



**MINNESOTA  
DISTANCE ELITE**

# ANNUAL REPORT 25'



# MISSION & TEAM



Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) began in 2001 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, founded under the bold vision of Patricia Goodwin—known to many simply as “Pat.” Since day one, we’ve dedicated ourselves to supporting post-collegiate distance runners with the coaching, structure, and team environment they need to train at the highest level, compete on national and international stages, and stay rooted in the Minnesota community.

We don’t just train runners—we develop champions. MDE athletes have earned two Olympic berths, claimed a North American Cross Country title, and won 24 national championships. Our team has notched 80 podium finishes at U.S. Championships and placed 30 athletes on World Championship teams. These milestones reflect not just talent, but the power of consistent support and community.

Help us champion the next generation of American distance running—your support makes the miles possible!



**ADAM SWANSON**

**ANNIE FRISBIE**

**BRAXTON BRUER**

**BREANNA SIERACKI**

**CAILEE PETERSON**

**CAILIE HUGHES**

**DAKOTAH POPEHN**



**DANA FEYEN**

**ELENA HEYDAY**

**JOEL REICHOW**

**JP TROJAN**

**KAT LARSON**

**KAYLEE BEYER**

**MAKENNA THURSTON**



**MERGA GEMEDA**

**NADIR YUSUF**

**OLIVIA BOROWIAK**

**RACHEL ANDERSON**

**TANNER MAIER**

**TITUS WINDERS**

**TYLER JERMANN**



# COACHES CORNER



## HEAD COACH



**CHRIS  
LUNDSTROM**

“Coming off the highs of an Olympic year, we went into 2025 eager to continue the momentum we had built in the previous quadrennial. A team, like an individual runner, needs to continually improve. To move forward, we have to build upon our strengths and improve upon those things that challenge us most. Looking back at 2025, I feel confident that we did both of those things.

Our biggest team strength, coming into the year, was definitely in the marathon – specifically, the women’s marathon. Dakotah Popehn and Annie Frisbie have set a high bar for the team and in 2025 they continued to raise that bar. Annie finished as the 2<sup>nd</sup> American in both the Boston and New York City Marathons, finishing 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> overall in those races, and setting a team record of 2:23:21 at Boston.

On the men’s side, Joel Reichow had a breakout year, winning Grandma’s Marathon in dramatic fashion, and closing strong at the New York City Marathon to finish as the top American, placing 6<sup>th</sup> overall in a team record of 2:09:56. JP Trojan also made a big mark in the marathon, running 2:10:38 to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in the USATF Marathon Championships. With a strong crop of up-and-comers and veterans, our marathon squad looks to be a formidable force as we look ahead to 2028.

On the track, we have been continuing to grow stronger each year. In 2024, we added a nice crop of athletes focused on the shorter distances, and we did the same in 2025. Our efforts to shore up our team on the track have begun to bear fruit, as we had four athletes – Cailee Peterson, Cailie Hughes, Rachel Anderson, and Tanner Maier – qualify for and compete in the 2025 USATF Outdoor Track and Field Championships, the most in my tenure with the team. With added depth and experience, we look to improve both on the number of qualifiers and our competitive level at the Championships. Ultimately, we look forward to the 2028 Olympic Trials – Track & Field, where we hope to be in the mix for Olympic spots in as many events as we can.

The year also saw a major expansion of our reach into the community, as we hosted our first ever high school cross country camp, offered group training programs in the spring and fall, and began offering individual coaching services. In addition, we continue volunteering at kid’s races, leading fun runs, doing meet-and-greet events, speaking at various engagements, and generally trying to have a positive impact on our community.

With the support of our sponsors and community, our team is stronger than ever. With athletes pushing each other across all of the disciplines of the sport, we take inspiration from each other and from our supporters. As I approach the 10-year mark as the Head Coach of the team, I feel extremely grateful for the special group that is the MDE community. Thanks for being a part of it!”

## ASSISTANT COACH



**ELLIE  
WADDLE**

“I’ve now been with the team for six months and those things I saw the first day have only been amplified. Everyone is kind, driven, smart, resourceful, and fun to be around. The team is united by the traditional pro-athlete motivation, but more importantly, by their humble support and belief in each other. They all want to win, but understand winning is not possible without the possibility of being beaten by the people training beside them. Whether it’s a lap of a workout, how much sleep they’re getting, or how much volunteering they’re doing, every member of the team is consistently pushed to be better.

