

A Woman's Determination

Runner's World magazine in August 1991 told the story of Beth Anne DeCiantis and her attempt to qualify for the 1992 Olympic Trials marathon.



A female runner must complete the 26-mile, 385-yard race in less than 2 hours and 45 minutes to compete at the Olympic Trials.

DeCiantis started strong but began having trouble around Mile 23. She reached the final straightaway at 2:43, with just 2 minutes left to qualify. At 200 yards from the finish line, she stumbled and fell.

Dazed, she stayed down for 20 seconds. The crowd yelled, "Get up!" The clock was ticking – 2:44, less than a minute to go.

DeCiantis staggered to her feet and began walking. Five yards short of the finish line, with 10 seconds to go, she fell again. She began to crawl, the crowd cheering her on, and crossed the finish line on her hands and knees.

Her time? It was 2 hours, 44 minutes, 57 seconds.

Hebrews 12:1 reminds us to run with endurance the race that is before us.

That is a reference to spiritual matters, to be strong in our faith and to be a shining example of our heavenly citizenship.



But it is also a lesson for those who have committed their lives to the mission of serving others in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home. We must be faithful, patient and persevere in the work we are called to do.

– Beecher Hunter