

Catching Dave Hamernik



Dave Hamernik, CPA, of Zionsville has a passion for numbers, especially those measured in miles. The accomplished mara-

thon runner has implemented work/life balance for many years in order to compete in over 200 races nationwide. He started running around the age of 30 as a way to get in better physical shape.

"In the early 1980s, I became very serious (about running) and it became a passion," said Hamernik, owner of Hamernik, LLC in Indianapolis. "Since about 1982, I haven't missed more than a couple of days in a row outside of an injury."

In addition to the physical fitness aspect of the sport, Hamernik found other benefits in running as well. "For me, I think the biggest (benefit) is it's been a stress reliever throughout my life and through everything that's happened to me in the last 35 years. It's helped me deal with business. It's helped me deal with personal things. I do some of my best thinking while I run."

When Hamernik became serious about the sport, he began by running in 5K and 10K races. And, he was not alone. He had friends by his side that also enjoyed a good run. There was a group of four of them who ran together and, throughout the years, lifelong friendships were built. Unfortunately, one friend was killed and another gave up running. However, he and one of his friends from the group still get together whenever possible.

"I've built some very good friendships and to this day we still meet and run," he said. "Probably my closest friend, who now lives in South Carolina, we still get together to run a couple mini-marathons."

Although participating in a marathon is competitive, Hamernik and his friends always made it into a fun, social event.

"Whether it's Washington, New York or Chicago, we play tourist for the weekend," he said. "We run our race and spend our weekend enjoying the city that we're in."

As for his favorite cities to race in, there are two that stand out.

"In marathons — New York," he said. "Just because it was the New York marathon ... and because of the different boroughs that you run through, the way that city rolled out for you and the people on the streets. It was truly an event."

His other favorite is running in the mini marathon in Indianapolis. He recalled his most memorable experience in that race.

"It was one of the early ones when we used to finish on the track ... and one of my running friends, the one from North Carolina, and I were racing and we were coming out of the fourth turn side-by-side and he beat me down the main stretch," He smiles and adds, "But, he had longer legs than I had."

In a profession where work/life balance can be a challenge to maintain, Hamernik makes time for his friends and his passion not only for

running, but running his own business as well. He started his firm in 1995 after working several years with Ernst & Young. He also is a regular speaker and contributor at industry seminars and programs, and a frequent guest lecturer in graduate-level courses. He is a member of INCPAS, the AICPA and has been designated as a Certified Insolvency and Restructuring Advisor by the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors. Also, in 2008, he was inducted as a Fellow of The American College of Bankruptcy.

When it comes to work/life balance and fitting it all in to his schedule, Hamernik said he has two guiding principles. The first, he said, "I

don't differentiate between what hours are my work hours, never have, and what hours are my play hours. I mean, there are just 24 hours in a day. Sometimes I think people equate work/life balance with working part-time or semi-retired or something."

Setting priorities is the other guiding principle he lives by.

"I think everybody sets their own priorities in life ... and it changes throughout your life," he said. "I remember when I was doing this as a young family person, back when



continued on pg. 31

Catching Dave Hamernik

I was a partner at Ernst & Young, I still did all my jobs and reared a family and coached. I think if you plan your life and plan your days, you get it in.”

In his busy life, he always managed to find time to run. When he was a young professional, he recalls, “I may not have been running at the most ideal time of the day. I may have run late at night after the kids went to bed. It’s just part of how you allocate your time.”

Priorities and goals are important to Hamernik — in business, in running, in his personal life. As for running, he said, “I always have a goal ... to run 1,550 miles a year. That just happens to coincide with our office suite number and our phone number here at the office.”

Being disciplined and having a competitive nature play a role as well. He believes, “If you’re not competitive, you’re not going to succeed in business ... or life.”



Hamernik’s home office features decades of marathon memorabilia.