Getting to know the athletes of MDE as humans has made it incredibly easy to be proud of the success of the team. That’s not just athletes out there getting top American at the New York City Marathon, 4<sup>th</sup> at CIM, winning Club Cross Country Nationals, qualifying for the Boston Marathon Elite field, or racing the streets of Minneapolis alongside the best in the world. That’s a mom of two, a Ph.D. candidate, an immigration lawyer, a shoe store manager, a substitute teacher, a dairy cow expert, a graphic designer, a proud owner of a pet rabbit, and an engineer.

The team is the biggest it’s ever been and with every addition the future keeps getting brighter! I still have a lot to learn about coaching distances not competed in the NCAA and athletes with goals of competing on the world stage. I am thankful to be learning these skills on a team where growth is a metric for success.

It is not lost on any of us that our special corner of the running universe wouldn’t exist without generous support from community sponsors and individual donors. Sport has made so many of us who we are today and your donations help us pay that forward to new generations of athletes. Thank you to everyone who believes in our mission!”

# BOARD MEMBERS



**PRESIDENT**

**CODY MIKL, MA.**



**VICE  
PRESIDENT**

**JULIE MCDANIEL,  
ME.**



**TREASURER**

**KELLI  
MORRETER-BUE,  
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**MEMBER**

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**MEMBER**

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**MEMBER**

**ED WHETHAM**



**FOUNDER**

**PAT GOODWIN**

## **MEET THE ENGINE POWERING MDE**

Our board is composed of multi-talented Minnesota community leaders, innovators, and changemakers who serve as the driving force behind Minnesota Distance Elite's (MDE's) success. We are incredibly grateful for their contributions and dedication.

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT



## MEET THE HAM FAMILY!

"CJ and I were college sweethearts at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We married shortly before moving to Minnesota, where CJ began pursuing his career with the Minnesota Vikings, a journey that spanned ten years. While I grew up just down the road in Iowa, CJ was raised in Duluth, Minnesota. We are raising three children, Skylar (9), Stella (7), and Trip (4), and over our decade in the Twin Cities, Minnesota has truly become home. During that time, we've had the privilege of getting to know, love, and support a variety of causes across the state, with Minnesota Distance Elite being one that has especially resonated with our family."

## QUESTION: WHAT DREW YOU TO BE A PART OF MDE'S MISSION?

"As a family, we love sports, but there's something special about supporting our peers who compete at the elite level. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to interact with MDE athletes through places like Training Haus and the Vikings Lake Run Club. What consistently stood out to me was not only their grit and discipline, but also the humility with which they walk. Coming from an "industry of excess", I was genuinely surprised to learn that many elite runners still require side hustles or full-time jobs to pursue their athletic goals. Witnessing the hard work and sacrifice required both on and off the track made it clear to us that supporting MDE was a natural fit. Their mission to care for athletes holistically and make it easier for them to pursue excellence at the highest level is something we are proud to stand behind."

## QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE GOALS YOU ARE EXCITED TO SUPPORT?

"We are especially excited to support runners who may come from smaller schools and are striving to compete on the biggest stages. We know firsthand what can happen when the right people believe in you and walk alongside you, and we're honored to be part of that support system."

## QUESTION: WHAT IMPACT/LEGACY DO YOU HOPE TO CREATE?

"Our family motto is simple: "see people, know people, love people." This is how Jesus lived, and our hope is to reflect that same posture. We want these athletes to feel truly seen, known, and loved, not just by us, but by the broader community that surrounds them. At the end of the day, our greatest hope is simply to see good people win!"

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE HAM FAMILY FROM ELENA HAYDAY

To the Ham Family,

Thank you so much for the support you have provided me and Minnesota Distance Elite this last year. With MDE, I have set three separate PR's in the 5k in the last year, and travelling to these track races around the country would not be possible without the support of MDE. With your contributions, my teammates and I have been able to keep competing at the highest level of the sport!

In addition to pursuing my running goals, I am also a graduate student working towards my PhD. With limited stipend provided by my graduate program, it can be difficult to put money towards keeping myself healthy. With your support, I have been able to afford to get body work done to address injuries, and I'm excited to be heading to the Boston Marathon start line healthy.

