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**M**arianne Dickerson started running nine years ago in high school and eventually became the Illinois state champion in the half-mile run. She is now running a race 52 times longer — the marathon.

Marianne, 22, ran her first marathon in June 1982 in a fast 2:43:19. She had never run more than 12 miles before that, she said.

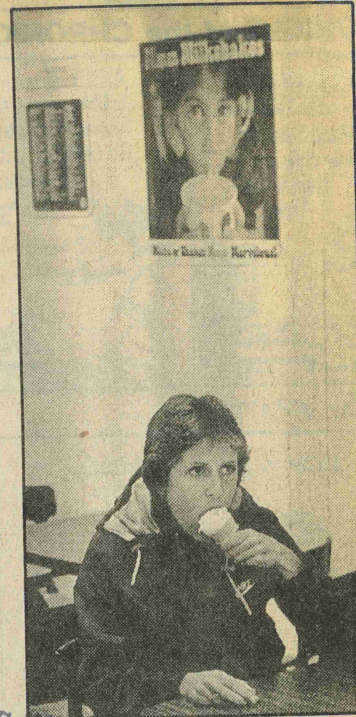
She ran a 2:33:44 in her second marathon in June earlier this year.

Her only other marathon was a second-place finish in 2:31:09 at the World Championships in Helsinki, Finland. Marianne's performance "changed my whole life — from a nobody to a Cinderella story overnight," she says.

She recently moved to Ann Arbor, where she is a graduate student at the University of Michigan, to train with running coach John Goodridge.

Her training schedule is intense — she runs 90 to 110 miles weekly. She says she has probably taken only one day off from running in the last year.

"I think it becomes addictive," Marianne says of her running. "I set a goal and once I achieve it, I set a higher goal. The only time I don't



enjoy running is when I have a hard workout and know I have a long run the next day."

*This is the second in an occasional series on Michigan athletes aiming for the 1984 Olympics. These athletes have already won major competitions.*

**Photostory by David C. Turnley**

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