

#14: Patrick the First Physically Challenged Athlete to RUN in the Antarctica Marathon

Feb. 1997: Patrick became the first physically challenged athlete who, with 81 able-bodied athletes from around the world, ran in the Antarctica Marathon. This endeavor was to raise funds and awareness for Washington University School of Medicine's SCI program— another first for a SCI Quadriplegic.

The Last Marathon in Antarctica

The Last Marathon in Antarctica was successfully completed by Patrick despite injuries sustained during the race. The race was a fundraiser for spinal cord research at Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri.

82 runners raced, buffeted with 40-mph winds blowing snow horizontally across frozen glaciers, and compounded with single digit temperatures and muddy terrain. What a challenge! Patrick became the first SCI quadriplegic to participate in and complete a marathon,

Patrick completed the 26.2 mile Last Marathon, the only race held in Antarctica, despite a fractured tibia suffered on a glacier near the start of the race. "When I got home, my leg was so swollen, I couldn't take off my jeans!" he says.

"Pat Rummerfield, who struggled through 17 years of physical therapy after an automobile accident, finished the marathon in 6:48:10, remarkable considering he fractured his leg from falling into a crevice on Collins glacier near the start."

--Kim Puntillo, New York Times

