The first woman to run the Boston Marathon

Do you know how long a marathon is? *(Yes, it's about ___ kilometers.)*

Vocabulary

1. official 2. embarrassment 3. chaos 4. fear 5. entered 6. yelled

True Story

In the 1960s, women couldn't run in marathons. Yet, Kathrine Switzer, who loved running, _____ the 1967 Boston Marathon. She used the name 'K Switzer' to register. When the race started, the people in charge found out a woman was running. Jock Semple, a race _____, tried to stop Kathrine. He _____, "Leave my race and give me your numbers!" Kathrine's boyfriend Tom Miller, also a runner, pushed Semple away.

Kathrine kept running. Kathrine thought, "If I stop, people will think women can't run long distances. It would be a step back for women's sports. If I stop, Semple wins." So she continued despite her _____ and _____. Kathrine finished the race in 4 hours and 20 minutes. The race director said, "Women can't run in marathons. Rules say so. We need rules or there will be _____." However, five years later, women could officially run in the Boston Marathon.

Quiz

1. How long did it take Kathrine to finish the race?
2. Why did Kathrine keep running?

True or False

1. Kathrine used her real name to register for the marathon. True | False
2. Kathrine's boyfriend was a race official. True | False
3. Women were officially allowed to run in the Boston Marathon in 1967. True | False

Conversation

Tom: Great job, Kathrine! You showed them what women can do!
Katherine: Thanks, Tom! I couldn't have done it without your support.
Tom: I can't believe that guy tried to stop you.
Katherine: I can't believe you pushed him off the road!
Tom: Haha, he had it coming.
Katherine: Hmm... I wonder what will happen now?

Discussion

1. Have you ever participated in a sports event?
2. Would you consider running a marathon? Why or why not?
3. How do you think Kathrine's actions helped change women's sports?

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