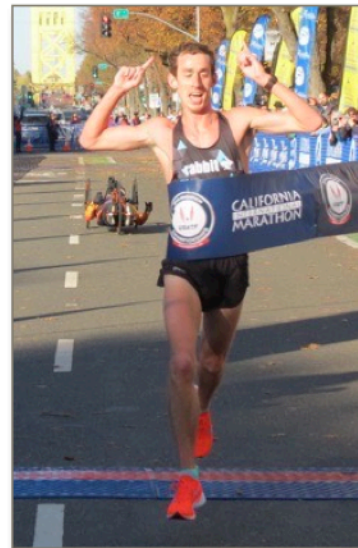


# A lucky 7 in Striderland for 2018



**#1** Dam to Dam, Iowa's Distance Classic ended its 39 year run. 120,000 finishers trekked from Saylorville Dam to downtown Des Moines over the years at this quintessential race.



**#2** Brogan Austin is the best Iowa runner the past 3 decades after his 2:12:38 Marathon and 1:02:39 Half-Marathon.



**#3** Unranked at the beginning of the season Southeast Polk girls won the State High School Cross Country Championship beating previously unbeaten & 3-time state champ Johnston by 1 point.



**#4** The icon of Striderland running Captain Midnight, aka Roman Lynch, is about to hang up his cape. 2019 will be his last at Midnight Madness after 34 years at the helm.



**#5** On-the-Road the Drake Relays celebrated 50 years . . . as a Marathon for half its life (1969-1993). The thrill of being part of the relays and finishing on the blue oval captivates thousands at this rite of spring.



**#6** Road races have become energize with new young organizers, race event planners with a flair to match current runner expectations.

Honorable Mention - Dowling Catholic boys xc team win state by one point, their 5th championship this decade; DM Marathon continues a streak of good weather race days, this year one of the best; and Kurt Schaffer ends his 20 years as DAM race director in style, A-1 volunteer.

*By Cal Murdock, observing Iowa Running for four decades.*



**#7** What's up or rather down almost 6,000 entrants. Once known as the largest US cross country race, the glory days of Living History Farms are just a memory. Regardless the "farm race" continues as a great race at the end of the season.