

To: Gayle Barron
Date: 12/08/2010
RE: Boston No Stopping Sign

Gayle,

Thanks so much for autographing the Boston No Stopping sign for Midwest Family's Legal Aid Bureau fund-raising auction, and for taking the time to chat with me over the phone. The sign now has a total of twelve autographs of American women athletes that have competed at the Boston Marathon including all American women to have won there since Bobbi Gibb first ran it unsanctioned in 1966 through the last American woman to win there, Lisa Larsen Wiedenbach.

The history of the American women that ran at the Boston Marathon in the late 60's into the early 80's is a compelling story of both the fight for women's rights and the progression of ever improving performance. That story culminates with the Gold win by Joan Benoit Samuelson at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles - the end of a long battle by those pioneer women that ran Boston in those early years and worked so hard to get long distance race events included in the Olympics.

You were definitely an integral part of that progression and certainly exemplify that era of women athletes pushing the limits in maximum potential performance. It is impressive that you ran 23 of 26 marathons in less than 3-hours over your career. Further, those 5 marathons you ran over the course of 6-months culminating with that personal best (2:44) 1st place win at the 1978 Boston is a testament to your awesome abilities as a distance runner. Should anyone think that 1978 Boston win was a fluke; one has only to do a little sleuthing to uncover the facts that you were indeed a world-class athlete with the performances to back it up.

I can only conclude that Gayle Barron is somebody the world needs to recognize and love! I never knew who you were until I started this autograph project, but it wasn't hard to find you once I discovered your name on the list of Boston winners. Your place in history winning Boston in 1978 stands as a record of your best ability, but it was obvious that this was forged long before through a lot of hard work and intensive training.

Even greater are all those initiatives and philanthropic causes that you have been involved with that I discovered on your website that really defines who you are and what you are all about. I must commend you for such a marvelous job you did in both life and career, but it is your commitment to help the world be a better place for all of humanity that really captured my attention.

Never think that the world doesn't know who Gayle Barron is – I certainly do!

You are a champion of the Boston Marathon – champion in life – the latter far better than winning a mere race.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Mauger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'M'.

David Mauger