After Battle, Taking on World

Former prep star overcomes eating disorder to compete for world marathon title

By Philip Hecht
STAFF REPORTER

The onetime Tara Moody ordered earlier this summer in a Chicago restaurant had mushrooms, tomatoes, spinach, onions — all in a skillet with the surface area of a bowling ball. It was a meal fit for the elite marathoner Moody has become after years battling an eating disorder that nearly ended her running career. "My advice to young women is to focus on yourself and don't compare yourself to other people," said Moody, all whose feat has been celebrated in her Sunday's World Championship win in Berlin.

"That's all I get in trouble," said Moody, who was really skinny and thin looking well, not knowing then that it might help you run for a whole year but it wouldn't last. Other than those about her shape can no longer cause her the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I'm a Type A person," said Moody, "I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.

"I don't lie to my parents, and I don't lie to myself."

Moody learned in March that the discomfort that led her to an eating disorder so severe the 5-foot-8-inch Moody said she dropped from 128 pounds (58 kilograms) to 96 pounds in her first semester of her freshman year that led to a running career that was soon thwarted, saying she was fine.