

Elizabeth Ross's enthusiasm for the Falmouth Road Race inspired strangers on a plane to check it out for themselves

By Olivia dePunte

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Mochaccino, a 4.8-pound chihuahua, is the pint-sized mascot for Elizabeth Ross again this August. She sees the little dog as "my inspiration," cheering her on towards the finish line. Her run last year was cut short of the finish line with a bad fall at mile two. Despite the tumble, she felt, "It's a phenomenal race and such a pleasure to run in such a historic place."

She was still raving about the race on her flight home from Boston to D.C. to her seatmates, who weren't big runners themselves but happy to indulge her post-race excitement. After the flight, they went their separate ways, Ross thinking nothing more of it than strangers' lives crossing paths for a pleasant couple of hours.

Months later, an unexpected LinkedIn message popped up on her phone. To her surprise, it was the strangers from the plane! They had found her online to share the exciting news; they were registered for the 2023 Falmouth Road Race. "They said my enthusiasm inspired them."

Ross has been looking forward to a reunion at the race with her airplane companions ever since. "I'd love to say thank you to the race organizers for putting on such a beautiful event to mark the end of summer, it's such a pleasure and Team Mochaccino is very excited to be back."