

## Freshman Initiation

Annual Fremont Pine River XC Camp  
August 29 – September 3, 1976

After arriving at camp and getting settled, Neil Featherstone sent us out for a run (for some reason, Coach Tompkins wasn't there yet). Our route and distance only the veterans knew. These included varsity runners Jim Featherstone, Tom Slocum, Bob Vanderzel, Randy Alderink, Dan Price, Bill Featherstone & Bob Rasmussen. Struggling most of the way, I stayed with the group as we made our way down Prunski Rd to Hoxville road and turned to follow the power line two track. Eventually we arrived at the Stronach Dam (no longer there) on the Pine River. I was incredibly relieved when we got there thinking this was a loop and that we were nearly finished. Reality hit me hard to discover this was an out and back. The veterans ran hard on the run back to camp. Falling behind, I could no longer see runners ahead and when I made it back to camp, discovered I was last to finish. An early Pine River tradition, I was informed that I would need to go down to the river to soak. Most everyone else was done and having fun in the cabin or around the fire.

This was only the first day of my first season. I didn't think I could ever handle this and couldn't comprehend ever "liking" this. That night, in the part of Baker cabin where the underclassmen were assigned, I remember making a deal with myself. Just get through this week then once back home in Fremont I could re-evaluate whether or not to stay out for cross-country. I'd have the option to quietly quit running before the cross-country season even started.

It's 46 years later. I still think there is a limit of what I handle....but like then, I'll still give myself another week before I decide to quit.

Jim Lanciaux '80