So many of the athletes on MDE, including myself, are developmental athletes trying to find our footing on the professional side of the sport. It means so much to know MDE has supporters that believe in our journeys and in MDE's mission. I hope that the team continues to make our you proud in the coming year as we chase our dreams!

Thank you, sincerely. -Elena Hayday



# OUR SPONSORS AND GRANT PARTNERS



Minnesota Distance Elite's success is powered by our whole community of volunteers, fans, and our sponsors/grant partners. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for being a part of our story, and supporting the next next generation of American distance running talent!



DISCOVER  
STRENGTH



"Thank you, Discover Strength, for believing in the vision of Minnesota Distance Elite. Your support is why we're progressing American distance running. We train hard, knowing that dedicated people in our community are chasing the best version of themselves. I'm proud to be part of the Minnesota running community."

*-Rachel Anderson*



PERFORMANCE  
RUNNING  
The Gym for Runners



"Thank you for creating an inviting, runner-focused gym and for welcoming our team into the PRG community as we chase big goals. Whether it's a snowy winter treadmill day or a sunny day soaking in the great gym atmosphere, I always feel encouraged and supported at PRG."

*-Cailee Hughes*



Thank you, Grandma's Marathon, for your continued support of Minnesota Distance Elite. Your race has provided so many of us with a meaningful platform to grow, compete, and establish ourselves in the sport. The opportunities and success we've found in Duluth have been incredibly valuable, not just for our individual careers, but for the strength and visibility of our entire team.

*-Dakota Pophn*



"A huge thank you to TCRC for consistently supporting us with high-quality gear and nutrition. Your commitment plays a big role in helping us perform at our best. Many of us are also proud to be part of the TC Running team, making that support even more meaningful, and none of this would be possible without the support of TC Running."

*-Tanner Mair*



Human  
Powered  
Health



THANK YOU Human Powered Health for taking the time to get to know the MDE team, diligently collect/present data points that guide our training, and support us through the ins and outs of professional running. We value the time we spend with you, and I look forward to grinding out some tough tests in the lab each year!

*-Cailee Peterson*



"Thank you for supporting MDE and the Twin Cities community. Your community programs and running events help make Minnesota one of the best running communities in the country. The support you provide our team helps us to continue to chase our dreams and compete at the highest levels."

*-Joel Reichow*



Thank you Houston Marathon Foundation for your continued support of Minnesota Distance Elite. We feel a huge amount of gratitude for the contributions you've made as it allows us to train at the highest level and compete with the best in the world! Thank you, sincerely!

*-Annie Frisbie*



TWIN CITIES  
ORTHOPEDICS



"Thank you for partnering with Minnesota Distance Elite and giving us the opportunity to pursue excellence in our craft! We are extremely proud and grateful to be able to represent our community, and this would not be possible without your support! From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything TCO and Training Haus has done for us!"

*-Adam Swanson*

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) has become an integral part of Minnesota's active community, extending its impact far beyond professional racing. Through regular volunteering at local schools, MDE athletes help introduce young students to running, promoting healthy habits and goal-setting from an early age. Their presence at community events—races, fun runs, and charity initiatives—adds both inspiration and accessibility, bridging the gap between elite competition and everyday runners. MDE also plays a hands-on role in high school cross country and track camps, offering mentorship, coaching insight, and firsthand experience that energizes the next generation of athletes.

50+

VOLUNTEER HOURS

200+

ATHLETES COACHED

15

COMMUNITY EVENTS



## MINI-APPLE NIGHT OF MILES

Lighting up the track once again with electric performances and vibrant community spirit, the second annual Mini-Apple Night of Miles proved to be an unforgettable success! The evening showcased over 202 racers, from youth and open races to masters athletes, all contributing to an energetic and inclusive atmosphere. As the night built toward the professional races, **Tanner Maier** surged to victory in the 2025 edition, clocking a season-best **3:59.63** in a thrilling, neck-and-neck battle under the four-minute barrier. Close behind, **Adam Swanson** delivered a personal best of **3:59.74**, as both athletes dipped under the 4-minute mark in a historic finish. On the women's side, **Cailee Peterson** matched the moment with an impressive **4:39.61**.

