

Five Photos, Five Stories Challenge (Day 1): Marathon Dad

Description

So this guy, a divorced dad with a beautiful daughter and a Russian KGB hamster named Hammy, nominated me to take part in the Five Photos, Five Stories Challenge and I have accepted. Okay, he's actually my good blogger friend, [Gary Mathews](#), and he's full of witty sarcasm and lots of love for his precious girl. Check out his blog if you get the chance, he always has a great story to share about his day.

The Five Photos, Five Stories Challenge require you to **post a photo each day for five consecutive days and attach a story to the photo (It can be fiction or non-fiction, a poem or simply a short paragraph) and then nominate another blogger to carry on this challenge. Accepting the challenge is entirely up to the person nominated, it is not a command.** I have no clue on the origin of this thing, but hopefully you'll enjoy what I have to share.

For my first photo, I'm going back to April 28, 2013. I just finished running the [Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon](#) but you couldn't tell from the excited look on my face. I think the reason is pretty obvious, my wife, Kelley/Going Mom, was in the early stages of pregnancy with Avery!

I had been running the OKC marathon since 2005 and it will always be near and dear to me since it's been part of our lives for so long. The picture, which you'll soon see below (or you could just scroll down now), shows me pointing to Kelley's belly and grinning with excitement. It's always a good feeling to finish something like a marathon, but this was my first (and last) marathon to run as a DAD!

True, I just wrote about how I want to gain weight/strength, but I have a feeling I'll run a few more marathons in my life. Not for time, but just to enjoy the fact that I'm healthy and able to do so.



Thinking about how I was basically a dad and we were about to become a family of three made it easy to block out the mental part of running 26.2 miles, but seeing my mom (G-Ma) and Kelley cheering me on meant so much more than I could ever explain in words.

My first nominee for this photo challenge is Carl Wilke and heâ€™s a [Big Cheese Dad](#). Well, he grew up in Wisconsin at least, but now lives in Washington State where heâ€™s a fellow at-home dad. Unlike the one kid I am at home with, this guy has six from ages 1 to 19! Yikes! Despite the obvious handful to keep him busy, he turns out some great content worth checking out. Heâ€™s even ahead of the game since he knew I was going to nominate him and already started the challenge. The first one is a beautiful pic of his [5 and 2 year old girls sleeping](#). Thanks for participating, Carl!!

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