

Mauser finishes first

While he doesn't run 100 miles a week like he used to, **Darrin Mauser** still runs hard and fast in his role as a family man as well as general manager at the National Western Complex in Denver.

While attending Arvada High School (Colorado) in the early 1980s, Darrin was a member of the school's track and cross-country teams. At that time, he ran a sub 4:20 mile (that's really fast!). To attain this speed and conditioning, he ran in the morning before school and then again after school – totaling around 100 miles a week.



Darrin, wife Sherri, daughters Melissa & Shea, and son Mason



Darrin's Letter Jacket, 1983

Not only did Darrin love running, he found the love of his life on the track. After graduating from high school, Darrin coached a local track team, which regularly traveled to national and regional meets. He met his wife, Sherri, while coaching her sister.

While Darrin had his eye on this blonde-hair, blue-eyed beauty, they didn't date for three years. He had to wait for Sherri to turn 18, as her parents wouldn't give permission for



Darrin & Sherri are married, 1994

The Mauser family

The passion of Darrin's life is not only his wife, but also his family: Melissa, 9, Shea, 5 and Mason, almost 2. He proudly describes his daughters as total opposites: Melissa is quiet while Shea is never quiet. He said Melissa is a lot like his wife and Shea is just like him (somewhat of a scary thought). Both girls play softball and soccer. His son, Mason, holds his own, said Darrin. "He's spoiled and always gets his way," he laughingly added.



Dad gets hugs & kisses from Melissa & Shea



The Mauser Family in the '80's

Darrin said he has never paid rent on an apartment or lived on his own. He moved straight from his parent's house to his first house he purchased when he and Sherri married. Laughing, he said it was paradise to live at home for that many years. Since he didn't pay a lot in rent, he could afford to own a Corvette.

At the time, he was working at the Arapahoe Park Race Track, which is south of Denver, and it was a hour long drive from his home in Broomfield, which is northwest of Denver. With this commute, he certainly appreciated the spine-tingling power of a Corvette. Also, the styling and performance excellence appealed to his single guy attitude. However, the week he got engaged to Sherri is the week the Corvette "went away" as Darrin sadly remembered.

The family of five owns a dog named Kiara, and a rat snake named Snakey Snake. They used to own a hamster, but it died. Darrin teasingly claims Sherri poisoned it while cleaning its cage with a pine disinfectant, but Darrin quickly said he disliked that hamster and continually threatened to feed it to the snake. This example explains why Darrin maintains Sherri has a lot of patience to put up with him.

The snake became a family pet after it came home with Melissa from the first grade classroom for the summer. In the fall, the teacher didn't want the snake back, so it stayed. Now the snake is more than three feet long and somewhat terrifying. However, the kids still love the snake – if daddy is holding it. Sherri threatens to get rid of the snake if it bites Darrin. (*Note to Sherri: Darrin said the snake has bitten him at least twice.*)



Darrin gets "hands-on" in a New Orleans swamp tour



While feeding the snake weekly doesn't faze Darrin, ask him about spiders, and you'll get a reaction. He calls them gross and creepy-looking. "If there's one on the wall or ceiling, there'll be a blood spot," he exclaimed!

With a house filled with young kids, pets and working parents, Darrin said their house becomes "hilarious" with all the commotion. It may have started when Melissa was six months old, and Sherri was sent out-of-town for a six-week training seminar for her job. As Darrin recalls, "it was rough" as he was a new dad.

However, they survived with help from both sets of parents and friends. He has fond memories of taking his daughter to a Stanley Cup hockey game. He enjoyed the game, while Mary McNicholas tended the fussy baby.

Sherri now also works for KM Concessions and Service Systems Associates as an accountant.

A sports' nut

Darrin claims he is a softball addict and used to play softball five nights a week. Today, he only plays once a week on the *Raiders Haters*, a co-ed team, which has played together for 20 plus years. He's the pitcher. Sherri has also played on the team for several years. However, last year she told Darrin she was retiring because she was tired of him yelling at her. To defend himself, Darrin said it was frustrating to see stupid errors being committed. He



Darrin "coach pitching" for Melissa's team

Darrin doesn't have a favorite sport to watch; he'll watch anything, including darts.

