

Dave Billings

Cross Country, Track

Class of 1972

Dave Billings was one of the finest Nyack distance runners ever. Even though he didn't start running competitively until his junior year, Dave quickly became a record-breaking performer. He excelled at the County, State and Regional levels in high school, and then achieved national success in college.

Billings' career started off with a bang, as he won his first cross-country race, in a meet against Suffern. He continued his success by setting cross-country records at Nyack, Pearl River and Spring Valley meets. Dave capped off his junior season by finishing second at the County meet. In the spring, Billings placed second in the mile at the County track meet.

In the Spring, Billings placed second in the mile at the County track meet. In the 2-mile, he took first place at the County meet, Section meet and State qualifying meet. Dave set the County and Section 9 records in the 2-mile.

As a senior, Billings went undefeated in Cross Country. He set course records at most of the high schools in Rockland County. Dave then went on to win the County meet, the Section 9 meet, and the New York State and Eastern States meets. After that, he proceeded to win the AAU Junior Championship, a four-mile course in Van Cortlandt Park.

In the Spring of his senior year, Billings continued to dominate, placing first in the 2-mile at the County, Section and State meets. He set a new record at each, and held the Nyack record in Cross Country, 1-mile and 2-mile.

After NHS, Dave went on to a stellar Cross Country college career. He twice earned NAIA-All America honors, and won CACC and Seaboard championships. Most impressively, Billings also won two National titles for Nyack College, in 1973 and 1974.

Following his college career, Dave ran for Club East, Nike's East Coast team. He placed first in many road races, and was ranked Top Ten in several different distances. Remarkably, Billings qualified for the 1980 Olympic trials. Even in his 50's, he was ranked in the Top Ten in his age group in the 5K. In recognition of his record-setting career, Dave was named to the Rockland County All-Century Cross Country Team. He was inducted into the Rockland County Track & Field Hall of Fame, a well-deserved honor for one of Nyack's greatest.