

Dave McGillivray

PRESS RESOURCES



DAVE DREAM BIG.
FINISH STRONG.
McGILLIVRAY

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Introduction

"Set **Goals,** Not Limits."

-Dave McGillivray



Short Bio / Boilerplate

Running legend Dave McGillivray has increased the self-esteem of millions of people through his work as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, motivational speaker, author, and athlete. Dave is best known for his athletic feats including his 80-day trek across the United States, running the 3,452 miles from Medford, Ore., to Medford, Mass. in the summer of 1978 to benefit the Jimmy Fund. In addition, he's received great acclaim for directing or consulting on more than 1,400 events throughout the world including the Boston Marathon, the Olympic Marathon trials, and the Olympic Games.

Long Bio

Dave McGillivray is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, motivational speaker, author, and athlete.

The defining moments in Dave's life are linked together by a lifetime passion for the sport of running. Dave famously completed an 80-day trek across the United States, running the 3,452 miles from Medford, Ore., to Medford, Mass. in the summer of 1978 to benefit the Jimmy Fund. The feat inspired the marrying of endurance sports and charitable fundraising that remains popular today.

His running resume includes completing the World Marathon Challenge (seven marathons in seven days on seven continents,) nine Ironman Triathlon World Championships, a 1,250 mile run along the U.S. East Coast in 1980 to again benefit the Jimmy Fund, a 24-hour run (120 miles,) a 24-hour bike (385 miles,) and a 24-hour swim (27 miles.) He triathloned around the six New England states by swimming one mile, biking 80 miles and running 20 miles every day for 32 consecutive days. Dave has run 167 full marathons, including 51 consecutive Boston Marathons. Over the span of his life, he estimates he's run more than 160,000 miles. ➡

Long Bio Cont.

Dave is the founder and president of DMSE Sports, a full-service event-management organization, providing a full range of event and race production, management, and consulting services to support events of all sizes. The firm has produced more than 1,400 events since opening its doors in 1981 and serves clients throughout the United States. Through DMSE Sports events and Dave's personal fundraising, together they have helped raise more than \$200 million for various charities through the events they manage. Dave has directed or consulted on more than 1,400 events throughout the world including the Boston Marathon, the Olympic Marathon trials, and the Olympic Games.

Dave is also the founder of the Dave McGillivray Finish Strong Foundation, which seeks to inspire and empower youth across New England and beyond to increase physical activity, expand literacy, and build community and self-esteem through running, reading, and performing acts of kindness. For over eighteen years, the foundation has remained committed to preparing individuals for future success and building vibrant communities. Dave raised more than \$100,000 for the foundation while training for and completing his 50th Boston Marathon.

In addition to these two roles, Dave is a sought after motivational speaker. He has given over 1600 motivational talks throughout the U.S. and abroad, and was selected to present a Ted Talk. Dave is the author of four books: *The Last Pick*, *Dream Big: A True Story of Courage and Determination*, *Running Across America: A True Story of Dreams, Determination, and Heading for Home*, and *Finish Strong: Seven Marathons, Seven Continents, Seven Days*.

Dave's accomplishments have earned him unique honors and recognition. He was valedictorian of both his high school and college classes. Dave has earned the Road Race Management's Race Director of the Year award, Runner's World Heroes of Running Award, MarathonFoto Road Race Management Lifetime Achievement Award, the Fleet Feet Lifetime Commitment to Running Award, the Ron Burton Community Service Award, the Runner's World Hero of Running award, the Old North Church Third Lantern Award, and the "Jimmy Award" by the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for 30 years of contributing time and expertise to help raise millions for cancer research and treatment. ➡

Long Bio Cont.

He has been inducted into the USA Triathlon Hall of Fame, the Running USA Hall of Champions, and the Road Runners Club of America Long Distance Running Hall of Fame. He's been named to the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center's 2011 100 list and Runner's World's 50 Most Influential People in Running list.

Dave is a graduate of Medford High School and Merrimack College. Dave was born and raised in Medford, and now resides in North Andover, Mass. He is married to wife Katie and has five children: Ryan, Max, Elle, Luke, and Chloe.

