



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# FRISBIE REPEATS, SMITH WINS DEBUT AT 2025 GARRY BJORKLUND HALF MARATHON

*Event Sets New Record with 8,220 Finishers*

**(DULUTH, MINN.)** --- It was one known commodity and one relative unknown first to cross the finish line on Saturday morning in the 2025 Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon, offering a perfect juxtaposition between the champions in the event's 35th running.

Annie Frisbie arrived in Duluth the favorite in the women's race, that after winning for the first time last year and smashing the event record in the process. She and Minnesota Distance Elite teammate Dakotah Popehn finished 1-2 a year ago, and they did so again on Saturday.

Frisbie, 28, finished just eight seconds ahead of Popehn, 30, with a time of 1:09:05 – more than 90 seconds slower than her record-setting run from a year ago. She becomes only the third woman to have multiple titles at the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon, joining Kelly Keeler and Debra Gormley, who each have three.

Murphy Smith, meanwhile, emerged from a wide-open field on the men's side to win in his first-ever appearance in Duluth. Just 10 days ago, he was representing Navy in the 10,000-meters in the NCAA Championships, where he finished 14th.

Smith, 22, finished in 1:02:49 and was more than a minute ahead of runner-up Mohammed Bati. He is the event's youngest men's champion since 19-year-old John Klecker won in 2003.

Taylor Longshore, 22, won the non-binary category with a time of 1:40:35.

This was easily the largest Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon on record, with 8,220 total finishers to beat the old mark of 7,918 from 2016. Full results of the 2025 Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon can be found [HERE](#).



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For any questions or interview requests, please contact Marketing & Public Relations Director Zach Schneider via phone at (218) 343-9874 or via email at [zach@grandmasmarathon.com](mailto:zach@grandmasmarathon.com).

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#### ABOUT GRANDMA'S MARATHON

Grandma's Marathon began in 1977 when a group of local runners planned a scenic road race from Two Harbors to Duluth, Minnesota. After seeing just 150 registered participants that year, the marathon has now grown into the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the United States.

The race got its name from the Duluth-based group of famous Grandma's Restaurants, the first major sponsor of the marathon. Having now added the Garry Bjorklund Half Marathon and William A. Irvin 5K, the race weekend now welcomes more than 20,000 participants to Duluth and the surrounding region each year.

As the popularity of Grandma's Marathon weekend has grown, our mission has stayed the same – to organize, promote, and deliver annual events and programs that cultivate running, educational, social, and charitable opportunities to our communities.

Grandma's Marathon-Duluth, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization with an nine-person, full-time staff and a 17-member Board of Directors.



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