

DICK COLLINS
“THE LEGEND”
(1933 to 1997)

A race a month of any distance is more than most people can handle, but Dick Collins averaged *an ultra a month for 12 years*, in addition to the required shorter stuff. He ran his first Western States (WS) in 1979 at the age of 45. He completed the Grand Slam in 1990 (WS in 27:20, Vermont in 22:42, Leadville in 28:15, and Wasatch in 31:03). Not one to rest on his laurels, Collins went out two weeks after Wasatch and ran the Angeles Crest 100 in 28:24. Dick Collins lived in Oakland, California. He was married to Barbara and had five children. Detailed personal and running statistics from a 1991 profile are in the following tables.

DICK COLLINS - PERSONAL STATISTICS

Date of birth:	September 8, 1933	Favorite famous quote:	"if it ain't broke, don't fix it"
Place of birth:	Klamath, Oregon	Make of car you drive:	1990 Subaru wagon
Height:	5' 11"	Most prized possession:	Western States Silver Buckle
Weight:	180	Favorite spectator sport:	NBA basketball baseball
Shoe Size:	11	Collections:	Running results, photos, and plaques
Best feature (physical):	Strong legs (what, else?)	Favorite vacation:	Reno, area - Barbara likes to gamble
Worst feature:	Chronic back problem	Favorite item of clothing:	Running sweatshirt
Educational background:	High school, trade school	Personal hero:	Don Choi
Job:	Mechanical contractor	Personal philosophy:	Not to be too serious about anything
Religion:	Protestant	Most proud Achievement:	Starting my own business and supporting my family
Political affiliation:	Democrat	Favorite subject in school:	Math, History
Favorite book:	Hunt For Red October	Least-liked subject:	Chemistry
Favorite author:	Tom Clancy	Least-liked chore:	Cleaning the fireplace
Book you are currently reading:	Summer of '49	Pets:	None
Favorite non-running magazine:	Money	Pet peeve:	The way some people drive
Favorite movie:	Casablanca, Shane	Favorite leisure activity:	Reading, spectator sports
Favorite actor/actress:	Robin Williams, Jane Fonda	Greatest fear:	Chronic back problems
Favorite television show:	Hill Street Blues	Happiest memory:	Finishing Western States in 1979
Favorite musical performer:	Frank Sinatra	Secret ambition/fantasy:	No secret - the "Grand Slam"
Favorite music:	Country Western, 50s oldies	Personal strengths:	Hard working, persistent
Favorite artist:	None	Personal weaknesses:	Barbara says I have no sense of humor
Favorite game:	Pinochle	Life Goal:	To simplify my life
Favorite time of day:	Early morning	Short-term goal:	"Grand Slam" again this year
Hobbies:	Running, spectator sports, computers, and race directing	Long-term goal:	Keep running ultras as long as I'm able to, and continue to run or walk after that.

DICK COLLINS - RUNNING STATISTICS

Years running:	12 years
Number of ultras finished:	151 (as of May, 1990).
Injuries:	No major injuries.
Best Ultra performance:	New Astley Belt 6-day race in 1985 - 393.5 miles.
Favorite ultra:	Western States the tradition behind it, the gathering of the ultra running world each year.
Ultra running Idol(s):	Ruth Anderson, Don Choi, Helen Klein.
Favorite running shoes:	Nike Air Pegasus
Favorite handler:	Wife Barbara
Favorite food/drinks during an ultra:	Turkey sandwiches, Exceed, Coke, Power Bars.
Favorite type of running surface:	Trails
Favorite place to run:	Highway 49 to No Hands Bridge on the Western States course.
Shoe size:	11
Favorite running shoes:	Nike Air Pegasus
Favorite handler:	Wife Barbara
Personal Records :	10 km - 44:00, marathon - 3:29, 50 miles - 7:57, 100 miles- 20:18
Typical weekly training week a month or two before major race:	Monday: rest, Nautilus Tuesday: 9 miles, trail Wednesday: 5 miles, road, Nautilus Thursday: rest Friday: 5 miles, road Saturday: 20-25 miles, trail Sunday: 5-6 miles, road.
Most memorable ultra performance, and why:	(1) Bay Area Ultra Runners 24 Hour Run in 1984, 116 miles - only race where I finished first. (2) Angeles Crest 100 Mile in 1989, 28:21 - felt great for whole race and was done about three hours sooner than expected.
Running advice:	<i>"I think we try to make our sport too complicated. We plan and theorize and organize, and still problems come up that we don't expect. I'm trying to keep it simple. Pay attention to drinking, eating, and the proper clothes, and go out and have fun."</i>
Other comments:	Ultra running is the glue that holds the sport together, foreseeing the need and filling it.