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## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

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### Kate Farrington

In the last issue of FinishLines, we introduced you to Lynx on the Internet. Now it is time to test to see if you were paying attention. Do the words CyberScoreboard mean any thing to you? If not, you have missed the most important development in sports timing since, well, since the development of FinishLynx!

First, the linking of data from the timing system to the results system brought track meets into the twentieth century; then the linking of FinishLynx to scoreboards brought instant results to all spectators at an event. Now, FinishLynx has taken that a step further and allowed real time access to results as they happen from any computer on the Internet, anywhere in the world. Wow! Read on for more details.

Other event highlights include a recent successful trip to Holland for the World Short Track Championships, and two very impressive meets for high school stand-outs where FinishLynx captured a number of national records. It is rewarding to see such fabulous young talent moving up the ranks!

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT. . .

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### Jeff Cormier, resident Web expert

We have been touting our new Internet presence for a while now, but many of you have not met the "man behind the screen," Jeff Cormier. Jeff is our "home-town boy," having grown up about a mile from our office, and he has been a tremendous asset to Lynx since he joined us in January. Between trips around the world timing events with FinishLynx, Jeff takes classes at Northeastern University, and keeps up on the Boston sports scene, especially in regards to the Boston Bruins.

Jeff has a few words to all you surfers out there about the web page:

"Our home page is located at [www.finishlynx.com](http://www.finishlynx.com) where you may choose from any of six other specialized pages which feature image trading, software downloading, and

many other options. Once connected to the page you may choose the CyberScoreboard link to view the results of past events or choose the current event link to see the results of the live event. Further instructions are located on the actual page. Fill out our mail form so that we may keep track of you and keep you up to date on new FinishLynx products and information.



Jeff Cormier (*FinishLynx photo*)

Keep these tips in mind while visiting the page:

PC Software: Both the Demo and Real Versions of Lynx are zipped. You will need to unzip them. (using pkunzip, etc.)

Read the Readme.1st file in the Demo version for installation instructions.

For the real version, delete (or move) all the files in the /lynx/bin directory and then pkunzip the lynx.zip file from the home page into this directory.

MAC Software: The MAC software is also zipped however we have placed unzipping software on the page for you.

Remember to get the release notes when downloading new software.

All of the images on the Image Trading page are also zipped for convenience and need to be unzipped to view.

Please send us your own images by e-mail or snail mail.

## ***CYBERSCOREBOARD HAS ARRIVED***

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### **Watch the fans go wild!**

At the 1996 Reno Games, the first people outside of Reno to hear of Donovan Bailey's world record in the 50M were not watching on television or listening to the radio. They were surfing the net.

The Reno Games marked the first time the world got to use CyberScoreboard, our new technology for publishing results and images generated by FinishLynx on the Internet in real-time. Unlike most text-based results on the Internet today, CyberScoreboard runs over a database, allowing the individual accessing the page

to format and filter the results as they want to create "personal" scoreboards. CyberScoreboard consists of three components:

- 1) *Software that runs on-site, listens to results and images output by FinishLynx, and sends them via modem to our home page in Woburn, Massachusetts;*
- 2) *Software that runs on our WWW server that listens for results and images and places them in a database on our server;*
- 3) *Software that runs each time a user accesses our page that formats the results as they have requested.*

Other events that have been done using CyberScoreboard in the past month are the Simplot Games, World Short Track Speed Skating Championships, and the National Scholastic meet at the Reggie Lewis Center, a beautiful new indoor track down the street from us here in Boston. Instructions on the operation of the system can be found on our home page at <http://www.finishlynx.com>. Currently, the page is best viewed using Netscape 2.0, but we will be working to make it friendly to a wider range of browsers in the future.

## ***Windows95 DEMO VERSION AVAILABLE***

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### **Take a peak at Lynx's new look below**

We have always said that Windows 3.1 was too unreliable of a platform to host a mission critical application such as FinishLynx, which is the primary reason we have stuck by our DOS version for so long. With the advent of Windows95, Microsoft hasn't removed all of the flakiness, but at least they have given developers the ability to create software that is protected from most of the bad things that other programs, and even the operating system, can do. And while the overhead of a Windows-type operating system is significant, the "average" computer today can overcome much of that overhead and there are some natural benefits to such an environment.

