

AMERICA'S NEXT TOP WADDLE 2008

Friday, June 06, 2008

Dear Stephen,

I know this letter has taken me some time to send, but I wanted to be able to write a special thank you.

It's almost impossible to describe how great it was to wear my Hersey's. And it was exactly as I predicted – I got ZERO blisters throughout the entire race.

I can't explain how miraculous this was. The news spread around the bivouac – there's some girl here with these magical super-sneakers and she doesn't have any blisters. Some runner I had never seen in my life before suddenly popped his head in our tent and said "Excuse me, but someone said that this was the tent with those special sneakers."

It is almost impossible to describe the feet I saw. They simply did not look like they belonged to human beings. I don't want to disgust you with the details, but people were actually taking photos of these monsters. I've never seen such colors on a homo sapien before.

But I was especially honored to have your encouragement. I told everyone about my seemingly impossible quest to have the Velcro sewed to my shoes, and the generous miracle you pulled for me. Two brothers were talking about some conglomerate mega-company that deigned to let them wear their logo.

And then I told them the story of Hersey's, and that while it may not be a vast global empire of a company, they were the most special sponsor a runner could have. Hersey's not only gave an incredibly high-quality product, but you guys gave me your own time, effort and hand-crafted work—all things that mean so much more to a person than any silly logo could.

I was so proud – and I mean that – to be wearing your shoes and so grateful that you made them for me. I can't convey how special that was to me.

Thanks for everything,



Marianne

P.S. My overall time was 59 hours, 38 minutes, 48 seconds. I finished after a blind man from England, but at least before a 71 year old woman from Japan.