

## **EARL DEVOTO ~ 1968**

Earl Devoto entered Newport Catholic in 1966 as a junior transfer from Xavier High School in Cincinnati. In accordance with Kentucky State High School regulations, he was ineligible to compete throughout his junior year. However by the end of his senior, he held the school records in the Mile and Two Mile events. Additionally, he graduated from Newport Catholic in 1968 in the top 10% of his class.

As a senior, Earl won the Greater Cincinnati Catholic League Cross Country Championship and was a member of Newport Catholic's Cross Country 9<sup>th</sup> Region Championship Team. Personally, he was the individual winner of the 9<sup>th</sup> Region by setting a course record at Highland Country Club. On November 4, 1967, he went on to win the Kentucky State High School Cross Country Championship at Bellarmine College in Louisville. His time of 10.18 was 14 seconds faster than his nearest competitor and 6 seconds faster than the winner of the AAA Division. Overall, that 1968 NC team finished second in the Kentucky State Cross Country Championships.



In May 1968, Earl was the Greater Cincinnati Catholic League Mile Champion and was a member of Newport Catholic's GCL First Place Mile Relay team. Newport Catholic's Track Team that year was the 9<sup>th</sup> Region Team Champion. Earl set the 9th Region record for the Mile Run with a winning time of 4:23. The following week he competed with the NC Track team at the Kentucky State Championships held at the University of Kentucky. He was a member of Newport Catholic's Mile Relay team that finished second in the State Championship. Besides that achievement, Earl also won the individual Kentucky State Mile Championship. His time of 4:21 was the fastest recorded time for all three divisions that day. The 1968 NC Track team finished as State Runner-up in their division. In July, following graduation, he competed in the Mile Run at the Kentucky State AAU Championships in Louisville against a collegiate field and finished third overall with a time of 4:12. That was the fastest time recorded nationally by any high school graduate in 1968.

Earl then attended the University of Kentucky on a full Track and Cross Country scholarship, lettering in both sports. During his tenure UK, he was accorded ALL-SEC status in Cross Country and he held the school record for both the Mile and Half Mile events. In May of 1972, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree.

Earl started his business career with Hunt-Wesson Foods in Cincinnati in the fall of 1972 and has held a variety of sales, sales management, marketing and senior executive positions throughout the United States with Johnson & Johnson Baby Products Company, Lenox China & Crystal and Waterford Crystal. He became President and Chief Executive Officer for North American Operations for Orrefors/Kosta Boda Swedish Crystal in October 1985, President and Chief Executive Officer for

Cypress Point Trading Company in January 1991, and in 1997 became Executive Vice President and Executive Board Member for Fitz & Floyd Tabletop & Giftware. In October 2007, he assumed the responsibilities as President & Chief Executive Officer and majority shareholder for WISEarth, an agricultural company specializing in organic and all-natural products located in Dallas, TX.

He is an avid golfer and has qualified for the United States Senior Amateur Sectional Golf Championships in the southwestern United States for the past three years. Earl and his wife Dena reside in Dallas, TX, where she is Director of Sales & Marketing for Blue Star Land, a division of the Dallas Cowboys Football Club. They have five children: Laura, Andrea, Kara, Shannon and Matthew and a new granddaughter, Samantha Carroll, who was born December 3, 2007.

