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Tears and Flowers for Gritty Greek in '47

Kyriakides Trains Son For Boston Marathon

By JERRY NASON

A good newspapering man, like Tom McNeeley opponents, protects himself diligently in the clinches—and in event somebody tries to slip a scoop past me in April, 1971, this is to report:

The treasurer of the Public Power Corp. in Athens, Greece, is already training his son, 16, to win the 75th and diamond jubilee marathon race in Boston. Possibly sooner.



S. KYRIAKIDES

The name of Stylianos Kyriakides will ring a lot of bells among the middle-aged clientele. It is he who says, "I hope to have the great joy of being the only past winner to have a son triumph in the Boston race."

Kyriakides was the starving Greek who whipped his emaciated body unmercifully to win the race here

in '47—and win the attention of Americans to the plight of his fellow countrymen.

This was by all odds the most dramatic script ever to evolve from the marathon race.

Hollow-cheeked, spare-ribbed Mr. K's post-race tale was such a tear jerker that even the man he whipped in a great finish, ol' Johnny Kelley, struck a tear gusher which inundated the premises.

Kyriakides' feat and his story struck the sounding board of national news and radio like a basketball off a garage door. Heart-wrung Americans characteristically responded to the plight of the Greek nation.

Mr. K ultimately went home to an Athenian reception that only once since (Eisenhower's) has been even approximated. Crying Greeks strewed flowers from the hillside in his path from the airport. Later, grateful Athenians bought a parcel of land for him in the suburbs, and erected a home upon it.

It is in that home Mr. K now lives . . . with his wife and son, Demetrious, and two daughters, Heen and Maria . . . among his apricot, plum, almond,

orange and fig trees. And among his memories of Boston.

He has never forgotten little Johnny (The Elder) Kelley—"that magnificent sportsman and rival who even fitted me the week before with the proper running shoes, in which to defeat him."

His son "Jimmy" (Demetrious) has had his ambition fired since childhood by the oft-told tale of his father's historic journey from Hopkinton to Boston.

He is now 16, and the high-school champion of Athens in the cross-country races and, says Stylianos, "He believes. He will do his best."

And that opened a long-closed door, for it was Mr. K himself who said on the eve of entering the '47 Boston torture chamber, "I believe. I will do my best."

From Athens, Bostonian George Demeter reports, "The father's heart is set on the boy being ready for the 75th Boston marathon and the 1972 Olympic Games the following year. The lad has wonderful stamina and is now 'speed training' in the 440 and 880 distances."

It was Mr. K, the elder, who triggered the foreign invasion which, almost every April since then, has

captured our marathon prize from the dome hoofers.

Man, the foreigners will really have hit for cycle if Kyriakides' kid comes back to win the race.

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Sports

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Forty-On



10-TEAM LEAGUE TAKING HEAVY TOLL ON HURLERS