

Wildflower FCA Endurance Race Report

Wildflower 2007 went into the record books as a huge success for FCA Endurance! There are so many cool stories to share about this weekend, I could practically write a book. But, since everyone lives busy lives, I will try to condense it down to the major highlights.

Upon arriving at the campsite on Thursday we were able to connect with a church group called Team Hope (from Living Hope Church in San Clemente CA). This team was a huge blessing to all of us. They provided us with daily worship and devotions around the campfire. Chris Gleason, pastor of Living Hope Church, brought a group of true servants that were there to impact Wildflower for Christ. Chris continually reminded us of our true mission- Share the Love of Christ! I can say this was the first time I have ever been to a race where the racing part was completely secondary (Carl agrees). It was almost an after thought. The cool thing is I have never had so much fun at a race!



Morning Devotions at the Campsite

On Thursday night, FCA Endurance conducted a prayer service on the festival stage. Donna and Sandy Douglass performed the worship, and Hector Tovar provided us with a bible teaching. Chris Gleason of Team Hope closed us in prayer. We finished the service by breaking in groups and praying in honor of National Day of Prayer.



Donna and Sandy Douglass singing Worship



Thursday Prayer Service (Terry/Race Director in Lt Blue Shirt)



Hector Tovar speaking (Robin and Anna Soares in foreground)



Chris Gleason reading The Word

The Expo booth provided by Tri-California was also a success. We mainly were able to connect with other Christian athletes and give them more information about our ministry. I believe Robin and Troy had a few people come by and ask for prayers. While Hector was at the booth he started a prayer request list. We were able to take that list back to the campsite and the entire group prayed for these people at the campfire. We were also able to collect several emails from people who wanted to get more information. We saw there was clearly an interest to start Huddles at the local level. The main theme that was heard was that athletes wanted to be able connect and have fellowship. That is our goal!



Expo Booth

The races began on Saturday with the Long Course (1/2 IM) and the Mountain Bike. Sunday was the Olympic triathlon. Below are the stats on the team reported by Robin Soares:

- Laurie Abrams: Olympic, 2:37:51, 4th in F40-44
- Carl Abrams: Olympic, 2:31:55, 14th in M40-44 (potentially 7th w/ 5:25 flat tire change)
- Paul Bauman: Olympic, 3:20:27, 191 in M30-34
- Donna Douglass: Long Course, 5:48:13, 7th in W35-39
- Sandy Douglass: Long Course, 6:36:09, 173rd in M40-44
- Connor Moore: Mtn.Bike, 1:40:41, 5th M11-12 (Paul's son!)
- Paul Moore: Olympic, 2:55:50, 66th in M40-44
- Michelle Ridder: Long Course, 6:51:15, 42nd W40-44
- Robin Soares: Long Course, 5:28:39, 6th in W30-34
- Troy Soares: Olympic, 2:20:27, 5th in M35-39

Hector Tovar: Long Course; Had major tire issues (double-flat) and ended up helping at an aid station for 2+ hours handing out aid and encouraging the athletes and volunteers until they brought him a new wheel...which they borrowed from someone who DNFed. This aid station was apparently playing bad music and they cleaned things up once they saw his jersey. He was a great influence. He then went on to finish the bike, encouraging people along the way, including me (Robin), who was running when he went by. He then did a sub 1:40 1/2 marathon on a very difficult course! He had a great attitude and was an awesome example out there!!

Team FCA made the biggest impact just by simply being a presence. Tri-California graciously allowed us to place signs out on the course (22 in all). Some of the signs posed questions like "Why do You Race?", and "What is the Purpose of Life?" Other signs had encouraging scriptures and some were paraphrased scripture that gave them the message of salvation. Our team received many positive comments from racers. We had one lady who missed her wave and came out of the water totally ticked off about life. When she got out on the course, she said the signs

calmed her spirit and she ended up having a great race. I have no idea whether she was a Christian or not, but that was our hope was to just make a presence and if we got one person to think, well it was a success!



Robin Abrams posing in front of FCA sign



Robin Soares, Michelle Ridder, Sandi Douglass, Donna Douglass



Troy Soares, Carl Abrams, and Laurie Abrams



Paul Moore



Carl Abrams



Troy Soares



Sandy Douglass



Robin Soares



Laurie Abrams



Team FCA Endurance relaxing in the grass.



Robin Abrams and Anna Soares became great friends. SOOO cute!

I want to thank all of my Wildflower Teammates. You were all great servants and a great testimony to everyone around you! I feel so blessed to have you all as friends for eternity!

In His Service,
Laurie Abrams