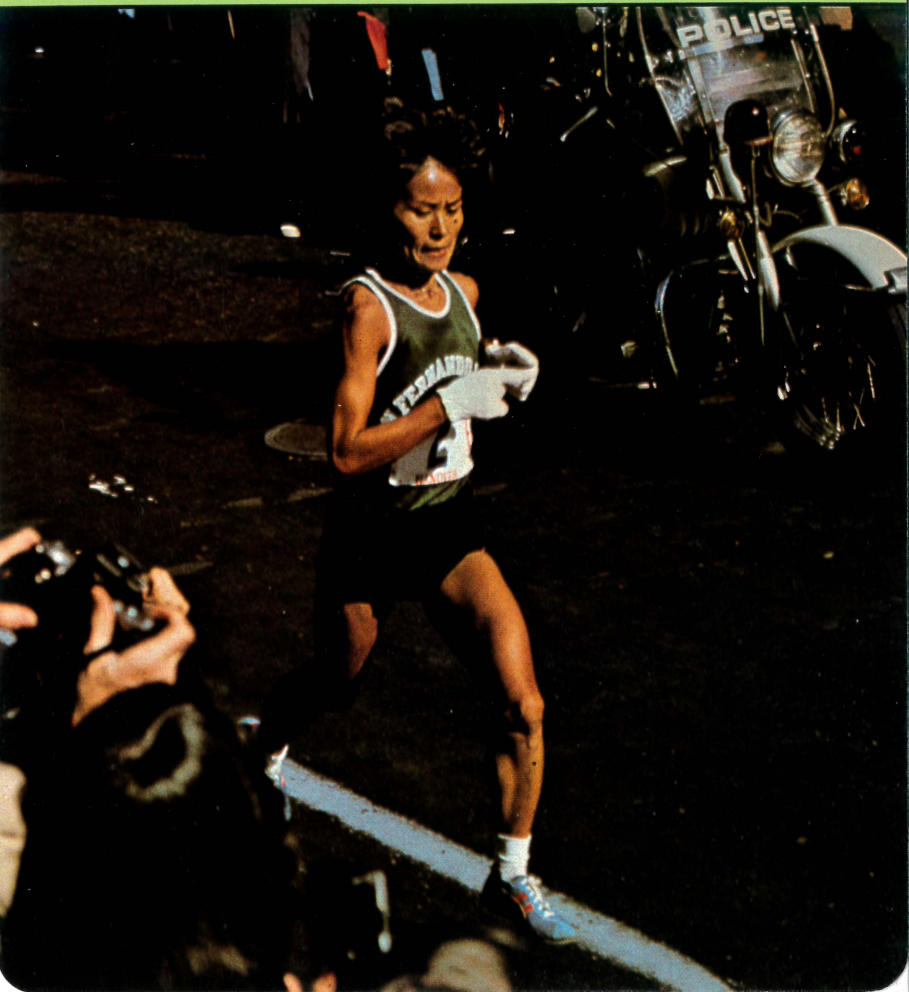


Track and Field



Miki Gorman



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A Late Bloomer

As remarkable as has been her athletic achievements, such as setting a world record for women marathoners and running 100 miles almost non-stop, the real life story of Michiko "Miki" Gorman is even more inspiring.

Raised in war-torn Japan, she and her mother were fortunate enough to escape from Hiroshima shortly before the bomb was dropped. She came to America in her late 20's as a governess, then got a job with a Japanese import firm in San Francisco. Most of her \$60 a week salary was sent back to her family in Japan, and Miki taught herself English. About five years after arriving in the U.S., while at a church social, she met a San Francisco stock-broker named Mike Gorman, whom she married.

"I was very skinny and felt unhealthy then," Miki says, so her husband got her involved in a physical fitness program at a local YMCA. Included was some jogging. Within a year, Gorman was running 15 miles a day, and about a year after that she ran 100 miles on an indoor track, stopping only for dinner during the approximately 21-hour stint.

Ironically, on the day in 1973 when she set the then world record of two hours

and 46 minutes for the marathon, her intention had been to pace her friend, Jacqueline Hansen, who was bidding for the mark herself. But Hansen faded, and Gorman carried on.

That record since has been bettered by, among others, Gorman, whose best time for the 26 miles, 385 yards is 2:39.10. Gorman won the Boston Marathon in 1974 and the New York City Marathon in 1976. Then, at age 41, she swept both prestigious events in 1977. It is another irony about Miki that her intention when she first took up jogging was to build her body, but she still weighs in at about 88 lb on her tiny 4'11" frame. But she no longer has that unhealthy feeling.

In addition to her running, Gorman coordinates and plans races for Avon in Japan and she also wrote an autobiography for sale in her native land. What may be the final twist to a remarkable life came when Miki, long after she had given up hope, gave birth to a daughter at the age of 39.

MIKI GORMAN

Born Aug. 9, 1935 in Japan