

FIRED UP



Spartan Race Athlete Kevin Gillotti Is Always Up for a Challenge

by LINDA FRABL | photos by Samantha Gleaton Photography

Carlsbad resident Kevin Gillotti, 46, started racing – namely duathlons (running and biking) and obstacle course races (OCRs) – because of a bet that a University of Iowa college pal presented to him 25 years ago. Kevin recalled, “It was a bet that I couldn’t do a duathlon. Who would have known it would have changed my life and stuck with me this long?”

Kevin has won most of the North County-based duathlon races for the past 20 years. In addition, he has raced with about a dozen different USA Triathlon World Championship Teams, specifically for duathlons, all over the world. Two years ago, Kevin was even named the fifth fastest American overall for Team USA’s long distance standard course 2014 in Spain!

After racing the Duathlon World Championships in France and Spain, Kevin knew it was time to move on to something new, so he now focuses on OCRs in the Spartan Race series. He is already ranked 12th overall in the Elite NBC Series, second overall in the USA Elite Division and the West Region Division for his age, and fourth overall in the world Elite division for his age. In October, Kevin will compete in both the USA OCR World Championships in Lake Tahoe, and the Pro-Elite division of the OCR World Championship in Canada.

Determination is responsible for Kevin’s success, which came into play after he was hit by a vehicle in 2001 and suffered a broken leg, a broken arm, and back fractures. Doctors thought he wouldn’t race again, but Kevin barreled through his rehabilitation and proved them wrong. He commented, “I have always had a fire inside to push myself.”

With a master’s degree in physical education focusing on sports psychology from SDSU, Kevin works as a graphic designer, and enjoys target practice (shooting and archery), tinkering on his Toyota Land Cruiser FJ40, and trying new things. Of the latter, Kevin professed, “I do not want to be a one trick pony, so I try to learn new skills and be prolific in activities.”

Asked to share words of wisdom, Kevin stated, “Get outside, be active, be fit, and take care of your body as it is the only one you have. See the world, as it is an awesome place. Before your ticket gets punched, you want to make sure you’ve lived a life that counts!” ■



Name:	Kevin Gillotti
Profession:	Graphic Design
Community:	Carlsbad
Hobbies & Interests:	Run, bike, OCR, CrossFit, Second Amendment, SUP, my dog, archery
Favorite Places in Carlsbad:	Any beach, trails in the San Elijo Hills area, Offshore CrossFit, Gunther Guns
Website:	www.kevingillotti.com
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92009

MAGAZINE

BOOKS *and* *beyond*

**Newly Renovated Carlsbad City Libraries
Provide a Place to Learn, Grow, and Thrive**

Page 30

FIRED UP

**Spartan Race Athlete Kevin Gillotti
Is Always up for a Challenge**

Page 18

GUIDED BY LOVE

**Molly Brennan Is Inspired to
Better the Lives of Others**

Page 40

HOME AUDIO VIDEO ANSWERS

**Home AV TV & Design Gives Your Family
Room a Makeover With a Technology Twist**

Page 28

HOME
AV.TV
& Design