

Kenneth E. Wright – My background.

Who am I?

I was born on 22 July, 1959 the second of 6 children in Louisville, Kentucky. I was raised in the inter-city and dealt with the everyday problems of growing up in that type of environment; racism, poverty, and gangs. However my parents had instilled life lessons into us which they hope we would carry into adulthood.

First Sport: 1971 – “Mohammed Ali” school of boxing. (Record of 6-2-2).

1972 –1975: American football with “Cabbage Patch Boys Club” football team (played Wide Receiver, Tight End, and Defensive End) Won city title from 1972 – 1975.

1975: duPont Manual JV football team. Moved from junior varsity to senior team, moved to DE position, but was cut from team due to weight (or should I say lack of weight). I was also working a job around 20-30 hours a week.

1975: duPont Manual track team. Ran normally 3rd or 4th place with my times being middle to low 15 seconds (in Hurdles). Won State Triple “A” title that year.

1976: duPont Manual track team. I was placing 2nd or 3rd with my time being middle to low 15 seconds. I placed 5th in State Triple “A” 120 yards high hurdles, 6th in 180 yards low hurdles that year. We also won the Triple “A” title for the second straight year.

1977: duPont Manual track team: I was running in the top 3 positions consistently with a time of low 15 seconds. We lost the State title by 3 points that year, and had to settle for 2nd place.

1978: duPont Manual track team: All US tracks switched from standard to metric. I was now running in the 1 and 2 positions with my time being low 14 seconds for 110 meters high hurdles, Middle 22 seconds for low hurdles, and low to mid 52 seconds for 400 meters hurdles. I missed half of the track season due to shin splints. I didn't qualify for State that year.

1978: University of Louisville track team try-outs: I ran a 13:97 on 42 inch hurdles in the 110 meters hurdles. At Bellarmine College a week later, I ran a 13:96, beating both of their hurdlers, who were still running low 14 seconds. I was offered a full scholarship with Bellarmine and a partial scholarship with U of L; I went to U of L.

May 1979 – March 1992: US Army – participated in the 100, 200, 400 meters and high jump with German units which was annually from 1983 to 1989. Member of the Battalion basketball team and flag football team 1987 to 1990. Highlighted military achievements: Combat veteran; Operation Desert Storm, 6th place in Canadian Cup Tank Competition, Airborne and Air Assault certified, Special Ops training, Master Gunner certified, Received 4 foreign medals, 12 US medals and commendations.

April 1992 – May 2003: lived and worked in Germany.

May 2003 – August 2006: lived and worked in Kuwait, Djibouti, and Iraq.

August 2006 – August 2009: lived and worked in Switzerland.

August 2009 – present: living and working in Canada.

October 2011 – March 2012: lived and worked in Antarctica.

What I hope to bring to the Warriors is my experiences in life and track. Having faced hardships and adversities on both sports and life, I want to share this and hope to give our kids the guidance and encouragement to push forward not just for the win on the track but also in their everyday life. I also noticed last year that there were too many kids for just Jan, and Jessica to tend to at the meets. I always went with Ryan while he was warming up. So I would try to go to other kids while they was warming up just to let them know that someone was in their corner, just in case they needed someone to talk to. I also noticed that another father, Simon was doing the same. Simon and I decided that we would always try to be there for the kids when there wasn't a coach available. Now that I have the coach's course, and the great training of Jan and Mario, I feel that I can contribute so much more to our athletes and help take better care of them.

I wish to thank Jan and Mario, the board members of the club, and the parents who thought that I might make a good coach. I hope that I can lead some of our fine athletes to the podium for the upcoming season and give them the confidence and skills they need to reach their full potential on and off the track.