

Dorothy (Goertzen) Quayle

Athlete

Dorothy Goertzen was born in 1955 and was raised on a family farm near Winnipegosis, MB, attending high school in that town. She is almost surely the most accomplished female distance runner ever born in this Province.

Dorothy went to University of Manitoba but did not join the Bison track team. After graduation, she enrolled in a Master's program at U of Minnesota in Exercise Physiology. Although she participated in cross-country skiing and bicycling and did some jogging, she was not a competitive athlete and not a road runner until she moved to Toronto in the early 1980's, taking her MBA part-time at U of Toronto, and joining Canada's most elite distance running club, the Etobicoke Husky Striders, under coach Hugh Cameron. That club included Canada's top distance runners of the time, such as Dave Edge, Dave Reid (a 1500m and 3000m runner), Mike Dion and Silvia Ruegger, and they trained hard (a monthly 30 mile run in Guelph, for instance) and competed at the highest level of races.

In 1983, Dorothy started racing seriously, aiming for the 1984 Canadian Olympic team. She ran the Manitoba Marathon that year in 2:41:41. In August that year, she competed at the IAFF world championships in Helsinki and ran 2:46:38. The next spring, she accepted an invitation to compete at the women only Nagoya marathon in Japan and ran 2:41:33. Two months later she came 5th at the Olympic trials (National Capital Marathon in Ottawa) in 2:36:54, but felt she had underperformed. A couple of weeks later, in St. Catherine, she ran a 34:03 10 km, out of frustration at not making the Canadian Olympic team. She did a "training run" in the Manitoba Marathon the following month in 2:50:46. Three months later, she raced in the Avon International series marathon in Paris, France as an invited runner and ran 2:35:24, placing 5th. She finished ahead of Joyce Smith, an Olympian from Britain.

In 1985, Dorothy was invited to run in Hiroshima, Japan in a women-only event and ran 2:44:10. The next year she ran Grandma's in Duluth and ran 2:38:50 and 2:40:34 in Chicago in October. In 1987, she ran Ottawa in 2:40:59 and in 1988, she ran Chicago in 2:49:16.

She ran the 1988 Islendingadagurinn 10 miler in 57:59, paced by her friend Chris McCubbins all the way.

Once she started working, she reduced her training intensity and while remaining active, she rarely competed, and only did it casually. She married in 1996 and became Dorothy Quayle. When she retired, in Saskatchewan in 2022, she decided to retire to Pinawa to be closer to family and friends in Manitoba. She recently ran the Kleefeld 5 km in under 26 minutes as a 70 year-old and plans to aim for national age class records in 2026, perhaps 15 km and 10 miles.

Over her career in her prime, Dorothy ran 12 full marathons, 11 under 2:52, 9 under 2:50 and 3 under 2:40. Her 34:03 10 km and 57:59 10 mile would be among the best ever run by Manitoba women. Her 2:41:41 in the 1983 Manitoba Marathon is faster than the official Manitoba record of 2:45 (apparently not recognized as a Manitoban). Dorothy's performances make her a most worthy inductee to the MRA Hall of Fame.