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# TRUE SURVIVOR



A former Boca high school student, an amputee, asks no quarter on 'Survivor.'

**By Tom Icha**  
SUN SENTINEL

Jimmy Johnson has gotten much of the publicity during the run-up to "Survivor: Nicaragua" for tackling the hardships of the grueling reality show at 67. But when it comes to overcoming difficult circumstances, the former University of Miami and Miami Dolphins coach has it easy compared to Kelly Bruno.

Bruno, 26, who attended Pope John Paul II High School in Boca Raton, is competing with an artificial leg. A birth defect caused her right leg to be amputated before her first birthday. This might be categorized as a disability but it hardly has been for Bruno.

"I don't see myself as any different," she says. This is how she has conducted her life.

Bruno spent her high school years in Boca because her father, Dr. Richard Bruno, was a teacher at Lynn University. In January, he was chaperoning Lynn students on an outreach mission in Haiti when he was killed in the devastating earthquake.

Kelly, who is studying medicine at the University

## On TV

**Program:** Survivor: Nicaragua

**Airs:** Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on WFOR-Ch. 4, WPEC-Ch. 12

of North Carolina, said her father is her inspiration. "Because of what happened to him, I appreciate every day."

Kelly is an Ironman triathlete, an event that entails a 2.4-mile ocean swim, followed by a 112-mile bike race, then is completed by a 26.2-mile marathon run. Kelly doesn't just complete the course. She holds the record for people with a disability. Ever seeking new worlds to conquer, she applied for "Survivor" on a whim, she says. "It kind of seemed like an interesting challenge."

She has no complaints. "Survivor" turned out to be all she expected and more. "I watched past seasons but it was harder than I anticipated — and I anticipated it would be very hard."

Bruno's medical studies turned out to provide an unforeseeable advantage on "Survivor." The "ick" factor was never an issue with her. "Being in medicine, it takes a lot to gross me out."

Kelly Bruno is a member of La Flor Tribe on "Survivor: Nicaragua."

MONTY BRINTON/CBS