- August 22, 1954 - Dave is born in Medford, Mass.
- 1973 - Dave completes his first Boston Marathon.
- 1978 - Over the course of 80 consecutive days, Dave runs across the U.S. from Medford, Oregon, to his hometown of Medford, Massachusetts, covering a total distance of 3,452 miles.
- 1981 - Dave launches DMSE Sports.
- 1983 - Dave and DMSE produce the Cape Cod Endurance Triathlon, first Ironman-distance triathlon in the continental U.S.
- April 19, 1984 - Dave McGillivray Sports Enterprises, Inc. is incorporated.
- 1988 - DMSE is hired as the Technical Coordinator of the BAA Boston Marathon and Dave begins his tenure as the Race Director of the Boston Marathon.
- 1990 - DMSE directs the Triathlon World Championship at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.
- 1996 - DMSE assists with 100th running of the B.A.A. Boston Marathon with a record 38,000+ official entrants.

Timeline

- 1996 - Dave and the DMSE team are hired to assist with venue management of all road events for the Atlanta Olympic Games.
- 2003 - Dave creates the DMSE Children's Fitness Foundation.
- 2017 - DMSE hired to manage the inaugural Fenway Park Marathon.
- 2018 - DMSE hired to manage the inaugural Gillette Stadium Marathon.
- 2018 - Dave completes the World Marathon Challenge: seven marathons on seven continents in seven days.
- 2021 - Dave and DMSE partner with the State of Massachusetts, CIC Health, Mass General Brigham, and Fallon Ambulance to open COVID-19 mass-vaccination sites at Gillette Stadium and Fenway Park.
- 2022 - Dave re-launches the Children's Fitness Foundation as the Dave McGillivray Finish Strong Foundation.
- 2022 - Dave runs his 50th consecutive Boston Marathon, raising more than \$100,000 for the foundation.
- 2023 - Dave completes his 51st consecutive Boston Marathon.

Timeline



ROLES

"My Game, My Rules."

-Dave McGillivray



Roles

ATHLETE

Dave's passion for sports started as a young boy, when he dreamed of becoming a professional athlete. Despite the challenges presented by his short stature and the opportunity to play denied to him by both school coaches and the kids on the playground, Dave found his place in running. Competing first for his high school and college, Dave has gone on to become one of the most legendary figures in the sport.

Dave has completed:

- 167 full marathons, including 51 consecutive Boston Marathons
- An 80-day trek across the United States, running the 3,452 miles from Medford, Ore., to Medford, Mass.
- the World Marathon Challenge, which consists of seven marathons in seven days on seven continents
- nine Ironman Triathlon World Championships
- a 1,250 mile run along the U.S. East Coast in 1980 to again benefit the Jimmy Fund,
- a 24-hour run (120 miles,) a 24-hour bike (385 miles,) and a 24-hour swim (27 miles)
- a triathlon around the six New England states by swimming one mile, biking 80 miles and running 20 miles every day for 32 consecutive days
- more than 160,000 running miles over the course of his life

Dave's personal bests for the marathon and the Ironman are 2:29:58 and 10:36:42 respectively.



Roles

FOUNDER

Dave's entrepreneurship and philanthropy have led to the creation of two special organizations which impact communities across the country: DMSE Sports and the Dave McGillivray Finish Strong Foundation.



DMSE Sports is a full-service event-management organization, providing a full range of event and race production, management, and consulting services to support events of all sizes. Dave McGillivray and his team at DMSE Sports are responsible for the technical and logistical aspects of more than 30 races and walks per year. From overseeing organizing committees to working with local officials and handling registration, credentialing, lead vehicles, and course setup, DMSE Sports does it all. The firm has produced more than 1,400 events since opening its doors in 1981 and serves clients throughout the United States.



The Dave McGillivray Finish Strong Foundation seeks to inspire and empower youth across New England and beyond to increase physical activity, expand literacy, and build community and self-esteem through running, reading, and performing acts of kindness. Their vision is rooted in a belief that discovering a passion for physical activity, reading, and acts of kindness at a young age gives individuals self-confidence and self-respect, which empowers them to move forward—one step at a time. For over eighteen years, the foundation has remained committed to preparing individuals for future success and building vibrant communities.

Roles

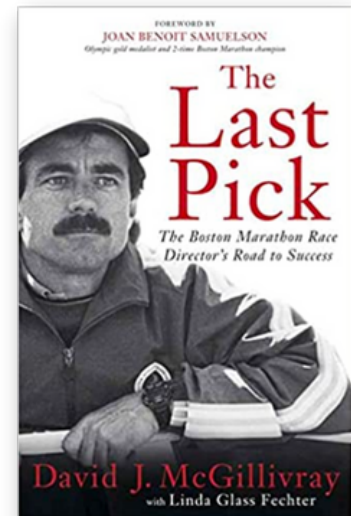
AUTHOR

Dave has authored four books, all sharing unique personal insights and experiences that have defined his life. Bound together by the sport of running, the lessons Dave has shared through each autobiographical story inspired readers young and old all over the world.

