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A Race with a Wide Reach



The Boston Marathon is rather more than simply a 26.2-mile road race. Its inspiration and origins, in 1896, date back to the first modern Olympic Games. As the oldest continuous annual marathon in the world, it has become a renowned and highly recognized brand – arguably the frontrunner among the world’s marquee marathons.

The race has no shortage of stakeholders, not least of all the Boston Athletic Association (B.A.A.). The impact of its cancellation this year reaches well beyond the hopes, dreams and training commitments of the tens of thousands who have met the B.A.A.’s qualifying standards.

The thousands of runners who were extended the courtesy of invitational entries must feel it particularly acutely. In addition to their training, many of them spend months fundraising for local charities in return for their bib.

It hits hard on the bottom line of the charities that depend on those donations, which last year totaled \$38.7 million.

It costs the city of Boston and surrounding region an estimated \$211 million in lost revenues, particularly in the hospitality industry.

It disappoints the 9,700 volunteers whose love of the race fuels their commitment and helps make the race work.

And, of course, it silences the hundreds of thousands of spectators who line the route in what has become a rite of spring in New England.

Each and every Marathon stakeholder faces an unprecedented situation for which there are few, if any, guidelines. But out of respect for all that the Boston Marathon is, and for all that it represents, it’s time to move beyond the shared disappointment.

Give the B.A.A. the time it needs to develop and announce its 2020 Boston Marathon Virtual Experience. They’re working to make it as rich and dynamic as possible. Then, take their lead when planning for the 125th Boston Marathon, to be held the third Monday in April, 2021.

We have no doubt that both this year’s and next year’s events will be ones for the history books. Making history, though, typically takes patience and work.

*Tim Kilduff,
President, 26.2 Foundation*

Paving the Way for Women

Congratulations to Kayla Poe of Franklin High School in Elk Grove, California, recently named a finalist in National History Day's 2020 contest, 'Breaking Barriers in History.' Kayla was one of more than half a million students globally who completed original research projects on historical events.

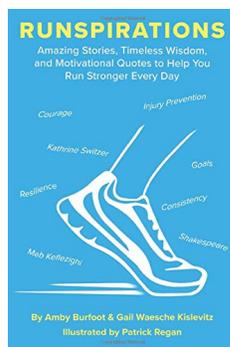
Her exhibit, 'Paving the Way: Boston Marathon Women', richly details the accomplishments of such women runners as Bobbi Gibb and Kathrine Switzer, whose strength and determination helped lay the foundation for equal athletic rights for women – think Title IX – and who, in Kayla's words, "...[helped] demolish society's expectations concerning women's physical capabilities."



Kayla's interviews with marathoners Bobbi Gibb, Sara Mae Berman, Amby Burfoot, Peter LaGoy and the Foundation's Tim Kilduff provided her with rich insights into running and equal rights, she told us, and led her to wonder: Why did men who *weren't* runners protest so much about women competing in the Marathon, when men runners were so supportive?

A national nonprofit, [National History Day](#) is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history. After completing a project, students compete in a series of contests beginning at the local level; the top students from all 50 states, U.S. territories and international schools are invited to compete in the national contest – in which Kayla ranked as a top-10 finalist.

Way to go, Kayla!



Summer Training Tips, and More, from an Expert

Are you training for the B.A.A.'s 'Virtual Experience' in September, or marathons further afield? Check out Amby Burfoot's new book, *Runspirations*, co-authored with Gail Waesche Kislevitz. Burfoot – writer, lecturer, editor of *Runners' World* for two decades and 1968 Boston Marathon winner – offers stories and profiles of famous runners, motivational quotes, and valuable perspective on all aspects of running.

"Stay calm, and moderate your expectations by giving yourself permission to run less and run slower," he counsels runners who train in the summer heat. "Summer training and racing can get discouraging, so maintain your optimism. Remember: As soon as the cooler days of fall return, you'll feel much fresher again during your workouts. And run faster as well." Find more wisdom at www.ambyburfoot.com, and/or order *Runspirations* from Amazon, [here](#).

A Fitting Tribute to the Hoyts

Each year for the Boston Marathon, Civin Media Relations has the honor of creating the slide show for Dick and Rick Hoyt's marathon team pasta dinner. The videos typically feature photos of the team set to music, but this year, Civin raised the bar, reaching out to sports,

media, music and political legends for their tributes to the father-and-son team. Take a look at this heartwarming [video](#).



Donate to Team Inspire runners

The 26.2 Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to promote and support the sport of marathoning, as well as health, wellness and economic-development initiatives through investments in innovative programs on local, regional, national and global levels.



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