## MDE FALL/SPRING MARATHON TRAINING GROUP

MDE is in its second year serving the Twin Cities running community with individualized training at a group level. The program aligns with key races such as the Gary Bjorklund Half Marathon, Grandma's Marathon, and the Twin Cities 10 mile/Marathon. It follows a 14-16 week training cycle focused on individual performance outcomes, with athletes meeting twice in-person for training and long run. All training plans cater to athlete abilities and are developed by PhD. Puma Coach, Chris Lundstrom. Visit MDE's website for more information!



Photo Credit: Merga Gameda / Ben Sathic

## HIGH-SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

In 2025, the athletes and coaches of MDE hosted the inaugural MDE Summer Running Camp, welcoming middle and high school runners from across the region. Each day included a group run and team-building activities led by MDE athletes, along with interactive clinics on mindset, nutrition, running beyond high school, training physiology, professional running, strength training, and goal-setting. Campers also heard from featured speakers including Head Coach Chris Lundstrom, Olympian Dakotah Popehn, and Sports Performance Coach James Warmuth.

# THE ROADS



## THE MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON

### GRANDMAS MARATHON AND GARRY BJORKLUND HALF MARATHON – JUNE 21, 2025.

Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) enjoyed a historic weekend at Grandma's Marathon under ideal racing conditions in Duluth, Minnesota. Joel Reichow won the marathon in **2:11:58**, becoming the **first athlete ever to win both the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon and Grandma's Marathon**, while J.P. Trojan added a fifth-place finish in **2:14:13**, giving MDE **two athletes in the top five**.

On the women's side, **MDE swept the podium** at the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon, led by Annie Frisbie, who defended her title in **1:09:05**, edging Olympic teammate Dakotah Popehn (**1:09:13**) as both athletes broke the course record, with Elena Hayday completing the sweep in **1:12:22**.



### HOUSTON MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON – JANUARY 19, 2025

Minnesota Distance Elite athletes opened the 2025 season with strong performances at the Chevron Houston Marathon weekend on January 19. Elena Hayday delivered a standout run in the Aramco Houston Half Marathon, **setting a personal best of 1:10:56** against a deep international field, marking an encouraging start to her year. On the marathon side, J.P. Trojan competed in the Chevron Houston Marathon, gaining valuable experience and fitness in one of the most competitive early-season marathon fields in the world.



### CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON (CIM) – DECEMBER 7, 2025

Minnesota Distance Elite fielded a strong presence at the 2025 California International Marathon in Sacramento, highlighted by **J.P. Trojan's fourth-place finish in 2:10:38**, with **Mohammed Bati finishing 11th in 2:12:27**, Tyler Jermann crossing in 2:15:04, and Kevin Lewis close behind in 2:15:06. On the women's side Breanna Sieracki ran 2:32:53 and Dana Feyen recorded 2:43:17 on the fast CIM course in a deep U.S. field.



### NEW YORK MARATHON – NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Minnesota Distance Elite delivered standout showings at the 2025 TCS New York City Marathon, with Joel Reichow leading the men's field for the team in sixth place in **2:09:56**, while on the women's side Annie Frisbie had an excellent performance, finishing fifth in **2:24:12**, one of the fastest American times on the tough course, and Elena Hayday continued her strong season with a 12th-place finish in **2:31:22**, showcasing depth and competitiveness across both the men's and women's elite fields at one of the World Marathon Majors.



# THE ROADS



## THE MARATHON

### THE BOSTON MARATHON - APRIL 21, 2025

At the 2025 Boston Marathon, Minnesota Distance Elite delivered one of the most complete team performances in its history, placing multiple athletes in the elite mix and reinforcing its reputation as one of the strongest professional training groups in the U.S. Leading the charge was Annie Frisbie, whose breakthrough run became the defining story of the day.

Frisbie surged to an 8th-place finish in 2:23:21, emerging as one of the top American performers and setting a new Minnesota Distance Elite team record on the Boston course. Her performance was both a personal milestone and a program-defining achievement—executed with patience through the early miles and strength over the Newton Hills, before closing decisively into Boylston Street. It marked the fastest Boston Marathon ever run by an MDE athlete and underscored her rise into the top tier of American marathoning.

But the performance wasn't a solo act. Dakotah Lindwurm delivered another gutsy showing, finishing in 2:25:31, once again proving her consistency on the sport's biggest stages. Close behind, Elena Hayday added to the team's depth with a strong 2:27:45, contributing to one of the deepest collective finishes by any U.S. training group.



