



# Daniel Romanchuk

2019 World Champion-Marathon

Reigning Marathon Champion of Chicago, New York, Boston and London

# Daniel Romanchuk

*At a glance...*



**DOB:** August 3, 1998

**Resides:** Champaign, IL

**Hometown:** Baltimore, MD

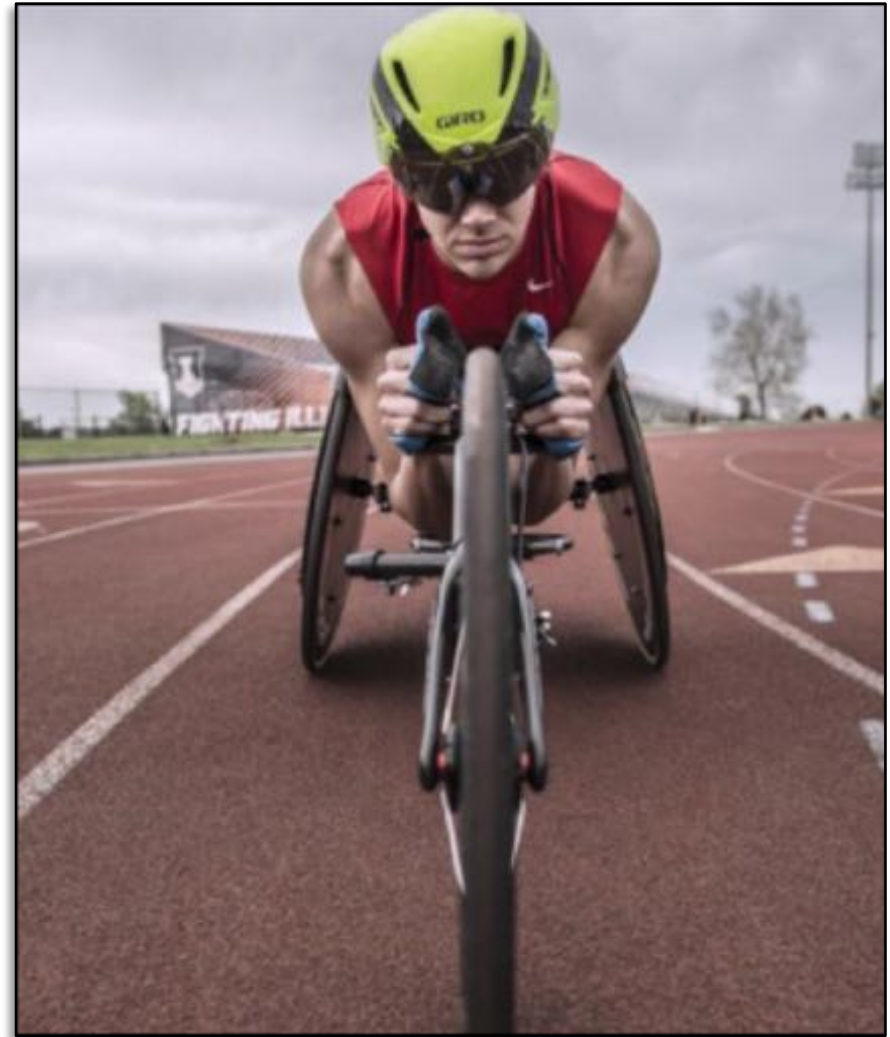
**Height:** 5' 8"

**Classification:** T54

**Education:** Parkland College

## *Points of Interest*

- Current champion of the four major marathons: Chicago, New York, Boston and London
- World Record Holder: 800m and 5000m track events. Americas Record Holder: 400m, 800m, 5000m and 10000m.
- Won the Chicago Marathon on October 7, 2018; just under a month later, he became the first American and youngest ever to win the men's race at the New York City Marathon.
- Soon after, he became the first American man since 1993 and the youngest ever to win the Boston Marathon.
- Won the London Marathon in April of 2019, becoming World Champion.
- A 2016 Paralympian at age 18, he competed in five track events (100m, 200m, 800m, 1500m and 5000m.)
- He is planning to compete in up to six events in Tokyo, including the 100m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m and the Marathon.



*"I've known about Daniel since he's been in middle school, and to put it very simply there was never a question of if, it was just a matter of when."*

- Adam Bleakney, Head Coach wheelchair track, University of Illinois and multiyear USOC Paralympic Coach of the Year





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*In Depth...*

Daniel Romanchuk is a 20-yr-old Paralympic track and marathon athlete who was born with spina bifida. He grew up playing a variety of sports (swimming, basketball, sled hockey, etc.) with the Bennett Blazers Physically Challenged Sports Program in Baltimore, Maryland. At the age of 16, he began focusing on wheelchair racing and training with the renowned **University of Illinois Wheelchair Track Program**. He went on to win the 5000m Gold Medal at the 2015 Parapan Am Games at the age of 17, then was a member of TEAM USA at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games.

2018 was a breakout year for Daniel. He placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Boston and London Marathons in April, broke the 5000m track World Record in May, broke the 800m track World Record in June, and won both the Chicago and New York City marathons in the fall. He was the first American to ever win the male division of the NYC Marathon. In 2019, he became the first American and youngest ever male to win the Boston Marathon. He followed by winning the London Marathon/World Championship and clinching the Abbott World Marathon Majors Series XII Title in late April, becoming the youngest athlete ever to earn this prestigious honor.

Daniel currently lives in Champaign, IL and is a student at Parkland College, working toward an engineering degree. Outside of his own racing career, he is passionate about encouraging the next generation to pursue excellence and integrity in sport.



Giving back is part of the Romanchuk family focus. This stems not only from their faith, but also from their recognition that Daniel has been supported by so many throughout his career. Daniel regularly returns to help coach the Bennett Blazers and inspire younger athletes, and he sponsors a young boy in Brazil through Compassion International to ensure he has a good education and family support. The Romanchuk family regularly assists other families with kids with disabilities through their church community. In addition, Daniel and his family have donated equipment and worked with groups like *Joni and Friends* to refurbish wheelchairs for those in need around the world.

Daniel's father is an engineer, and his mother was in residency at the prestigious Johns Hopkins Hospital. He has an older brother, Josh, who is a coach at the Bennett Blazers, and an older sister, Kathryn.





## What People Are Saying About Daniel Romanchuk:

*"I think I've never seen such a great talented athlete as him. There's no one I can really compare him to. The danger for the rest of us is that he's improving so quickly too. He looked better in Boston than the last time I raced him; and in the last year, he has improved by a huge amount"*

– Marcel Hug, 12-time marathon champion

*"He's probably the best talent I've ever seen – ever. In New York I was blown away in the first mile the way he was climbing up the hill. I'm a bloody good climber, but he just rinsed me and Marcel (Hug).*

– David Weir, 8-time London marathon champion



*"I've been in the sport since the mid 90s, I've personally never seen anyone with the body characteristics of Daniel. His wingspan is remarkable. He merges these genetic gifts with a daily training diligence and an attitude that will leverage those gifts in a way that will make him and is making him very successful."*

– Adam Bleakney  
Head Coach Wheelchair Track, University of Illinois

Watch Daniel's story: [Daniel's Story](#)



For more information about  
**Daniel Romanchuk**  
contact:  
**Jeannie Goldstein**  
[Jeannie@ChicagoSEP.com](mailto:Jeannie@ChicagoSEP.com)  
773-680-9800  
[ChicagoSEP.com](http://ChicagoSEP.com)