



MATHEW MCCARTHY, RECORD STAFF

Stuart Summerhayes, who died Sunday at 76, won the chance to conduct the Cambridge Community Orchestra.

Competitive athlete had the heart of a poet

By Kevin Swayze, Record staff

CAMBRIDGE — Stuart Summerhayes — gentleman, poet, champion race-walker — had a mischievous streak that endeared him to his family.

Stepdaughter Alison Turner remembers his love for April Fool's Day — and her inability to spot the pranks. She'd learn too late that he had opened the bottom of a new cereal box,

replaced the contents with tea bags or flour, then glued it shut. He'd then stand to the side, snickering quietly as the joke was sprung.

"His love for my siblings and I was strong, and his sense of humour just perfect for us," Turner said.

"Stuart was the best stepfather a girl could ask for," said Helen Turner-Fisher of Cambridge.

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