Carl Kell – Final 10K

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A long time WKU professor who was instrumental in founding the Med Center Health 10K Classic says this will be his last year volunteering for the race.

It’s been a 39 year labor of love for Dr. Carl Kell as Amy Bingham reports in this week’s View from the Hill.

What started as the Wendy’s 10K Classic back in 1979 is now known as the Med Center Health 10K Classic. The one constant during that time has been a man synonymous with the running community, Dr. Carl Kell.

“You know I would say those who have been involved in a lot of 10K’s would certainly know the name Carl Kell.”

His day job for more than four decades has been in WKU’s Department of Communication. But during that time Dr. Carl Kell has left an indelible mark on the running community.

“I began with putting on the first race I know of in Bowling Green in 1976, a two mile course around Mt. Ayr.” 15:52 “There were no shirts, no nothing. It was just we’re gonna put on this race and see who will come.”

Fast forward to 1979 and Dr. Kell was among a handful of runners to launch what was then known as the Wendy’s 10K Classic .

“When you came here you got several things. You got a fair race, you got a certified course and you got people to talk to you who were courteous and welcoming.”

And you got Dr. Kell, year after year, handing out awards, cash prizes and broadcasting the race.

“You’re a speech teacher, you’re communications, ok. Do the public address.

I’ve always had fun saying ESPN on radio so you play like you’re really one of the guys on ESPN.”

Jeff Younglove has seen first hand what an impact Dr. Kell has had on the long time event.

“He’s popular with the runners but probably more popular with those who win money because of the cash award.”

After recently celebrating his 80th birthday, Dr. Kell says it’s time to move on. 36:07 “I’ve tried not to look it, sure tried not to behave it but it’s a good time to finish a number of things and move on to new challenges.”

“I’ve done it enough. I’ve seen all the highs and lows. I’ve been frightened and I have learned all in all the sport returned more to me than I ever gave to it.”

Dr. Kell says he has a lot of travel planned as he wraps up teaching at WKU in the spring semester. The Med Center Health 10K Classic takes place October 13th at LT Smith Stadium on WKU’s campus.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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