

How two S.A. friends made history

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By Vincent T. Davis

Back in 2022, Ross Ormond and Andrew McAllister set a goal: They wanted to be the first team of duo racers to complete in and finish six of the world's most prestigious marathons.

In early March, they accomplished that mission by finishing the 2025 Tokyo Marathon to complete the Abbot World Marathon Six Star Challenge. The challenge calls for completing the Boston, New York, Chicago, London, Berlin and Tokyo marathons.

Ormond and McAllister aren't your typical marathoners. McAllister has cerebral palsy and competes in the marathons using a racing wheelchair, being pushed by Ormond.

The duo was one of four teams running in the Tokyo Marathon. They finished in 3 hours, 12 minutes and 47 seconds.

"As someone who loves sports, to be given the opportunity to be part of competition is something I thought I'd never have," McAllister said. "It has truly changed my life. I'm a changed person because of Ross Ormond."

In 2008, McAllister founded the Believe It Foundation, which has a goal of enriching "the lives of children with physical challenges through inclusion of those children in lives and experiences of those who do not face the same limitations."

According to www.runinrabbbit.com, the duo met in 2012 through a friend at a Bible study. In 2017, their journey began when Ormond asked McAllister if he'd like to run in the Rock and Roll Marathon.

Ormond said he was honored to compete in the challenge – and team up with McAllister.

"I know my life is richer, it's fuller because Andrew is in my life," Ormond said.