

MAKING TRACKS

by Ken Bradbury



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(running on, out of breath. Stops to pant a little, then) Hi. My name's Kyle. *(pant some more)* I'm on the track team. *(pants)* The rest of the track team? Those are the guys way up there ... *(looks)* In fact, they're so far ahead of me I guess you can't seem 'em any more. They were the guys who came running by here about a half hour ago. The ones wearing the regular track outfits ... *(pants)* and not breathing hard.

Okay! I'll admit it! I'm not too good at track. No, that's not quite right. I stink at track! I mean, I look real good when I'm running the half mile but you've got to speed up the video tape to make it look right. You see, I've found that I'm only missing one thing in the running events. I can't run. I mean, I can't run fast. You gotta run fast to win.

Last week ... and this is really embarrassing ... but last week I didn't even get last place. I'm not kidding. The starter shot his gun, we all took off, we raced around the track about four times then the guys came running across the finish line. I was so far behind that everybody forgot I was in the race. By the time I got to the finish line they had already started the next race. The good news is that I finished first in that one ... wish it would have counted.

(sees something and begins jogging in place) Hi coach! No, I'm just taking a breather. Yeah, I'm still running. I'm still running. *(watches the coach drive off, then stops jogging in place)* How come the coach gets a golf cart?

Okay, so I switched over to cross-country. Now, you may ask, what's the slowest guy on the team doing in the longest race? I'll tell you. Nobody watches cross-country. I mean, you can't. It's too spread out. I just hope the bus doesn't leave before I finish the race. That happened in our last meet. I was an hour late getting to the bus and had to hitch-hike my way home.

So why do I do it? I'll tell you ... it's spelled with three letters: D-A-D. Hey, that's pretty good. Maybe I should have gone out for the spelling team instead.



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