The Last Pick

"If you can dream it, it can happen."

In this heartening book, Boston Marathon race director and motivational speaker David McGillivray shares the challenges he has overcome to inspire readers to similar triumphs in their own lives. McGillivray's many accomplishments will convince readers that virtually any goal is possible. This book will motivate them to overcome the mental obstacles that often keep dreams from becoming reality.



Running Across America

In 2019, McGillivray published his second picture book, coauthored with Nancy Fehrer, which describes his 3,452-mile, 80-day run from Medford, Oregon, to his hometown of Medford, Massachusetts. He tells the tale of how he braved the Sierra and Rocky Mountains, millions of grasshoppers in Nebraska, days of pouring rain in Ohio, the occasional rattlesnake, and intensely sore knees. On top of it all, homesickness and doubt are constant companions as he tries to achieve his dream of running from coast-to-coast.

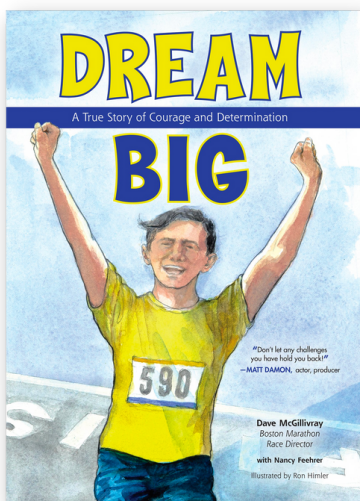
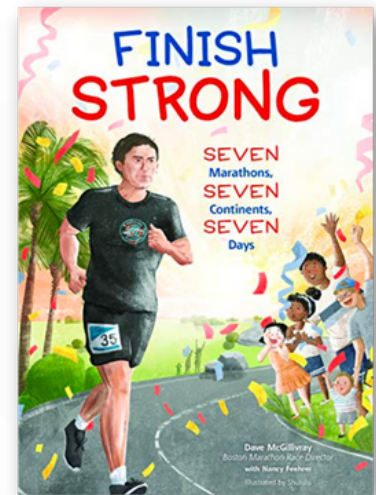
Roles

AUTHOR

Dave has authored four books, all sharing unique personal insights and experiences that have defined his life. Bound together by the sport of running, the lessons Dave has shared through each autobiographical story inspired readers young and old all over the world.

Finish Strong

Dave tells the story of the epic marathon experience—the World Marathon Challenge. The first stop was a desert—the Antarctica desert! From there, they flew to Cape Town, South Africa; Perth, Australia; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Lisbon, Portugal; Cartagena, Columbia; and finally, Miami, Florida, United States! Readers get a front row spot as they watch McGillivray overcome lots of challenges, including cold, heat, sore legs, and sickness to achieve his goal of finishing strong. A tale of determination, Finish Strong inspires readers to work hard at whatever challenge they choose to take on.



Dream Big

Have you ever had a dream? How did you make that dream come true? Dave is a small kid who wants more than anything to be a professional athlete. But there's one problem. You have to be tall to play basketball. You have to be big to play football. And Dave? He's little, but his dreams are BIG. He turns to running, because you don't have to be big to be a marathon runner! Dave shares his unique, true story about reaching deep and showing extreme determination in the face of doubt, disappointment, and loss.

Roles

SPEAKER

As a motivational speaker, Dave McGillivray translates his extraordinary life journeys and athletic achievements into life lessons that leave each audience wanting more. From TedTalks to private corporate events to local schools, Dave's words resonate and stick with audiences of all ages and interests.



For nearly 40 years and nearly 1600 appearances, McGillivray has inspired and motivated audiences in nearly every major U.S. city and has traveled abroad to various countries including Canada, Denmark, England, France, Poland, Sweden, in addition to Bermuda, and the Caribbean.

Roles

SPEAKER

Check out some slideshows that capture the moments Dave highlights in his signature speaking engagement, Defining Moments:

Medford
to
Medford

24-Hour
Run

Dave and
Bob Hall

New
England
Run

THANK YOU

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PHOTOS

VIDEOS