

Young local athlete Shawn Prince could very-well be on his way to breaking all the records

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the most and eight being disabled the least.

If you saw Shawn, which you probably have, you know that he is not severely disabled.

"Do better than me"

In fact, when Shawn competes, there is only one other athlete that, at present, he cannot beat. He is 24 year-old Robert Mearns from St. Catherines, Ontario, who we mentioned earlier.

"A very disciplined and dedicated athlete (Mearns is)," said Ben.

Mearns has even told Shawn, "You have a lot of room to grow; discipline yourself and you'll do better than me."

Could use coach

The only major thing standing in Shawn's way of learning as much as possible as soon as possible is the fact that he does not have a trainer or coach.

But Ben told the *News* that he and his wife Susan are letting Shawn progress at his own speed.

"He has no one to really guide him...a proper coach to train (him)," said Ben.

"He's not forced to do any-

thing. He has to decide what he wants to do. (He will know) with a little time and maturity."

Doing well in school

17 year-old Shawn Prince is now going into Gr. 11 and is "doing better in school than he has ever done," said Ben.

"He's at that time- the edge of blooming. The next three or four

years will be good for him; that's when he will make a commitment in his own mind (if he wants) to set world records," Ben said.

"He's determined now to beat Robert Mearns. At one time Shawn said he'll never beat him.

"He's come along way- (it's nice to see him have) excitement and fulfillment in his own life. He has to enhance his own life.

"Eventually I can see him taking a younger group of kids (with CP) and teaching them," Ben said.

"He has lots of potential. He has lots of opportunities with his determination- he's a survivor."

Ben went on to say that Shawn has a great memory. "He remembers things that I've forgotten. He is an inspiration to our family."

Besides Shawn, the Princes have a 19 year-old daughter by the name of Angela and an 18 year-old son, Robin.

"A lot of good things have happened for him here (Terrace Bay). He's gone through the roughest part of his life," Ben said.

Some stats

Following are some statistics from Shawn's athletic career to date (times are in minutes and seconds):

400 metre- 1.10 (Shawn's personal best);

800 metre- 2.45 (Second-fastest time in Canada);

1,500 metre- 5.26 (personal best);

Shotput- 7.79 metres (personal best);

Javelin- 18.54 metres.

Ben said Shawn's times in the preceding categories are very close to the world records in CP competition.

Local help

The Prince's did not fail to mention that certain local groups have helped them financially in helping Shawn to compete over the years.

The men and women of the local Royal Canadian Legion, the men and women of the Moose Lodge, and the Catholic Women's League have all helped with donations to get Shawn where he had to be to compete.

Ben said that Addie Beaulieu was instrumental in directing the Princes with assistance and getting community support.

"Shawn saw the cheque (a cheque the Princes received to help) and he couldn't believe it

"He comes in first place in almost every event that he competes in"

(that people cared enough to help).

"We surprised ourselves," said Ben. "It was amazing."

The cost of sending Shawn to competitions is pretty high, as it would be with anyone.

There is a lot of flying involved, many hotel rooms to stay in and certain costs just to enter these events.

"It's a great emotional high (for Shawn)," Ben said.

"He is a very independent person. He has great discipline as an individual."

Ben recounted the story of Shawn wanting a four-wheel quad.

Ben told Shawn that if he saved \$1,000, he would pitch in the rest to buy it.

"He got it," Ben said.

Shawn has several jobs around Terrace Bay and saves his money better than many people can seem to.

Good luck in the future Shawn, we're all rooting for you.



Bike award

Yes, we have yet another bike award recipient this week. He is Robert Wilkes, above. Robert is now eligible for a brand new bike to be drawn at the end of the summer.



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