

Kristjana Britton

Kristjana is a half marathon specialist. She got started in running at Charleswood Junior High, running cross-country on the school team. She trained by herself, and until she was old enough to run on the streets on her own, she ran in circles in her back yard until she ruined the grass! At Oak Park High School she added track to cross-country and by Grade 11 she was the leader on the school's cross-country team. After high school, she started at U of Winnipeg where there was no track or cross-country program, but she transferred to U of Manitoba in second year and trained with Claude Berube's team. A highlight of her university running career was competing at the 2012 CIS cross-country nationals in London, ON and not finishing last on the team! She ran indoor track, but cross-country continued to be her first love.

Kristjana ran her first road race while in university and has run the Manitoba Marathon half marathon about 10 times. In 2016, she ran 1:25:30, just 11 seconds behind the second place finisher. That was her fastest half of her career to date. She has also run the Police Half Marathon a few times.

Kristjana's most memorable running experience so far was in the 2019 San Francisco half marathon, starting at Fisherman's Wharf and climbing over the Golden Gate Bridge. It was her first and (so far) only out of town race, although she always does training runs in cities she visits. She tried to follow the 1:30 pace bunny but not having trained very much on hills, it became too tough near the end. She was in second place until 2 other runners passed her just before the finish - but still happy with a final time of 1:31. Her siblings had travelled with her, and they insisted on walking back and forth over the Golden Gate Bridge shortly after the race. She was beyond tired and done with hills when the walk was over!

Kristjana would like to travel to more races in the future and try a 10 km, a 10 miler and a full marathon. For now, she remains the half marathon specialist! She still trains on her own and finds the quiet introspection a great stress reliever.