**ANNIE FRISBIE**

**TEAM RECORD: 2:23:21**

# THE ROADS



## ROAD RACE 5KS, 10KS, 10 MILERS, 20KS, AND 25KS

### USATF 25K CHAMPIONSHIPS - MAY 10, 2025

Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) athletes delivered a strong collective showing at the USATF 25 km Championships, highlighted by both personal breakthroughs and competitive finishes against an elite national field. Leading the way was Joel Reichow, who ran a standout 1:15:01 to place 5th overall, a performance that marked a personal best by over two minutes and set a new MDE team record for the distance. Close behind, JP Trojan had a breakthrough race of his own, finishing just one place back in 6th, while Nadir Yusuf added depth to the team's results with a 12th-place finish in 1:19:49. Running together through much of the early stages before pushing the pace late, the trio showcased both tactical cohesion and strong closing strength, proving their ability to compete in a deep, fast field that included Olympians and record-setting performances, and signaling promising fitness as they build toward upcoming championship races.

### USATF 20K CHAMPIONSHIPS - SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) athletes put together a well-rounded performance at the USATF 20 km Championships, highlighted by personal bests and strong placements in a deep national field. Merga Gameda impressed in his debut at the distance, breaking the one-hour barrier with a 59:45 finish to place 15th and move to second on MDE's all-time list, while Annie Frisbie led the women's squad with a 7th-place finish in 1:06:54, a personal best after staying with the lead group deep into the race. She was supported by Elena Hayday (1:08:43, 13th) and Olivia Borowiak (1:10:42, 18th), who both delivered steady efforts, underscoring the team's depth and continued progress across the longer road racing distances.



### GREAT COW HARBOUR - SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

At the Great Cow Harbor 10K, Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) saw a standout performance from Merga Gameda, who continued his strong run of road racing with a 28:58 finish to place 5th overall. The time matched his track personal best for 10K and represented a significant leap forward from his previous appearance at the race, where he ran 30:01 for 15th. Dropping over a minute year-over-year, Gameda's result highlighted both his rapid development and growing competitiveness at the national level, reinforcing his upward trajectory as he builds toward longer championship events.

### VICTORY RACES

The Victory Races provided Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) athletes with a valuable competitive opportunity, resulting in multiple race wins and strong developmental efforts, though specific finishing times were not recorded in the report. Caillie Hughes claimed victory in the women's 10k, while Cailee Peterson and Adam Swanson took top honors in the women's and men's 5k, respectively.



### VIRGINIA 10 MILER - SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2025

At the Virginia 10 Miler, Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) saw a strong competitive effort from Breanna Sieracki, who navigated a challenging day of hills and wind to finish 4th overall in 58:14. After a difficult opening half, Sieracki found her rhythm in the later stages of the race.



### TWIN CITIES RACE WEEKEND - OCTOBER 3-5, 2025

At the 2025 Twin Cities Race Weekend, highlighted by the Twin Cities Marathon Weekend, Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) athletes delivered a series of strong performances despite warm and windy conditions. Annie Frisbie led the women with a 3rd-place finish in 52:50, while Joel Reichow paced the men with a 47:44 for 8th place, closely followed by Merga Gameda in 48:26 (13th). The women's depth was on full display with Elena Hayday (55:07, 11th), Olivia Borowiak (56:46, 15th), and Kaytlyn Larson (59:31, 23rd), while Dana Feyen was unfortunately forced to record a DNF. Overall, the team showed strong competitiveness and consistency, using the race as a key checkpoint in their marathon preparations while continuing to build fitness against a high-level field.



# THE TRACK



## 800S, 1500S, MILES, AND 3000M STEEPLES

### BRYAN CLAY INVITATIONAL

At the Bryan Clay Invitational, Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) athletes delivered a series of strong early-season performances against deep, primarily collegiate fields. Rachel Anderson led the way with a breakthrough 9:45.06 steeplechase PR (6th), positioning herself among the team's all-time best and within range of national championship qualification. On the men's side, Merga Gameda broke 14 minutes for the first time with a 13:53.09, while Titus Winders (13:43.68) and Clayton Duchatschek (14:03.55) added solid efforts in the 5,000m. In the women's 5,000m, Cailie Hughes ran 15:37.26, just off her PR, with Elena Hayday close behind in a 15:43.31 PR, and MaKenna Thurston clocking 16:19.14 in her track debut at the distance. The middle-distance group also opened their outdoor campaigns with competitive 800m efforts from Braxton Bruer (1:49.03) and Adam Swanson (1:49.11). Overall, MDE showed depth, progression, and early-season fitness across events, using the meet as a key stepping stone toward championship racing.

