

## NEWS & STORIES

### TEAM TYPE 1-SANOFI 2011 AMATEUR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR, MARCUS GRIMM: AMPLIFYING THE POWER OF ONE

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By Mary Topping

Marcus Grimm probably thought he hadn't made the cut for Team Type 1-SANOFI's first Amateur Athlete of the Year award. Grimm only joined the Team Type 1 Running Team a year ago. Athletes he called heroes surrounded him that December evening during a team training camp in Tucson, Arizona.

His 100 teammates, about 80 of them amateurs, included athletes who ran across the United States, summited Mount Everest, and competed in Olympic trials. They had coached and inspired him.

So even with the 15 medals he's earned and just qualifying for the Boston Marathon, he felt entirely unprepared when he rose to receive the Team Type 1-SANOFI 2011 Amateur Athlete of the Year award. "I'm not an emotional person. I'm not a crier - but I was close to it," Grimm said, as he described that evening. Friends shook his hand and hugged him as he stepped up the aisle to shake hands with Phil Southerland, CEO and founder of Team Type 1.

One year ago, after applying for a spot on Team Type 1's new running team, Grimm received a card and tee-shirt in the mail. He couldn't tell if he'd been selected or passed over.

To not get chosen, he said, would have stung even worse than being the last kid cut from his eighth grade basketball team. Back then he moved on to the cross-country team. Grimm said, "Freshman year in cross-country I wasn't that good, but I became very attracted to this sport where every day, every race, you can get a little bit better." He lettered in cross-country at Elizabethtown College.

As a type 1 diabetic, Grimm found no other team as enticing as Team Type 1. "Team Type 1 is the greatest collection of diabetic amateur athletes in the world, in my opinion," he said. Since he joined the team, "They've pushed me. I've become a better runner, a better diabetic," Grimm said.

Team Type 1-SANOFI leadership chose Grimm because they believed he best exemplified the

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team's mission of instilling hope and inspiration for people around the world affected by diabetes. "It was definitely a difficult decision for team leadership to choose just one athlete for the Amateur Athlete of the Year award," Tom Kingery, Director of Amateur Athletics at Team Type 1-SANOFI, said. "Each athlete of Team Type 1 and Team Type 2 is certainly deserving of an award recognizing a commitment to helping those worldwide affected by diabetes."

It was by cycling - a sport in which he judges himself barely adequate - that Grimm, who runs about 45 miles a week while working full time, raising a family, and coaching his son's basketball team, distinguished himself. Last July he pedaled 86 miles around Lancaster County in one day on what he dubbed the "Tour for Advocacy." He visited all ten of his local legislators. His mission: to educate and sway them to support Pennsylvania House Bill 1338. Nine of them voiced support for the bill after speaking with Grimm; the tenth wasn't able to meet with him.

House Bill 1338 provides for training of school employees to assist children with diabetes. They would learn how to help with diabetes care, including use of medication, when a school nurse isn't accessible. Grimm said, "With school funding we are heading down a path with fewer nurses in the schools...we need to have more flexibility for the diabetic kids." Grimm received a diabetes diagnosis at age 13.

The Bill remains under consideration in Pennsylvania. Not surprisingly, Grimm still promotes the cause. The tenth legislator has since announced his retirement. As soon as his replacement arrives, Grimm will visit him to talk about diabetes and kids.

Grimm said, "One of the things I'm trying to talk to people about is finding ways to make things manageable." He believes if he can find ten people like him who will talk to their legislators in other Pennsylvania counties, House Bill 1338 will pass in Pennsylvania.

"That's the power of numbers," Grimm said. "That's the power of what Team Type 1 can do, with 100 of us out there."

“**A full list of Team Type 1-SANOFI races, results, pictures, videos and more can be seen on our website [www.teamtype1.org](http://www.teamtype1.org) (<http://www.teamtype1.org/>). Find daily race updates and team**

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