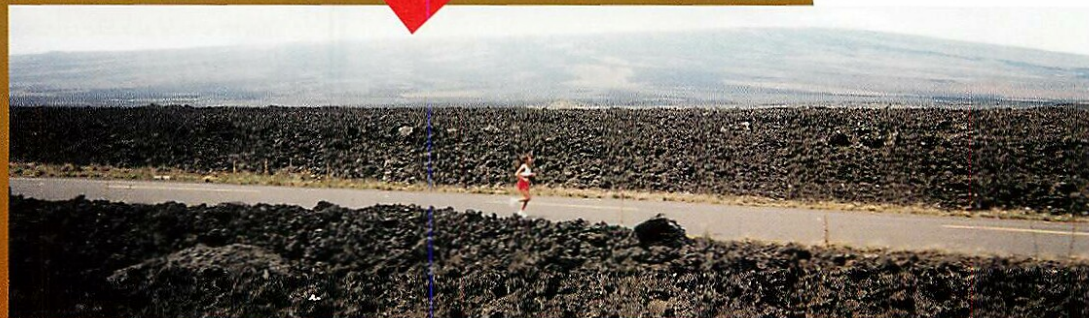
chivalry of the OCC male runners was at stake since insult was added to injury by the humiliation put upon our female runners.

Holding back our male machismo we still attempted to compromise and closed the gap when Heather received the baton again and strode out with one of the male members of Konohiki Express who quickly ran out of steam. Heather gratuitously offered to keep him company, running at one of the particularly cold and lonely stretches of the highway but was waved on. With a renewed burst of energy, Heather opened a huge gap and broke the field open.

OCC took first place to win its division.



OCC's winning team was Tommy Damon, Heather Moore, Bob DeWitz, Terry Field and Don Eovino.



Heather Moore runs a lonely leg of the 20th annual Saddle Road 100K race.