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## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Mark Sappington was a member of the Kansas City chapter of the International Front Runners.

From the IFR's Website:

International Front Runners is an affiliation of GLBT running/walking clubs that have organized in many of larger cities around the world. Inspired by Patricia Nell Warren's novel *The Front Runner*, the first FrontRunner club began in San Francisco in 1974, and other FR clubs quickly began forming in the United States then in Canada and abroad.

International Front Runners took a major step in becoming a more formal body by drafting and adopting a Mission Statement and Constitution at our International Front Runner Forum in September 1999.

There are currently about a hundred Frontrunner clubs around the world and they are as diverse as where they are situated. Some of the clubs have hundreds of members, some startups only a few. Many include walkers, not just runners, and at least one club has many more walkers than runners. Some of the clubs elect officers, have bylaws and a membership dues structure, many don't. Most have regular weekly runs/walks and many also get together at local restaurants after their runs. And the fact that there are three different spellings of the name -- FrontRunners, Front Runners and Frontrunners -- is just a further example of the clubs' diversity.

<http://www.frontrunners.org/about/index.php>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The Mark Sappington Collection was a gift of Mark Sappington in June 2012. Contained in the collection are various documents related to the organization International Front Runners, notably the Kansas City, Chicago, and Minneapolis/St. Paul chapters. These documents provide details of the membership and events from the late 1980s and early 1990s.

## CONTAINER LIST

### FRONTRUNNERS DOCUMENTS

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	<u>Kansas City Frontrunners</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- [Roster] Date Unknown, 1 p.</li><li>- [Roster] October 15, 1989, 2 pp.</li><li>- [Roster] October 12, 1990, 2 pp.</li><li>- [Financial Recap] 1988-1990, 1p.</li><li>- [Calendar of Events] January-March (year unknown), 1 p.</li><li>- [Calendar of Events] September-October (year unknown), 2 pp.</li><li>- [Event Schedule] Labor Day Weekend 1987, 1 p.</li><li>- [Host/Guest List] Labor Day Weekend 1987, 2 pp.</li><li>- [Host/Guest List] Labor Day Weekend 1988, 2 pp.</li><li>- [Handwritten Invitation] "Frontrunners and Sir Roger Smythe invite you to Smythesdown Mansion...", October 17 (year unknown), 1 p.</li><li>- [Handwritten Notes] 7 pp.</li></ul>
1	2	<u>Chicago Frontrunners</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- [Newsletter] Chicago Frontrunners, August 1987, Volume 5, Number 8, 4 pp.</li><li>- [Newsletter] Chicago Frontrunners, September 1987, Volume 5, Number 9, 4 pp.</li><li>- [Newsletter] Chicago Frontrunners, October 1987, Volume 5, Number 10, 3 pp.</li><li>- [Roster] Chicago Chapter and list of Area Chapters, 6 pp. (w/ business card for Craig Rodich).</li><li>- [Brochure] General Information and Membership Form.</li><li>- [Correspondence] From Craig Rodich, preparations for International Frontrunners Forum, March 2, 1987.</li><li>- [Event Schedule] Activities, April 3-5, 1987 (2 copies) and Agenda, April 4, 1987 (2 copies).</li><li>- [Host List] International Frontrunners Forum, 3 pp. (2 copies).</li><li>- [Meeting Minutes] International Frontrunners Forum, April 4, 1987, 17 pp.</li><li>- [Map] Chicago, with list of Bars and Restaurants, 1 p.</li><li>- [Newspaper Clipping] Photograph from Forum, in Gay Chicago Magazine, April 9-19, 1987.</li><li>- [Newspaper Clipping] Photographs of Forum, in Windy City Times, April 9, 1987.</li><li>- [Correspondence] From Craig Rodich, to Forum participants, April 10, 1987.</li><li>- [Correspondence] From Portland Frontrunners declining invitation to Forum, 2 pp.</li></ul>

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Description</b>
(1	2)	- [Correspondence] From John Jones (President, Chicago Frontrunners), Invitation to Memorial Midwest Mania, February 29, 1988. - [Event Schedule] Memorial Day Weekend, 1988, 4 pp.
1	3	<u>Minneapolis/St. Paul Frontrunners</u> - [Brochure] General Information and Membership Form 3 pp. - [Brochure] Membership Roster and Roster of Area Chapters, 4 pp. - [Flyer] Rendezvous Calendar of Events, February 4-7 (year unknown), 1 p.
1	4	<u>New York (International Frontrunners)</u> - [Registration Information] International Frontrunners Conference (‘Strengthening the Spirit’), October 1988, 5 pp. - [Entry Form] International Frontrunners Track & Field Invitational, Downing Stadium, Randalls Island, New York City, October 9, 1988, 1 p.