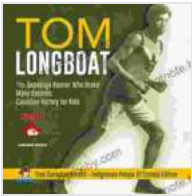


# Tom Longboat: The Onondaga Runner Who Broke Many Records



Tom Longboat - The Onondaga Runner Who Broke Many Records | Canadian History for Kids | True Canadian Heroes - Indigenous People Of Canada

**Edition** by David Wright

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 26988 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 72 pages



## A Legendary Native American Athlete

Tom Longboat, whose Onondaga name was Cogwagee, was born on the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve in 1887.

Longboat's story is an inspiring tale of overcoming adversity and achieving greatness. Despite facing poverty, discrimination, and physical setbacks, he rose above his challenges to become one of the most renowned runners in Canadian history.

Longboat's talent for running was discovered at a young age. As a teenager, he began competing in local footraces and quickly gained attention for his exceptional speed and endurance.

## The Boston Marathon Legend

Longboat's star truly rose in 1907 when he competed in the Boston Marathon. Despite being an amateur and having never run a marathon before, he finished in third place, an astonishing feat for a newcomer to the distance.

Longboat's performance at Boston catapulted him into the spotlight, but it was his victory in the 1908 Boston Marathon that cemented his legendary status. In a dramatic race, he defeated the defending champion and set a new course record, becoming the first Native American to win the prestigious event.

### **Other Notable Victories**

In addition to his triumphs in Boston, Longboat achieved numerous other notable victories during his career. He won the Canadian Marathon Championship five times and set numerous national and world records.

In 1913, Longboat set a world record for running 20 miles in 1 hour and 9 minutes, a time that remained unchallenged for over 20 years.

### **Overcoming Obstacles**

Longboat's accomplishments were not without their struggles. He faced discrimination and prejudice throughout his career, and his Indigenous heritage often made it difficult for him to gain recognition for his achievements.

Despite these challenges, Longboat persevered, inspiring countless others with his determination and tenacity.

### **Legacy and Impact**

Tom Longboat's legacy extends far beyond his running achievements. He was a pioneer and role model for Indigenous athletes and a symbol of resilience and triumph over adversity.

Today, Longboat's name continues to be celebrated in Canada. Numerous schools, streets, and parks are named after him, and his story continues to inspire generations of young people.

## **Rediscovering Tom Longboat**

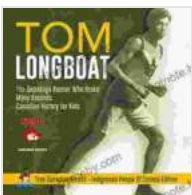
In recent years, there has been a growing interest in rediscovering Tom Longboat's story. Several books and documentaries have been produced, shedding new light on his life and legacy.

One such book is "Tom Longboat: The Story of an Iroquois Runner" by Donald M. Fisher. This comprehensive biography provides a thorough account of Longboat's life, from his humble beginnings to his remarkable achievements.

## **Inspiring Future Generations**

The story of Tom Longboat continues to resonate with people of all backgrounds. His unwavering determination, relentless spirit, and ability to overcome obstacles are timeless lessons that can inspire us all.

Tom Longboat's legacy serves as a reminder that anything is possible if we dare to reach for our dreams, regardless of the challenges we may face.



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## Canadian Heroes - Indigenous People Of Canada

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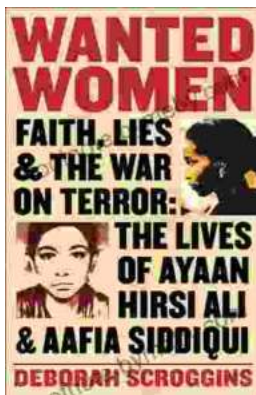
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