

I competed in the KCCC for 11 years with Westlake Hardware. As a former safety for L.S.U. football it would seem I would be a natural. But 34 years of smoking cigarettes came into play. I used to joke that I would be on the swim team for Corporate Challenge but it is too hard to keep my cigarette lit. I would even run/walk the 5k. I had to walk because my lungs could not take the demands of jogging. As soon as I finished I ate the free banana and lit up a cigarette. People laughed and laughed. I am a comedian of sorts. In 2006 it was time again for the challenge. This would be the year I would prepare. I was going to run the entire 5k, the 100 meter, 400 meter, football, softball, and volleyball. My brain still thought it had game in it. I am an athlete the brain thought. The body however would awaken during stretches and ask what the heck are you doing? Something stronger than that but you get the meaning. It was cigarettes...I've quit before and failed so therefore I can't quit. But I thought about the Kansas City Corporate Challenge and my desire to compete. I quit smoking April 6, 2006 and never touched one again. I competed in all of those events that year. I would lose my wife of 26 years to cancer (she did not smoke). I left Westlake and never had the chance to compete again. Until this year. Kiewit is committed to the challenge and so am I. KCCC took cigarettes from me and gave me a new life. I look forward to seeing you at the challenge.

~Lee Howe, Kiewit

