

# Unstoppable Heart-The Jason Pisano Story

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*By jason pisano*

## **Abstract:**

My name is Jason Pisano; I'm 39 years old from West Warwick, Rhode Island. I graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Journalism; I worked as a freelance journalist for 11 years. I am also a disabled wheelchair athlete and a motivational speaker. I have completed 51 marathons to date, captured two world titles at the 2005 Cerebral Palsy Games, was a Torch Bearer for the 1996 Olympic Games, and inducted into the New England Wheelchair Athletic Hall of Fame.

Now that I have told you of most of my accomplishments, let me tell you about all of the challenges I face each day of my life. I am confined to a wheelchair, have no use of my arms, and I have a severe speech impediment. I need assistance with almost everything I do such as bathing, eating, going to the bathroom or even just getting out of bed. Although I am severely disabled this has not stopped me from living a very full and fast paced life. I have seen and accomplished more in the 38 years that

## **Genre:**

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## **Tags:**

inspiring, funny, touching, motivating, sports, romantic, disabled

## **Submission Sample:**

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It was a Saturday night in the fall of 2000. I was on my way home from a night of partying in Providence, Rhode Island with my good friend Vinny Paz. Vinny is an ex-professional boxer and five-time World Champion. He was sitting in the passenger seat of my 2001 Ford Windstar minivan; wearing designer ripped jeans, a gray sweater, and some kind of funky matching headband. Paz has always been, and always will be quite flashy. I was hooked up in my wheelchair in the back, and my aide was behind the wheel. As soon as he entered the van I felt the need to crack a joke about his head band.

With my aide translating I said, "Vin, what's that on your head?" What, are your ears cold? You know the 80's are over, right?"

Paz quickly replied with a chuckle, "Very funny asshole!"

That's how my relationship has always been with Paz. We enjoy cracking jokes on each other. Just a few weeks prior to that night, I had completed my 39th career marathon. You see, a couple years back when Paz won his 50th career fight, I told him I was going to honor him by finishing 50 marathons to match his 50 wins. As the story goes, that Saturday night we were having a few drinks and discussing Paz's career, and my future. Suddenly I had an idea! I leaned over to whisper in my aide's ear to tell him that my goal had just changed. I asked him to tell Vinny that my new goal was to shatter his 50 wins, and one-up him by completing 51 marathons of my own!

Paz slowly turned and looked at me, "Are you fucking serious?" He laughed. "You little punk, you have to stop at 50!"

I laughed and said, "No, I think I like the number 51 better."

As we pulled into his driveway to drop him off, he said, “Jay just do me a favor, let me know when and where your 51st marathon will be, so I can come hide behind a tree and tip your ass over before you cross the finish line!” We both ended the night laughing.

The next day, I awoke early and had my aide call Paz. I knew he’d still be sleeping so I had my aide leave a message on his cell phone. The message said, “Vinny, Jay says he thinks you should go back into the ring to try to get your 51st win...” My aide went on, “Even better, Jay says he has the perfect opponent for you, his 77-year-old grandmother. We just have to find a way to get her wheelchair in the ring!”

That was just a taste of one night of my life. I hope you find my life story entertaining, enlightening, and funny, but most of all, inspiring. Here it is: The Jason Pisano Story, Impossible Is Nothing!

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### Illustrations/Photos

