

Book Review by Koach Karl
See Dane Run
Author: Dane Rauschenberg

I was in Sunriver, Oregon a few weeks ago participating in the Pacific Crest Marathon with a group from my Runners In Touch Team. It was a great event and I highly recommend it... but to the book. While at the expo for the marathon, I found a wonderful book. Do you know when you go to the expo and you find that one unique thing that is the diamond in the rough of the thousands of normal things at an expo, and it is worth the trip? For example, at the Carlsbad Marathon in 2002, I discovered Injinji Tek sock www.injinji.com, and I cannot imagine running ultras without them.

At Pacific Crest, Dane Rauschenberg's book, *See Dane Run*, was my diamond. Dane had a booth and was signing his book. Who the hell is Dan Rauschenberg? We chatted for a few minutes, and he expressed his thoughts about the Pacific Crest Marathon and how much he enjoyed it. Then he told me about his book. He ran 52 marathons in 52 weeks, and in a nutshell, that is what the book entails. With the emergence of Dean Karnazes and his 50 Marathons in 50 days, and various others who had completed this type of event, I was not all that impressed. However, I wanted something non-political to read over the weekend so I bought a copy.

Now I have to be honest here, because I really did not care for Dane when I talked to him. I cannot explain exactly why, but he just rubbed me the wrong way. Of course it could be that I am a judgmental, arrogant jerk. NO WAY. Needless to say, I started reading it with low expectations. However, as I read his story and got caught up in his journey and his quest to raise money for L'Arche-Mobile (a community for the handicapped—find out more at <http://bellsouthpwp.net//a/larchmob/rk>), and being a charity runner myself, I began to soften. In the end, I came to think very highly of this Dane character, and I am sure he is very excited that I approve.

Not only did Dane run a marathon every weekend, but he ran all of them (but one) in a sub 4-hour time. He even ran a few sub 3-hours! The one that took him something like 5 hours was a trail mountain marathon in Colorado, so it really does not count. He seemed to get faster as the year went by, and I thought, "What an incredible athlete!" Now the times of his marathons and the fact that he was running one every weekend is impressive, but having run a lot of marathons and ultras, I could see this was possible. Now the times he ran them in would never be possible for me. I like to take my time and squeeze every penny out of my registration fee. OK, I am just slow. To me, the ultra aspect was not the impressive part.

As I read about each marathon, what was amazing was the fact that he planned and financed this himself. That is over 80,000 miles of flight, hotels, food, clothing, shoes... EVERYTHING was out of his own pocket. NO sponsors. At the same time he was raising money for L'Arche-Mobile. How can you not like

this guy?! Follow his quest to complete the challenge of 52 marathons in 52 weeks and you will think the same thing. It is a great read and a rollercoaster ride of a year in which he takes you. To find out more about Dane, checkout his site at www.seedanerun.com.

I think we could all learn from Dane and his adventurous year of marathons. What could we learn? That anything is possible!

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