

DAVE MCGILLIVRAY

Athlete

Entrepreneur

Motivational

Speaker

Philanthropist

Author

Dave McGillivray is an athlete, author, entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and philanthropist, whose luckiest break may have come when he was cut from his high school basketball team. He had all of the heart... but none of the height. It was that passion and drive, however, that would burn through him for the next 50+ years as he continues to live by his motto, "It's my game, so it's my rules."

Shortly after graduating as valedictorian from Merrimack College, his game, his rules would forever impact the running industry. In 1978, what Runners World deemed the first instance of combining running and fundraising for cancer research, Dave ran 3,452 miles across the country—from Medford, Oregon, to Medford, Massachusetts—in an effort to raise \$100,000 to benefit the Jimmy Fund, the philanthropic arm of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

When he returned from that 80-day trek across the country, he was promptly fired from his job at a benefit consulting firm in Boston's Hancock Tower. It's clear now it was the best possible thing to have happened to him. He decided to open a running-shoe store in his hometown, and began to host triathlons to promote the store. A few years later in 1981, he opened the doors to DMSE, Inc. Since then, he and his team have managed nearly 1,100 mass-participatory events, helping, as he truly believes, to raise the level of self-esteem and self-confidence of tens of thousands of people across America every year. They have collaborated on some of the most prestigious events in the country, including the Boston Marathon, two U.S. Olympic Women's Marathon trials, the TD Beach to Beacon 10K, the ASICS Falmouth Road Race, Bellin Run 10K, the Atlanta Olympic Games, the Triathlon World Championship, and the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk.

As these events supported the connection he helped create between philanthropy and running, Dave continued his extreme personal athletic endeavors in the name of giving back. Benefitting the Jimmy Fund, he ran 1,520 miles from Florida to Boston with Bob Hall, a pioneer in wheelchair marathoning; he triathloned 1,522 miles through the six New England states; he swam 26.27 miles in 24 hours; he biked 385 miles over 24 hours (while simultaneously directing the Bay State Triathlon); he swam from Martha's Vineyard to Falmouth; and he ran across the country a second time with a relay team. He's also did a 1,500-mile bike ride to raise money for his alma mater, Merrimack College, and has raised money for the Wrentham State School, the Carroll Center for the Blind, the Martin Richard Foundation, and the Joseph Middlemiss Big Heart Foundation.

In the midst of all these athletic endeavors and race directing responsibilities, Dave was diagnosed with coronary artery disease, a condition he had always assumed wouldn't be an issue for him despite his family's medical history. When he received the news, he changed his diet, his sleeping and work habits—everything—to reverse the condition. He made great strides, but it wasn't enough. Five years after his diagnosis, and shortly after accomplishing another daring athletic feat—the World Marathon Challenge (7 marathons in 7 days on 7 continents)—his genetics were showing their strength. He needed triple bypass surgery. Faced with the choice to keep his condition a secret from the running community, he chose to share his experience with the world, urging others—especially the fittest of athletes—if you feel something, do something. His transformation from fit athlete to fit *and* healthy person have inspired others to seek counsel from their physicians, which may have saved countless lives.

