

Dick Beardsley

"I've been fortunate to travel to marathons around the world, I've been to many beautiful cities and great marathons, but you will not find a prettier city, friendlier people, or a better organized event than the Royal Victoria Marathon!"

Bio

Dick is best known for his incredible race in the 1982 Boston Marathon. That race, on a very hot day, was dubbed the "Duel in the Sun" as he battled world record holder Alberto Salazar down to the finish line. Both broke the American record: Salazar won in a record time of 2:08:51, Beardsley's time was 2:08:53! He was at the height of his professional running career.

Then tragedy struck in November 1989. While using an auger to lift corn into a bin on his Minnesota farm, Dick became entangled in the machine; it began to literally tear him apart. Not expected to live or walk—much less ever run again—he managed to survive!



Accomplishments

Winner of Grandma's Marathon (Duluth, Minnesota) 1981 and 1982 and still holds the course record at Grandma's (2:09:37) set in 1981.

- Winner (2:11:48) of the London Marathon, 1981
- Second place finish (2:08:53) Boston Marathon, 1982 ("Duel in the Sun")
- Winner and course record holder (2:16:20) Napa Valley Marathon, 1987
- Guinness Book of World Records – Only man to run 13 consecutive personal bests in the marathon.
- Road Runners Club of America Hall of Fame, inducted 1989
- "Comeback Runner of the Year" - Runner's World Magazine, 1990
- 25th Anniversary "Profile in Courage" Award – Runner's World Magazine, 1991
- "Best Speaker Award" Minnesota Meeting and Events Association

Websites

- www.dickbeardsleyfoundation.org, www.dickbeardsley.com
- Member, Team New Balance
- 2006 and 2007 RRCA National Masters Marathon Champion