### SOUND RUNNING TRACK FEST

At the Sound Running Track Fest, Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) athletes produced a mix of personal bests and near-PR performances in one of the nation's most competitive single-day meets. Braxton Bruer led the 800m group with a 1:48.89 for 2nd in his heat, just off his PR, while Adam Swanson followed in 1:50.52. In the 1500m, Tanner Maier ran a season's best 3:40.81, and Cailee Peterson edged her PR with a 4:32.6 in the road mile. The women's 5,000m saw Cailie Hughes (15:39) and Elena Hayday (15:40 PR) finish just a second apart, while Rachel Anderson closed the meet with a 9:41.63 steeplechase PR. Despite some pacing challenges across events, the team demonstrated strong closing speed, resilience, and continued progression as they head deeper into the outdoor season.

### JOHN THOMAS TERRIER CLASSIC

At the John Thomas Terrier Classic, Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) athletes turned in an impressive weekend with 7 of 9 competitors recording personal bests, highlighting strong mid-season progress across events. Cailee Peterson led the way in the mile with a 4:39.02 PR, while Rachel Anderson (9:11.56 PR) and MaKenna Thurston (9:26.88 PR) delivered big improvements in the 3000m. On the men's side, Braxton Bruer ran 1:48.87 PR in the 800m, and Tanner Maier broke the 4-minute barrier for the first time with a 3:59.60 mile PR, while Adam Swanson followed closely with a 4:01.45 PR. In the 5000m, Titus Winders impressed with a 13:41.40 heat win, his strongest performance since 2022, and Clayton Duchatschek added another PR with 13:57.60, while Merga Gameda contributed a solid 14:11.51.



### USATF 2025 OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the USATF Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Cailie Hughes, Cailee Peterson, Rachel Anderson, and Tanner Maier each gained valuable experience competing against the nation's top fields, using the championship stage to cap off strong seasons of progression. Hughes brought her strength in longer distances into a highly competitive field, while Peterson continued to build her presence in the middle-distance ranks. Anderson carried momentum from her breakthrough steeplechase performances into national-level competition, and Maier continued his rise in the mile/1500m, reinforcing his development after a season highlighted by major personal bests. While results varied, the group demonstrated composure and competitiveness, further establishing themselves as emerging contributors at the national level and setting a strong foundation for future championship success.



### BILL BERGEN OPEN

At the Bill Bergen Open, Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) athletes kicked off a busy weekend of racing with a series of encouraging early-season performances, highlighted by personal bests and strong finishes on the indoor track. Cailee Peterson led the women's mile group with a 4:39.09 PR, followed by Rachel Anderson and MaKenna Thurston, who also notched personal bests. On the men's side, Braxton Bruer and Adam Swanson placed 2nd and 3rd in the 800m (1:50.20 and 1:50.29), while Tanner Maier returned to racing with a 1:52 effort.

