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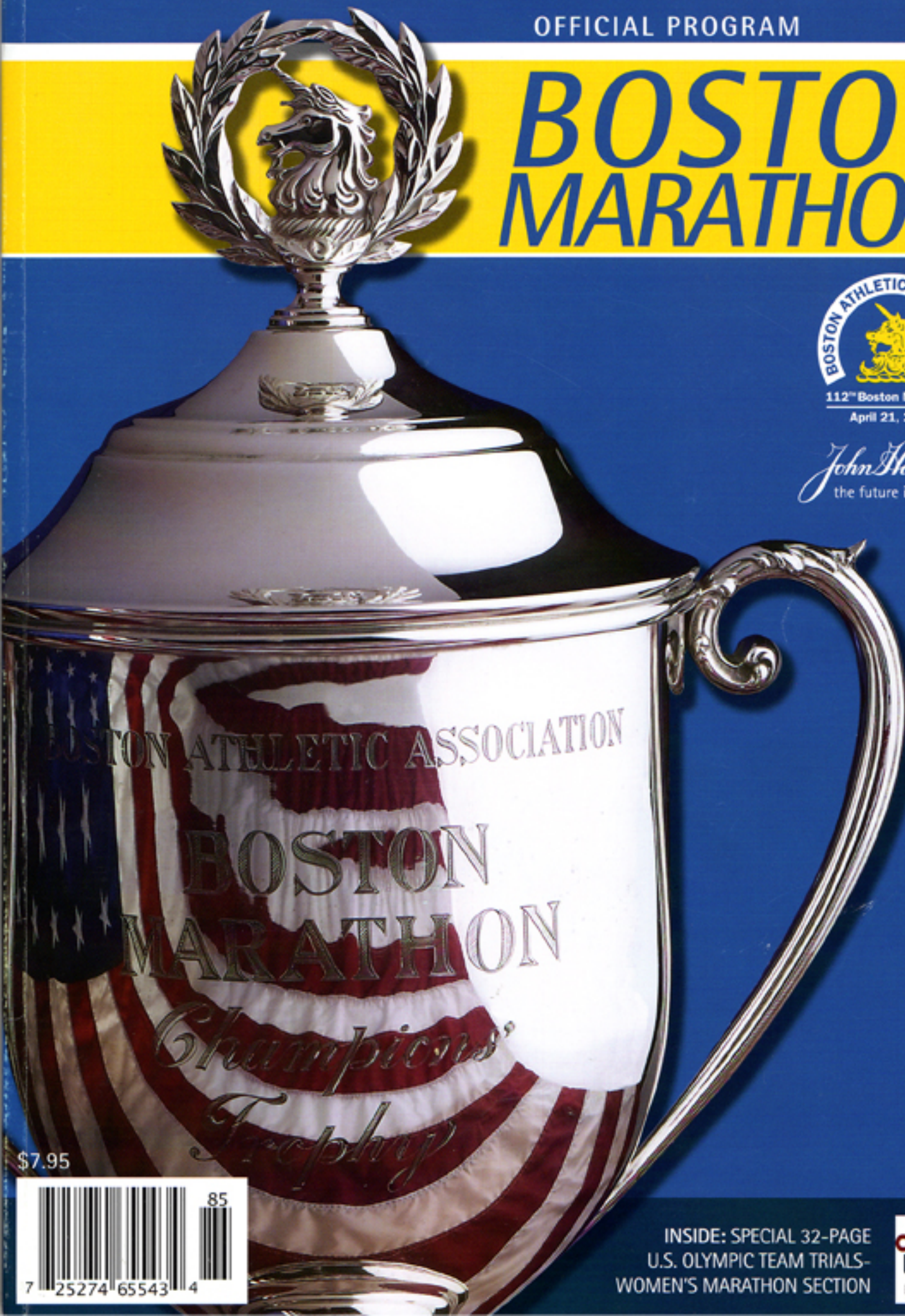
# BOSTON MARATHON



112<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon®

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WOMEN'S MARATHON SECTION





# Boston Marathon Notebook

Nine featured athletes bring intriguing subplots to Boston

By Jake Duhaime



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Linda Quirk

Notebook cont'd from p.102

in mind; he's focused on enjoying himself. "Often times you tend to focus on the end goal and you're disappointed if you don't reach it," Oster said. "I'm going to enjoy this as much as possible. It's just an awesome marathon."

### Linda Quirk

Seven marathons in 11 months is a daunting task, even without circling the globe to accomplish the feat. Yet that's exactly what Linda Quirk, of Florida, is trying to do this year.

She'll push her body and her frequent-flier miles to the max, hoping to raise a million dollars for the same substance-abuse program that helped get her stepdaughter back on track.

And she'll start her journey right here in Boston.



Sonia O'S

"Boston has always been the one I do but have never qualified for," Quirk said. "Two years ago, I missed it by a minute and change, and I've never been able to actually grab it."

With a team of coaches and specialists helping her along the way, Quirk has trained to handle both the roads and the logistics of her massive undertaking. Her time is limited, her travel lengthy, and her ability to recover almost nonexistent.

"The time frame of the first four marathons is really tight," Quirk said. "Boston in April, China in May, two days back home, and then I'll be off to Easter Island, and then I'll come back home for another week-and-a-half before leaving for Kenya."

Quirk will finish her journey with stops in Iceland, Australia, and Antarctica. The grandmother of three also plans to show off to her supporters following her journey thousands of miles away the sights and sounds of the different continents, blogging and uploading pictures and video footage

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for her website (run7on7.com) throughout.

"I'm really lucky, because there's a whole group of people behind me," Quirk said. "I feel confident that we'll do a great job." And she's thrilled to start at an event as prestigious as Boston, especially with the added bonus of the Olympic Trials the day before.

"I'm extremely excited," Quirk said. "It's intimidating just thinking about the caliber of people there. I just want to absorb the whole experience, because the history of the race is second to-none."

For many years, Sonia O'Sullivan dominated long-distance running on the track, not the streets.

The Irish legend was one of the best

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