

# Continuity in Road Racing

Continuity, in the most recent issue of Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, is defined in the following manner: **Uninterrupted connection, succession or union. It is uninterrupted duration or continuation without essential change.**

Continuity is an important part of road racing. That is, it is an important part of several aspects of road racing. Continuity is important in determining the oldest road races in Oklahoma. No races are considered for this list if the continuity is broken. When the term "oldest road race" is used it means the oldest continuous event without interruption.

Continuity is broken when races do not report results to USATF Oklahoma and the *Oklahoma Runner* for posting online and for publication. As a consequence, these results are not considered for either state or national records.

Continuity is broken when a race does not have its course certified from the outset, but at a later date decides to have it measured and certified. Times over the non-certified course will not be considered for state and national records.

Why is it so important that official times over a certified course be accurately compiled and made available?

Each year when the Oklahoma Runners of the Year are chosen, the voters around the state review the candidate's performances. The primary source of information is the result's section in the *Oklahoma Runner* magazine. Other sources of information are the online results and results books from major races around the country such as the White Rock and Cowtown Marathons. If complete, official results were not published on a continuing basis, it would be difficult to determine who qualified for Runner of the Year.

Even results that are fifteen or twenty years old are important. If these results are not published or posted they could be lost forever. At some point, a selection committee will determine new inductees into the Oklahoma Wall of Fame. A review of performances from the very beginning will be a deciding factor as to who is inducted and who is not. The importance of continuity in publishing and posting race results becomes very evident. If a runner has a great performance in a race and these results are not made available, the selection committee will not know about it.

Continuity is important in order to compare and evaluate weather conditions, race participation and such things as changes in race mementos and the problem of ordering the appropriate number of T-shirts in the correct sizes. This seems to change from year to year. By checking the T-shirt size list from previous years directors can estimate the changes and order the sizes accordingly.

Continuity is important for course records. When a race changes the distance or changes the type of course the continuity in course records is broken for that particular race.

Occasionally, we hear about races in Oklahoma that choose to not advertise or to not certify the race course the first year. The reason for this according to the directors is to see how many participants will show up. Then maybe, the essentials will be taken care of the next year. The continuity is already broken.

No other state matches Oklahoma in continuity. Some of the credit for this goes back to 1970 when race promoters started from the very first race to compile complete, accurate results. These results were published and mailed to each participant. These results and stories are still being used today. The credit for continuity can be attributed to the 170 or so race directors in the state who care enough to follow the USATF rules and advice provided in the mailed and online information.

Road Racing Management has stated that Oklahoma is the model for road racing. Continuity is one of the reasons for us being the model.