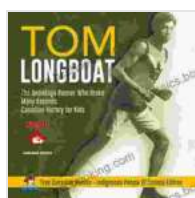
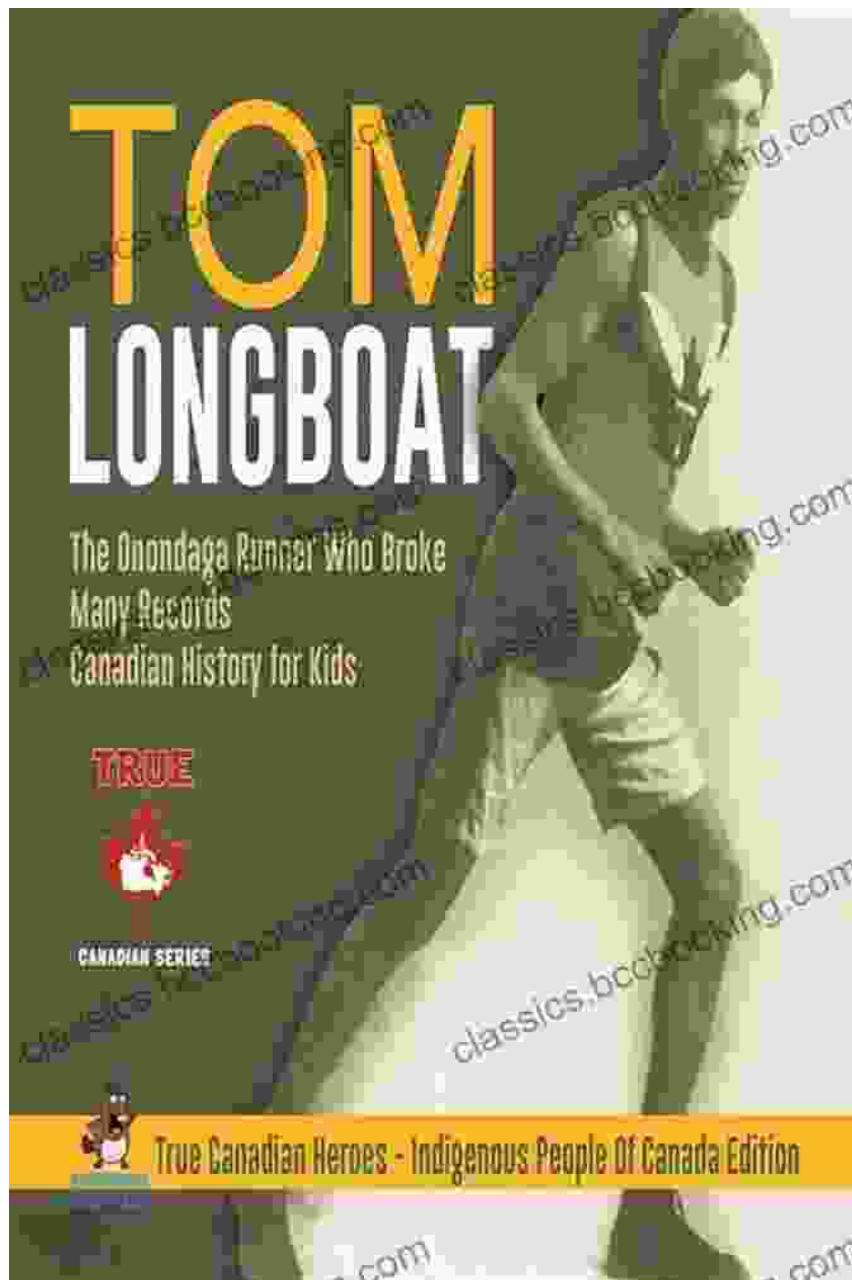


Tom Longboat: The Onondaga Runner Who Broke Records and Inspired a Nation



Tom Longboat - The Onondaga Runner Who Broke Many Records | Canadian History for Kids | True

Canadian Heroes - Indigenous People Of Canada

Edition by David Wright

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Tom Longboat was a Canadian distance runner from the Onondaga First Nation who achieved remarkable feats in the early 20th century. He broke numerous records, won prestigious races, and became a symbol of national pride and inspiration. His story is one of determination, resilience, and the triumph of the human spirit.

Early Life and Running Career

Tom Longboat was born on June 4, 1887, on the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve in Ontario, Canada. He grew up in a farming family and developed a passion for running at a young age. In 1905, at the age of 18, he won his first major race, the Toronto YMCA Marathon.

In the following years, Longboat continued to excel in running. He set a new world record for the one-mile run in 1907, and in 1908, he became the first Native American to compete in the Olympic Games. Although he did not win a medal in London, his performance earned him international recognition.

The Great Marathon of 1909

Longboat's greatest triumph came in 1909 when he won the Boston Marathon in a record-breaking time of 2:24:24. The race was held on a hot and humid day, and Longboat led from start to finish. His victory was a major upset, as he had not been considered a favorite to win.

The Great Marathon of 1909 was a turning point in Longboat's career. He became a national hero in Canada and an inspiration to Native Americans everywhere. His victory helped to break down racial barriers and paved the way for other Native athletes to achieve success.

Later Career and Legacy

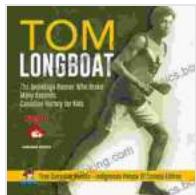
After his victory in Boston, Longboat continued to run competitively for several more years. He won numerous races and set additional records. However, his career was marred by injuries and personal setbacks.

In 1914, Longboat enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served overseas during World War I. He was wounded in action and returned home with a disability. Despite his injuries, he continued to run and compete for several more years.

Tom Longboat died in 1949 at the age of 62. He was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1955 and the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Hall of Fame in 1995. His legacy as a legendary runner and an inspiration to Native Americans continues to this day.

Tom Longboat was a remarkable athlete who achieved great things against all odds. He broke records, won prestigious races, and became a symbol of national pride and inspiration. His story is one of determination, resilience, and the triumph of the human spirit.

Longboat's legacy continues to inspire Native Americans and Canadians alike. He is a role model for athletes of all backgrounds, and his story reminds us that anything is possible if we believe in ourselves.



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