



## SUSAN VIGIL MACEACHEN

If women's sports advocate Linda Estes opened the door for girls to compete in New Mexico, Susan Vigil MacEachen was among the first to run through.

One of the great female track athletes to compete in the state, MacEachen parlayed a love for running into an athletic career that remains a standard to shoot for more than three decades later.

"The opportunities that track presented," she says, "made me who I am today."

MacEachen, then known as Susan Vigil, participated in track and field even before her high school. Highland, offered the sport to girls. She was part of the Duke City Dashers program, a club that dominated the local scene and made an imprint nationally.

Little Susan Vigil, a Dashers stalwart from 1970-75, became one of the best-known runners in the state. She attended the University of New Mexico and dominated in cross country and track, early All-American honors give times.

"I liked track because I won," she says. "But really, that just motivated me to go on and try to be more successful."

An 880-yard and 800-meter specialist before leaving UNM in 1980 with a degree in communicative disorders, MacEachen competed in the AAU national championship five times and was a member of the U.S. Junior Olympic team. She also was a finalist in the 1976 U.S. Olympic Trials and won the 1979 AIAW national title in the 800.

MacEachen, 50, and her husband, Tim, have three children: Erin Belger, Sarah Belger, and Brandon MacEachen.

MacEachen returned to her roots at UNM, coaching women's track for 10 years. She now works at the university's alumni relations office, but remains close to the sport. It's a love, she says, that never goes away.

"It's been a fun time," she says, "to see where it has brought me."