

Bianca Greco is Awarded a \$10,000 Scholarship by the Falmouth Road Race, Inc.

By Olivia dePunte

June 30, 2023

Bianca Greco's parents knew there was something special about her when she started wandering away from the playground every day at recess to run endless laps around the field. As non-runners themselves, they were bewildered by this child of theirs that took to running like a fish to water. Even more perplexing, she began begging to go for a run on the bike path every day, especially in a downpour. This need to run was something deeply instinctual to her; after the days of recess were long over, it's driven her to track competitions in almost every state and even led to a service trip in Africa.

The Falmouth Road Race, Inc. Board of Directors also felt this special quality leap off the page in Bianca's application. In addition to the over \$90,000 in scholarships they awarded to high school graduates this year, they presented Bianca with a \$10,000 scholarship towards her first year at Westminster University in Salt Lake City, Utah in thanks for her many years of hard work and service to the race and her community.

Bianca ran her first Falmouth Road Race at 11 and swept the field, winning her age group for five consecutive years after that first race. She's even raised money for Team Ronald McDonald House for two of those years. Her parents have cheered her on every step of the way, her dad racing ahead on bike to see her pass at every mile.

Coming off her first win, she entered the seventh grade at Falmouth Academy and realized the need for a running team. Sitting by was not in her nature, so she decided to do something about it. 12-year-old Bianca set up a personal meeting with the FRR office to ask for advice on how to start a cross country team. Since then, she's captained a full varsity team. She also just led the dedication for the brand new cross country course at Falmouth Academy last September. Her team volunteers as a water stop for Falmouth in the Fall every year, and she often donates her time to the SBLI Family Fun Run as well.

When she's not running or volunteering, she's appreciating the presence of so many elite athletes in her town each summer. She follows their stats, similar to the way many keep close tabs on celebrities. Her family has been gracious enough to take in runners as part of the FRR Host Family Program for the past five summers for their slightly star-struck daughter. Last year they hosted a 12-year-old marathoner and the summers before that, a four-time Olympic Trials qualifier named Neely Spence Gracey.

Bianca was thrilled to have an elite runner in her home. Neely became a mentor to her, even taking her along on training runs. It was Neely who first introduced her to the need for more

female agents in the industry which was the ultimate source of inspiration for her intended career path.

Keeping Neely's words in mind, she went on a service trip to Rwanda with Kids Play International last summer where she promoted gender equity through sports by instilling confidence in the young girls there. This work was so fulfilling that she realized she wanted to take her passion for both running and feminism to the next level by pursuing a career as a sports agent to make a life of championing gender equality.

She will be doing just that at Westminster University thanks to the \$10,000 scholarship awarded from Falmouth Road Race, Inc. This fall, she will be tackling a major in Sports Management in the business school along with running cross country and track for the D2 team. But if there's one thing to know about Bianca Greco, it's that when challenged she hits the ground running.