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Oklahoma runner seeks costumed world record at Route 66 Marathon



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By JOHN D. FERGUSON World Correspondent
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Find the official Route 66 Marathon site.

When Camille Herron runs a marathon, she isn't clowning around. Well, maybe she is a little bit.

The accomplished 30-year-old runner traded in her science and research lab coat to become a full-time professional marathoner.

Herron's success landed the Oklahoma native on the 2011 United States Pan American team, and she finished 18th overall in the 2011 New York Marathon.

Herron has another side to her sparkling running persona. She is a self-admitted goof ball.

The Warr Acres resident will run in Sunday's Route 66 Marathon wearing a Spider-Man costume.

Herron is trying to break the women's Guinness Book of World Records time for running in a superhero costume of 3:08.55.

"I do goofy things," said Herron, who graduated from the University of Tulsa with honors in 2005. "I think it's a record

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that I'm meant to have. Tulsa is my favorite city in Oklahoma. The (marathon) route winds through the TU campus. I thought that was really cool."

One thing that will not be cool is the costume, which covers Herron from head to toe with cutouts for eyes, nose and mouth. Herron admitted she needs a cool day to run in the outfit and "not take a bathroom break."

All signs point to Herron achieving her goal to make the Guinness record book.



She did a test run on

Halloween and survived.

More points in Herron's favor are: Her personal best marathon time is 2:37.14 without a full body costume. She has also won six marathons, including Oklahoma City's Memorial race, and is the state record holder.

"I got the idea from Michael Wardian," Herron said. "He holds the Guinness record for men running a marathon as Spider-Man."

Herron went the Spider-Man route when another friend, Leah Thorgilson, ran many 10k races as the same character.

The road to becoming one of the United States' best female marathoners was not a straight line. Herron was injured during her college days at TU and sat out. During the time off, she met her future husband, Conor Holt, who is also an accomplished marathon runner.

Conor became Camille's coach, and the pair even work

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together at Oklahoma City University. Conor is the cross country and track head coach, and Camille is a volunteer coach.

Conor has nothing but respect for his wife's dedication to the sport.

"With all the training she's had and making two Olympic Trials, she's one tough cookie," Holt said. "I'll give her that."

Herron was a three-time, cross country all-stater during her prep days at Duncan and Westmoore high schools and a three-time track state champion.

Herron studied exercise and sport science with a minor in biology at TU. She accepted teaching and research fellowships to Oregon State and later worked as a research assistant in Foods and Nutrition at Purdue University.

Injuries her freshman year at TU prevented Herron from doing much competitively. Once healed, Herron found that a successful runner could make a living off marathons, and that's what pays the bills now. Marathonguide.com, Inov-8, Powerbar and Hyperwear companies sponsor Herron.

"She's been through it all," OCU freshman runner Kate O'Halloran said. "She's had injuries and successes. She's achieved an awful lot. She really gives good input and great advice."

Sunday, Herron will add "costumed runner" to her growing resume.

Marathon notes: Entries are still being taken for the 5K and fun run.

Walkers are also eligible. Go to the Route 66 Marathon website to enter online at tulsaworld.com/66marathon.

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By JOHN D. FERGUSON World Correspondent

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