Marathon completed

GD, JD!

BY J.D. SWERZENSKI

My name is J.D. Swerzinski, and as of 10:17 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, I have run a half-marathon. That’s right, I DID IT! WHOOOO!!! (Cue balloons, streamers, mission accomplished banner.) Three months after deciding at a bar that I was going to run 13.1 miles, I ran 13.1 f---ing miles. If you’re wondering, yes, it feels good.

So how exactly did I pull it off? Well, sure, the occasional bit of training didn’t hurt. Also my steadfast resolve and unbreakable determination didn’t hurt. But I think what really took me the distance was the experience of the run.

As it turns out, running in half-marathons is the most badass s---ever. Along the 13-mile course, my running buddy Crazy Rob and I passed at least six packs of cheer-leaders, eight groups of school children (most of whom I high-fived), one group of frat boys handing out free beer and something like 10 different bands (none of whom played “Eye of the Tiger.” Lame.) It was enough to get anyone pumped. Amazing though that all was, the highlight of the run by far was when I caught up to my roommate Brendan McNamara. Holding the distinction of the only person I know who was less qualified to run 13.1 miles than me, young Brendan had been chugging his way through the race on a steady diet of energy jelly beans, power gels and painkillers all packed into his utility pack. Needless to say, he looked glorious.

From there it was smooth sailing, coasting around the Tower, up along-side I-37 and right to AlamoDome parking lot for the finish. It was there, draped in my Rock ‘n’ Roll victory cape, wearing my medal, that I became a champion. Yes.

Now I don’t have the space to wrap this whole saga up as I’d like, so I’ll be as concise as possible. This column was meant to promote Dean Tuttle’s half-marathon challenge by preaching the virtues of good health and competitive spirit. I, of course, turned it into a 500 word vanity show of my bitching and staggering underachievement. For those of you who managed to put up with this week after week, my gratitude goes out to you.

I now find myself at an impasse of sorts. My goal has been achieved. Now I must seek a new one, only it must be far more ridiculous and unachievable. My ideas thusfar consist of IronMan, full Marathon, eating contest, roller derby and professional pig wrestling. Really, the crazier the better. I figure if I could pull off a half-marathon, then I might as well go for broke. That’ll be for next semester though. So until then, remember kids, always follow your dreams, even if they are completely bat-s--- crazy.
Congratulations to the runners who signed up to train for -- and completed -- the San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon as participants in the Dean of Students Challenge for Health.

I appreciate all the great TIMES!

Stephanie Acosta 2:00:56
William Aufricht 1:56:00
Emily Beaug 2:37:15
Amie Bradley 2:06:19
Jessie Burch 2:00:50
Brian Caffey 2:05:41
Daniel Calvo 1:46:57
Sheila Castle 2:12:22
Jimena Cervantes 3:01:05
Adrian Chenault 3:13:43
Cally Chenault 3:13:47
Megan D’Errico 1:59:33
Tim DuVarney 1:43:22
Chloe Edmonson 2:03:20
Molly Ellis 4:20:07 – full marathon
Robby Glass 1:44:34
Dave Golborne 1:55:19
Adam Gonzalez 2:15:49
Connor Gorman 2:06:12
Killian Hagen 1:55:31
Michelle Hahn 2:28:04
Nicole Hall 2:30:22
Christina Hamme 1:53:16
Emma Herzog 2:30:22
Peter Kelly-Zion 1:48:41
Lara Kilgore 1:59:33
Paul Kosmarciukas 1:26:47
Brynn Leggett 2:31:28
Stephen Manning 1:40:59
Ashley Mayle 3:07:51
Leda McDaniel 3:41:29 – full marathon
Brendan McNamara 2:19:50
Martin McPherson 1:38:30
Nichole Michaeli 1:59:22
Seth Nelson 1:55:31
Juan Perez 2:02:12
Diane Persellin 2:36:18
John Pickett 1:37:02
Thomas Pickett 1:44:38
Amanda Pooler 1:55:09
Matt Reilly 4:16:07 – full marathon
Hannah Rinn 1:57:30
Danielle Roberts 2:12:10
Rick Roberts 1:51:04
David Russak 1:40:06
J.D. Swerzenski 2:15:19
David Tuttle 2:01:35
Nathan Tuttle 2:01:28
Molly Vetter 2:01:16
Harry Wallace 1:46:51
Tara Wicketts 3:39:00 – full marathon

Thanks to the following presenters and supporters: Carroll Voss of Fleet Feet, Coach Jenny Breuer, Trainer Seattle Estrada, Amanda McIntosh from Hammer Nutrition, and the Trinity University Bookstore.
GO FOR MILES: Senior Robby Glass runs in the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon, which took place on Sunday, Nov. 16. The run started at Lions Park and, by a long and round-about course, ended at the Alamodome.