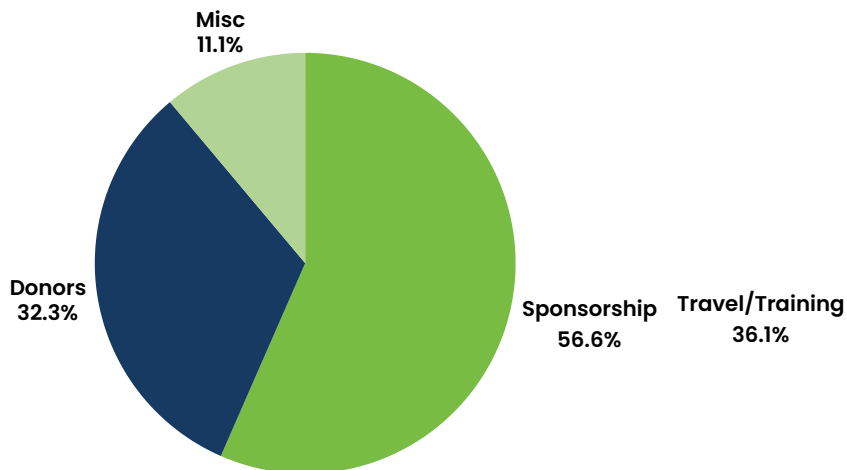
### YAKIMA MILE

At the Yakima Mile, Minnesota Distance Elite (MDE) saw a strong road mile performance from Cailee Peterson, who placed 6th overall in 4:32.6 on the fast, straight-shot course through downtown Yakima. Competing against a high-quality field and a quick early pace, Peterson held her position well and closed competitively to deliver a solid effort near her personal best. The race provided another valuable opportunity to sharpen speed and racing tactics as the team continued its progression through the outdoor season.

# FY25 FINANCIAL POSITION

We are deeply grateful for the strong support of our community—including our dedicated board members, generous donors, sponsors, and grant partners. We are incredibly encouraged to report that our net operating deficit decreased in 2025. This progress reflects both disciplined financial management and the continued competitive success of the team. Our athletes continue to perform at a high level, building on recent championship experience and strengthening the reputation of MDE. As the program grows, we remain focused on aligning our resources with long-term sustainability while maintaining the level of support our athletes need to succeed. At the same time, we are investing in the future of MDE by developing new revenue streams, including spring and fall training groups, a high school summer camp, and expanded partnerships. These initiatives are helping to diversify our funding model and create a more stable financial foundation.

## REVENUE BY CATEGORY

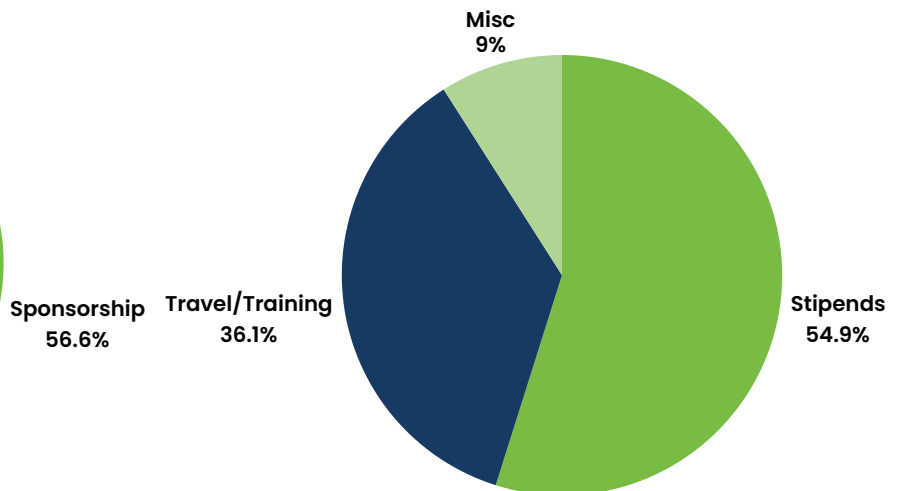


56.6% SPONSORSHIPS

32.3% DONORS

11.1% MISC

## EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



54.9% STIPENDS

36.1% TRAINING/TRAVEL

9% MISC

**\$154,600.00**

**NET REVENUE**

**\$175,000.00**

**NET EXPENSES**

**-\$20,400.00**

**NET OPERATING**

# 2026 PRIORITIES



In 2026, Minnesota Distance Elite is building on over two decades of excellence by doubling down on what drives our mission: high-level performance, community engagement, and meaningful collaboration. We'll continue to support our athletes as they train and race at the highest levels—pursuing national titles, personal bests, and international team spots. We're also launching a new Marathon coaching program to connect our athletes and coaches with local runners to coach them to personal bests. And finally, we're expanding our network of partners and supporters who believe in the power of distance running to inspire, connect, and create lasting change.

## HELP US GROW MORE TALENT IN THE MIDWEST!



**BECOME AN  
MDE SPONSOR**



**TRAIN WITH  
THE BEST IN MN**



**EXPLORE MDE  
SUMMER CAMP**



# THANK YOU



Minnesota Distance Elite is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Support our athletes and mission: [www.minnesotadistanceelite.org/about](http://www.minnesotadistanceelite.org/about)  
Donate: [www.minnesotadistanceelite.org/donate](http://www.minnesotadistanceelite.org/donate)

Photo Credit: Merga Gameda / Ben Sathre

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