FinishLynx32 is the latest member of the Lynx family: a full 32-bit application intended for use on computers running Windows95 and WindowsNT. In addition to combining all the best features of the Macintosh and DOS versions of FinishLynx, here are just some of the capabilities that have been added:

*User-configurable results display/printouts*

*Printing to non-PostScript printers*

*Much easier handling of intermediate times*

*Continuous Evaluation, a feature that is so cool it has to be seen to be believed.*

Macintosh users have reason to rejoice at this development as well, since this version will unify the two platforms. This means that any enhancement that is made

to one version will instantly be available on the other. No more wondering if one version has advantages over the other; use whichever computer you feel most comfortable with.

A demo version of the software is available on our home page at <http://www.finishlynx.com> on the New Products page. This is the only place it will be available for now; once it is in production, we will start sending demos out by mail.

## ***CYBERSCOREBOARD CUSTOMER BETA PROGRAM***

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### **Take the challenge, Be a Pioneer**

So here is the next phase: we have tested CyberScoreboard enough at our own events to feel comfortable that it is reliable and easy to set up (all you need is a Windows95 machine on the Internet and running our client software, FLClient). Now we need a few customers who are comfortable enough with the basic operation of their system that they could add another component without having it distract them. Since there is no fundamental limitation to the number of events the CyberScoreboard can handle at one time, we expect that in the near future there could be 10 or more events happening simultaneously on our page.

E-mail (now) if you are interested.

## ***A NOTE FOR MACINTOSH USERS***

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### **You are not forgotten**

Macintosh FinishLynx systems can be used to drive CyberScoreboard, too. The only trickiness is getting the Windows 95 machine to talk with the Macintosh. Fortunately, there is an easy to install software package from Miramar Systems called Mac-Lan Connect that allows Windows 95 machines to mount and serve AppleShare volumes. It costs \$149 from PCConnection at 800-800-1111.

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### **ASK NEXUS**

#### **A New Forum**

Very often, we get questions from customers that we have heard in different forms from other people. We are introducing this new column to our newsletter in an effort to answer common questions.

Q. Ed Scullion of Monmouth Regional H.S. experienced problems when running FinishLynx on a network and taking large images: he was getting a disk full error. He

thought this was odd, since he had 400MB free on his evaluator PC, which was the machine on which he was saving images.

A. The disk that was filling up was the disk on the CAPTURE computer not the evaluator. FinishLynx temporarily stores image on the machine that captures it; it is only transferred over the network when you actually SAVE the race. Therefore, if the capture machine is very low on disk, you can get a disk full message while capturing.

Q. Steve Wilkin of Newark (Ohio) H.S. recently purchased a Mac Performa to use with his Lynx. He was very surprised to find that when he ran FinishLynx, he got "low on memory" messages when the only other thing running was system software 7.5 (his Mac came with 8MB of RAM and a 500 meg disk).

A. Unfortunately, 8MB of RAM just isn't what it used to be. System 7.5 takes up a whopping 5000k of space, only leaving slightly more than 2500k of usable memory for FinishLynx. You may change the suggested size of Lynx's allocated memory under "Get Info" after clicking on the FinishLynx icon. The other option is to spend the extra \$200-\$300 to get 8 more MB of RAM, a relatively inexpensive solution to the problem.

## ***OUTDOOR UPGRADE FEVER***

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### **You could be styling with Lynx**

Our latest try at neat FinishLynx clothing is a lined Polar Fleece jacket with an embroidered FinishLynx logo. It is perfect for those nippy spring nights when you are packing up your FinishLynx equipment. And there are only two ways to get one of these limited edition jackets. First is to be an employee, and second is to buy \$1000 or more of upgrades to your FinishLynx equipment before May 31, 1996. Such a deal!

## **FEEDBACK**

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### **Our readers write**

Steve Vaitones of the New England Athletic Congress writes:

"Doug,- A long belated thanks for your help with backing up the finish line at the USA National Cross Country Championships. Once again all pieces of the puzzle came together for a great event."

*Mike Ridenour of Angola (IN) High School sent via e-mail the following accolades:*

*"We just received our two camera remote system and are excited about getting it set up and using it this spring. [!] appreciate the help I have received so far. Keep up the good work!"*

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