



Dick and Rick Hoyt are a father-and-son team from Massachusetts who together compete just about continuously in marathon races. And if they're not in a marathon they are in a triathlon — that daunting, almost superhuman, combination of 26.2 miles of running, 112 miles of bicycling, and 2.4 miles of swimming. Together they have climbed mountains, and once trekked 3,735 miles across America.

It's a remarkable record of exertion — all the more so when you consider that Rick can't walk or talk.

For the past twenty five years or more inspirational speaker Dick Hoyt, who is 71, has pushed and pulled his son across the country and over hundreds of finish lines. When Dick runs, Rick is in a wheelchair that Dick is pushing. When Dick cycles, Rick is in the seat-pod from his wheelchair, attached to the front of the bike. When Dick swims, Rick is in a small but heavy, firmly stabilized boat being pulled by Dick.

At Rick's birth in 1962 the umbilical cord coiled around his neck and cut off oxygen to his brain. Dick and his wife, Judy, were told that there would be no hope for their child's development.

It's been a story of exclusion ever since he was born, Dick told me. When he was eight months old the doctors told us we should just put him away — he'd be a vegetable all his life, that sort of thing. Well those doctors are not alive any more, but I would like them to be able to see Rick now.

The couple brought their son home determined to raise him as normally as possible. Within five years, Rick had two younger brothers and the Hoyts were convinced Rick was just as intelligent as his siblings. Dick remembers the struggle to get the local school authorities to agree: Because he couldn't talk they thought he wouldn't be ...

Dick Hoyt

Speech Topics

- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Sports
- ☐ Overcoming Adversity
- ☐ Motivation
- ☐ Inspiration
- ☐ Education

Testimonials

"Dick, I have fond memories of meeting you. Through the dedication of Team Hoyt, a much needed awareness of the rights of handicapped persons will be brought to America. Nancy joins me in sending our warmest appreciation to you and our congratulations for your humanitarian and civic-minded service. God bless you."

- Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States of America.

"This is more than a story of a father's love, though it certainly speaks to all fathers, this one included. It's also a story of courage, the kind any of us could be called upon to demonstrate in our own lives. And if we were, we'd have two wonderful examples to follow in Dick and Rick Hoyt, both of whom I am proud to call friends."

- Bobby Orr, NHL Hockey Great.