



Foot Lake Four News Flash

June 28, 2008 ☺ Willmar, Minnesota

Eckhoff & Bloch win top awards in Foot Lake Four men's & women's running divisions

June 28, 2008. Kyle Eckhoff, Willmar, finished first in the 2008 Foot Lake Four, crossing the finish line at 20 minutes, 44 seconds—2 minutes and 9 seconds ahead of second place finisher Joel Dudgeon, Wabasso. Taking third place was Paul Kimpling, Willmar, at 23:10.

Kari Bloch, Svea, finished 15th overall, and first in the women's division with a time of 25 minutes, 50



seconds. Second place in the women's division went to Katie Reigstad, Willmar, whose time was just 10 seconds behind first place. Taking third place was Megan Thooft, Tyler.

Eckhoff and Bloch each finished second place in their divisions at the 2007 Foot Lake Four. The 2008 first place winners train together and both run for Minnesota State-Moorhead.

In addition to first place awards in their age divisions, overall winners in the male and female divisions receive hand-carved geese made by Phil Scheevel, Spicer.

Scheevel brought a wood-burning tool to the race in order to add the winners' names to their awards. While carving Eckhoff's and Bloch's names on the awards, one of them commented that the geese wouldn't be separated for long as the couple are engaged to be married.

This is the third year that Foot Lake Four has ordered a pair of geese from Scheevel for the top winners. It takes him between 20 and 25 hours to carve each goose, valued at \$250. He has been carving as a hobby for 24 years.

The Foot Lake Four Walk/Run takes place every June during Willmar Fests. This year, 365 runners finished the USATF-certified four-mile course that starts and finishes at Rice Memorial Hospital. Rice Hospital is the major sponsor and race organizer of the annual event in its 14th year. ■



Kyle Eckhoff (left), 2008 Foot Lake Four 1st place winner men's division, and Kari Bloch, 1st place winner women's division, display their awards carved by Phil Scheevel (center). The geese will be reunited soon as the couple is engaged to be married.