

WTF is Jon Rankin?

When I became a professional runner in the summer of 2005 I had exploded on to the international running scene. In just one season I had run 17 personal bests. For all of you non-soon-to-be Track & Field fans out there, what that means is every time I competed I ran faster than I did the race before. To have that many personal bests in a career is amazing. To have that many personal bests in one season is rare.

Upon signing my first professional contract that summer I started getting calls to do interviews with major running publications practically asking me, “Who is Jon Rankin?” Seven years later I sit here writing this first post in consideration of how great of a question this really is. Who is Jon Rankin? Well, I’m Jon Rankin, but if I had to describe myself to someone who has just met me for the first time in their life, I wonder what would I tell them first to help them discover who I am?

I guess I would tell them that I’m a runner because I’ve been running since I was 15 years old; and I plan on being a runner for the rest of my life. I guess I should also tell them that I run for a living, which means I get paid to stay in shape. Gosh, now that I think about it, this stranger would probably also want to know how I got into running and why I’ve continued to run.

Well, I got into running because of what I witnessed during the 1996 Summer Olympics. I remember watching Michael Johnson of the USA sprint his way to gold medals in the 200 meters and 400 meters while wearing spikes that were the color of gold. After watching him do what he did I discovered what I wanted to do—become an Olympic champion.

Why do I still run today? I continue to run because the dreams I had that fateful summer in 1996 have continued to be the driving force of my life. I’ve achieved so much in the sport of Track & Field and after fifteen years I still feel like I have so much left to achieve. I still run because it still makes me happy. I still run because I still believe that I will become an Olympic champion. I still run because I believe running has helped me not just survive life, but live it boldly. I run because it continues to save me with every step I take. And I believe if I keep running that it will help me save the world.

Who is Jon Rankin? I’m just an ordinary guy with an extraordinary ability to run really fast for a really long time. You may not know who I am today, but this is only the first time we’ve met. There’s still a lot I haven’t told you. There’s so much to this story and I don’t want to try to tell it to you all in our first meeting. If you give me time I will tell you everything. I will tell you about what I’ve discovered as an ordinary boy who is quickly becoming an international running star. When it’s all said and done, by the time we get to the finish line of the journey I’m on right now, I promise you won’t need to ask the question who is Jon Rankin? anymore. Instead, you’ll be asking a new question: how do we catch Jon Rankin?

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Who is Jon Rankin? I'm Jon Rankin and I'm running to become what the world is chasing.