

# The Golden Greeks

Heroic bronze cast to inspire runners near Hopkinton starting line

By Cathy Flynn  
DAILY NEWS STAFF

**C**HELSEA — A week before the 2006 Boston Marathon, Mico Kaufman's towering bronze statue of Greek runner Stylianos Kyriakides will be placed in a grassy clearing along Rte. 135, about a mile from the starting line in Hopkinton.

An international crowd will attend its unveiling.

Until then, the 12-foot-high, 1500-pound bronze statue — called "The Spirit of the Marathon" — awaits its debut inside a chilly, two-story garage at New England Sculpture Services, the foundry where it was cast.

A few tasks remain before it is ready to go public. Kaufman and welder Gary Wertheim are making some adjustments to strengthen the elaborate base. The statue will undergo an acid treatment to give its current, penny-like glow a richer patina. With exposure to the outdoors, the bronze will weather to a chocolaty finish.

The statue, which eventually will stand on land donated by Hopkinton's Weston Nurseries, is a twin to one in Marathon, Greece, the STATUE, *Page A12*



DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY KEN MCGAGH

Gary Wertheim of New England Sculpture Services in Chelsea puts finishing touches on The Spirit of the Marathon statue Thursday in the foundry's workshop. The statue, which features Stylianos Kyriakides of Greece, winner of the 1946 Boston Marathon, and his mentor, Spiridon Louis, winner of the first modern Olympic marathon in 1896, will be placed on the marathon route at Weston Nurseries in Hopkinton.