

## The Columbus Dispatch

### FUNDRAISING

# Runner chases Guinness record

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BY **AMY SAUNDERS**

**THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH**

There are runners who race for a cause, and then there's Kalyn Jolivette.

To raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, she checked the Guinness world record for the most marathons completed by a woman in consecutive days - and added one more.

So, starting Wednesday, she'll run 11 marathons in 11 days, or 26.2 miles daily through June 19.

"I figured, to bring awareness, I'd have to do something that caught people's attention," said Jolivette, a 23-year-old Coshocton native.

A runner since middle school, she regularly logs 100 miles a week - even while attending medical school at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Her planned 288 miles on the Pickerington North High School track represents less than half the distance she covered in 2007, during her last major running mission: She spent a month trekking 700 miles across the 88 Ohio counties in the name of cystic fibrosis, the chronic disease suffered by her childhood friend Kim Rollins.

She'd come up with the feat, but she wanted to run for a purpose, not just an achievement.

Along with hometown friend Janell Strouse, her sophomore roommate at Ohio State University, Jolivette thought of Rollins, a member of their kindergarten Girl Scout troop.

Rollins has remained in fair health, but her two older siblings died of cystic fibrosis as teenagers.



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**Kalyn Jolivette, who plans to run 11 marathons in 11 days to break the Guinness record and raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation**

- Kalyn Jolivette will run from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday and about 7 to 11 a.m. daily through June 19 on the track at Pickerington North High School, 7800 Refugee Rd. Runners can join her by paying \$5 on the first five days, \$10 on days six through 10 and \$25 on the final day -- with proceeds designated for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Call 614-

People with the disease, which makes the body produce thick mucus that sometimes clogs the lungs and digestive system, have a median life expectancy of 37 years.

846-2440 or visit  
<http://centralohio.cff.org/r>

During a hot August, Jolivette ran about 21 miles a day on back roads, with Strouse trailing on a bike most of the way - and their mothers driving ahead for safety and with food and water.

They slept in tents and moved into the Kia Sorrento during times of pouring rain and two tornado warnings.

Though sometimes discouraged by the weather, Jolivette stayed mostly injury-free and undeterred from her goal.

"She has that ability to just keep going; it doesn't seem to tire her," said her mother, Faye. "I think it's a God-given thing."

Through other marathons and triathlons, Jolivette has never had a major injury.

Last year, to finish a 50-mile race in Indiana, she sprinted the last 2 miles at a seven-minute, 30-second pace - then told her mother, "That was fun."

Despite her hectic schedule in school, Jolivette almost always finds time to run after class.

"That's why I like running so much - because I don't think about much at all," she said. "It's a big stress reliever to me."

A year ago, she approached the central Ohio chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation about beating the Guinness record - set during the Brathay 10 in 10 in the United Kingdom.

The 10-marathon challenge has been completed by 27 runners.

With donors paying to run alongside Jolivette for portions of her marathons, the foundation hopes to pick up \$10,000 through her efforts, spokeswoman Erin Hays said.

Her 700-mile run drew \$5,000 in donations.

Family members will watch Jolivette most days, with Strouse, 24, traveling from Indiana to accompany her again.

Barb Phillips, a cystic-fibrosis patient who befriended Jolivette during her run across the state, plans to make the trip from Sylvania to see her cross the finish line.

"There's a lot of people who don't know what cystic fibrosis is," said Phillips, a 42-year-old awaiting double lung and kidney transplants. "With what Kalyn's done, I think they're becoming more aware. ... She's dedicated her life, I think, to raising money for more research."

After the marathons, Jolivette plans to enjoy some rare time off until August in Victorian Village - running just 5 miles a day.

Yet, come Wednesday, she faces 99 laps around the track.

She'll then go home to soak, eat, sleep and wake up - to do it 10 more times.

"Her new goal sounds crazy," Strouse said, "but it's something she will do unless - I can't even say 'unless.' It's something she will do."

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