Interestingly, he attended school with another KM employee, Kevin Eldridge. And Kevin is responsible for Darrin going to work for KM Concessions. Kevin nonchalantly asked Darrin if he wanted to sell souvenirs at a Denver Bears game. He did. Like many other KM/SSA staff, Darrin put in his hours at the Denver Zoo. When he was 18 years old, he shoveled camel and elephant dung, and he helped load energetic youngsters on the backs of the animals at the zoo's former animal ride concession.



Darrin with new hockey gear, Christmas '99

concluded that he probably should not have yelled at Sherri to get her butt down to prevent the balls from rolling through her legs. He quickly added that Sherry is a good player.

The team got the name from the free t-shirts donated by KM Concessions when the team first formed in the mid-1980s. The shirts were leftover merchandise from the souvenirs stands at Mile High Stadium.



Darrin (right) with Kevin Eldridge in this undated photo



Darrin (center back) coaching his brother Dano's (front right) soccer team

While not working, the pair hung around together. One of their fishing adventures involved a trip to Echo Lake located on the “Road to the Stars,” the highest paved road in the United States. At an elevation of 10,597, it offers excellent fishing. One spring weekend, the pair left at 2 a.m. in the morning for their fishing trip. When they arrived at the lake, it was cold and snowy. They crashed in the car for a while to see if the weather would improve – it didn’t. On the way home, both the driver and the passenger fell asleep and went off the road. Fortunately, neither was hurt, they must have angels on their shoulders.

Favorite foods and holidays



Darrin claims his favorite holiday is his birthday – February 3. When asked why, he replied, “It’s **my** day.” On his recent birthday, his wife “surprised” him with a 40th birthday party. When Sherri asked Darrin if he was surprised, he had to be honest and tell her no. He then explained it was hard to keep the party a surprise when everyone was calling all day and asking for Sherri, then when she wasn’t available, the callers didn’t leave messages.

Birthday #17 (left) and #39 (right)

On his birthday, Darrin enjoys his favorite meal: his mother’s soft shell tacos. He claims he eats between six – 10 because they’re **so** good. These tacos aren’t your normal ground beef tacos. His mother spends most of the day making this treat for her middle son. She dices and sautés the pork, chops the red chilies, deep fries the tacos – tasks that now her grandkids help her do even though Darrin said he’s sure it’s a fiasco, but one enjoyed by all.



Darrin, Melissa & Shea enjoy 3 feet of snow in the back yard during the Blizzard of '03

While Darrin especially enjoys eating tacos, he maintains there’s not a food he wouldn’t eat. He even planned to try out for the television show, *Fear Factor*, but when he got to the audition, he changed his mind when he saw the long line of hopefuls. Today, his kids take great pleasure in pestering their dad while watching *Fear Factor*: “Would you eat that, daddy?” (referring to ground up spiders or pig’s intestines usually consumed by the contestants). He did share he thought he might have a hard time swallowing a piece of cow’s rectum.

Other interests

Darrin likes movies where the “monster” is killed, and life returns to normal with a victory over the monstrous. If that doesn't happen, he has a hard time sleeping for a few days. His favorite movie is the horror classic *Halloween*, which featured Michael Myers as the deranged, knife-wielding killer of teenage babysitters when he returned to his old neighborhood of Haddonfield, Illinois after escaping from a mental institution. This popular film, with its creepy soundtrack, inspired numerous sequels, which Darrin claims aren't as good (scary?) as the first one. However, he dislikes movies, like *The Exorcist*, because of their realism.



What profile is complete without the baby pictures?



For entertainment, Darrin likes to read books by the author Dean Koontz, who writes novels filled with adventure and suspense that deal with technology, time travel, serial killers, etc. When he has time and is not reading, Darrin enjoys watching *CSI*, a television program focusing on an elite team of police forensic evidence investigation experts who work their cases in Las Vegas, Miami or New York – depending on which program he watches.



Darrin said his favorite actor is Gene Hackman, who is one of world's most acclaimed actors. Some of the movies that Hackman has starred in include *Superman*, *The French Connection*, *Unforgiven* and *Absolute Power*. For over 40 years, Hackman has been delivering unforgettable performances in film, theater and television.



While Darrin doesn't run a 100 miles a week today, he's still is on the run. He may get his energy from his daily copious consumption of Mtn. Dew soda (at least eight cans a day). His passion for his family also provides fuel. His goal is to make sure his kids grow up to be productive adults and make the best of all the chances life has to offer. A philosophy he subscribes to for himself, too.