

We all miss Doug Speck

Today I am heartbroken. I had the privilege of knowing and working Doug Speck for the past fourteen years. Many Dyestatcal readers knew Doug as a tireless supporter promoter for young runners and as the announcer at the Arcadia Invitational or at big CIF meets or at Nike Team Nationals, and I have seen that man in action. I once stood next to him saw while he was announcing the Arcadia Invitational meet. He was able to seamlessly keep track of a multitude of athletes and announce simultaneous events in a way that left me stunned. I remember thinking that I was in the presence of a great man, but Doug was always humble and never blew his own horn. I am sure that's the Doug Speck you knew too. He was a man who genuinely loved Track and Field and Cross Country.

You may not know Doug was also a great history teacher who spent many years educating young people new to this country. At Arcadia High School these were immigrant students mostly from Asian countries, and he would patiently teach students United States History while also guiding them to a better understanding of the English language. Fourteen years ago I was a new teacher also assigned to teach immigrant students; Doug mentored me and inspired me to reach out and make a difference in these young peoples' lives.

It was later that I got to know the Doug Speck of Dyestat. My son Paul became involved in the Cross Country and Track program at Arcadia High School and during those four years I came to know the Doug Speck you all knew, the calm and helpful presence who made personal sacrifices for the advancement of the sport.

A couple of years ago he retired as a teacher but continued on with announcing and with Dyestatcal, and now he is gone. We all miss him here at Arcadia High School and I am sure that people all over the country will miss him too. But we all can learn something from that life. Go out and do the best you can do in life whether it's making a new PR finding a way to help others be their best. That's what Doug would say.

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