Kastor won the More/Fitness/Shape Women's Half Marathon in April, running 1:12:51.

RUNNER BY THE NUMBERS

DEENA KASTOR

42, MAMMOTH LAKES, CALIFORNIA

In 2004, Kastor took home bronze in the Olympic Marathon, and followed that feat with a 2005 Chicago Marathon win and an American record (2:19:36) at the 2006 London Marathon. Now, the masters (over-40) athlete has a new set of records to chase. Last fall, she set marks in the half marathon, 20K, 10 mile, 15K, and 10K. This month, she returns to Chicago aiming for the American masters marathon record. —MICHELLE HAMILTON

2:28:40

AMERICAN MASTERS RECORD KASTOR WILL TRY TO BEAT (SET BY COLLEEN DE REUCK IN 2005)

5:40
Pace she'll need to run to set the record

24
NUMBER OF RECORDS KASTOR HAS SET OVER HER 31-YEAR RUNNING CAREER, INCLUDING ONE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

15

NUMBER OF TUBES OF SUNSCREEN THE SKIN-CANCER SURVIVOR USES EVERY YEAR

ONE THOUSAND
Number of bottles of wine in her cellar. Favorite: 1999 Chateau Montelena chardonnay, Napa Valley, California

6

NUMBER OF GREEK BOTTLES OF WINE CONSUMED BY KASTOR AND FAMILY AT POST-OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDAL CELEBRATION IN ATHENS

78
Number of quotes collected in notebook, including: "When you're surrounded by people who share a passionate commitment around a common purpose, anything is possible." —*Howard Schultz*

1:3
Kastor's preferred ratio of pesto to pasta. "I want plenty of sauce on my plate for dipping."

eleven
Number of pairs of running shoes (all hers) in her mudroom

161
NORTH JEFFERSON: ADDRESS OF KASTOR'S FAVORITE RESTAURANT IN CHICAGO, BIN 36, WHERE SHE'LL CELEBRATE POSTRACE. SHE LOVES THE MENU, WHICH INCLUDES 15 ARTISANAL CHEESES.

120
Peak training mileage for the 2015 Chicago Marathon

GO YOU!

Runners who inspire us

SISTER STEPHANIE BALIGA

Speedy nun runs for others.

On race day Baliga trades her nun's habit for a bandanna and wears a knee-length skirt. She clocked a 2:53 at the 2014 Chicago Marathon and intends to beat the women's Olympic Marathon Trials qualifying standard of 2:43 at this year's race. For Baliga, 27, running and faith are connected. "Running is a way I've been able to speak to God, and to listen to God speak back," she says. Today, Baliga serves at Mission of Our Lady of the Angels in Chicago's West Humboldt Park and organizes the running group Team OLA. Since 2011, the team has raised $136,000 for food banks and after-school programs. —CINDY KUZMA

JULIAN GORDON

Oldest Chicago Marathon pace leader

Gordon, 79, will pace the 5:10 group at the Chicago Marathon. A biophysicist, Gordon took up running in his 40s and ran his first Chicago Marathon in 1991 at the age of 55. Since then, Gordon has run all but one Chicago Marathon and led his first pace group (3:45) in 2001. The Lake Bluff (IL) Running Club member, who's also completed the London, Boston, and New York City marathons, has no plans of retiring from the distance. "My wife complains that the only way she can get me to go anywhere is if a marathon is involved," he says. —NELSON RICE

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CHICAGO ICON ILLUSTRATION BY DAN WOODGER; RUNNER BY THE NUMBERS PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN LAMPARSKI/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; MITCH MANDEL: BON APPETIT/ALAMY; MALERAPASO/GETTY IMAGES; BRAD BARKET/GETTY IMAGES