

# Thomas “The Bavarian Bullet” Kreuzpeintner



Thomas Kreuzpeintner aka the Bavarian Bullet surely is the fastest Bavarian in Lane County! He started running back in 1982 after watching the European Track& Field Championships on tv while he was still living in Munich, Germany. For about one year he ran by himself before he made the move to become a member of LG Muenchen, the Munich Track Club. In 1983 as a 17/18 year old he ran 3 marathons, the last one in 3:00,41. After that the coaches at LG Muenchen convinced him to build up his speed before doing any more long distance races. He reluctantly started mid distance training with the sole purpose of making it "Big" in the marathon.

Long story short, Thomas found so much more than the coaching he was looking for. He found friendships for life, love and eventually also success as a runner. But all in all it took 8 years of hard work all the while he was working as a painter for his dad and other painting contractors putting in 40 hour work weeks. He started running track with age 18 unable to run 200 meters under 27 seconds...and ended his mid distance career with 2 second place finishes on the 1500 at the Bavarian Championships, 1990 & 1991. On the first one he set his PR of 3:49,20, the second one came in a rainstorm with an inch of water on the track in 3:51,05. He was 38th in the National German XC championships in 1987. With the clubs 4x800 relay team he took a couple times second and third places at State and went with the team to nationals in 1988 with a qualifying time in the low 7:40's.

Unfortunately throughout his 20's (and still later in his 30's) Thomas was battling chronic knee tendonitis which kept him from running higher mileage and eventually made him quit running for about 3 years. He never realized his dream of becoming a complete marathon runner! In 1997, Thomas and his American wife Debbie decided to leave Munich and settle in the Eugene-Springfield area to start a new life. The dream of becoming his own boss and being a top notch painting contractor dominated most of the following decade.

He always wanted to try another comeback in running but had to wait until his business was mature enough and his kids were old enough to be left alone for a few hours. He is planning to realize his lifetime dream of becoming a complete distance runner - better late than never. The last two years he ran 4 marathons but so far not with the results he was hoping for, though he is becoming very used to higher mileage and hanging out with the marathon folks...Go Hackers!!

Lifetime PR's: 800 1:51,8 (relay) 1:52,8 open; 1500 3:49,20; 3000 8:34 (indoor); sub 15 on the 5000, sub 32 on 10K; 1/2 Marathon - 1:12,50;

Masters PR's: Mile - 4:31.14; 3000 - 9:35.1; 5000 - 16:29, 16:03 road; 15K - 52:39; ½ Marathon 1:17,25; Marathon - 2:53:50