Jean Driscoll was born in Milwaukee, WI with spina bifida (an open spine). It affected her ability to walk and included other neurological complications as well. Although there were challenges during childhood, her determination to get the most out of life was always there. She began using a wheelchair at the age of 15 and after learning about wheelchair sports from a high school friend, she started pursuing athletic opportunities with fervor. The Milwaukee Public Schools Division of Recreation provided her first wheelchair sports experiences. After being recruited to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, world-renowned coaches developed her into one of the world's most successful competitors. During her career, Jean was the first eight time winner of the Boston Marathon. She set 5 new course records as well as 5 world best times and held Boston's fastest time in the women's wheelchair division from 1990 to 2011. Her record for the 26.2 mile distance was 1 hour, 34 minutes and 22 seconds. In addition to her success in Boston, Jean also won two Olympic medals, 12 Paralympic medals, and still holds the world record in the 10,000 meter (6.2 mile) track event that was set during the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. Jean remains the only 12-time champion of the Lilac Bloomsday 12K Road Race held in Spokane, Washington and still owns the course record in her division from 1995.
Her successes have been celebrated by many. The University of Rhode Island and the Massachusetts School of Law awarded her Honorary Doctorate degrees in 1997 and 2002 respectively. Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines provided Jean with one of its highest honors in 2003 when they named her the Godmother of their Voyager Class Series ship, Mariner of the...

Testimonials

"When Jean speaks to her audience, she speaks from her heart and gives you her soul. You definitely come away energized."

- Ocean Spray.

"Inspirational, God-honoring, challenging and an articulate speaker — that's Jean Driscoll. There's no room for apathy with Jean. Her refreshing outlook on life leaves little room for defeatism, and she has built a ministry demonstrating how God shapes and leads even through the most difficult of circumstances. She turned my head when she said, 'God did not pick on me; He picked me out.' We won't forget these words and the compelling message that she has to back up her claim. Our audience of nearly 2,000 was greatly blessed. This beautiful young woman has left a thumbprint in our hearts."

- Director, Lincoln Christian College Women's Conference.

Jean Driscoll

Speech Topics

- TED Talks
- Sports
- Overcoming Adversity
- Motivation
- Inspiration
- Female Motivational