

EVENING. AMERICAN  
**Field Powerful Enough  
To Force New BAA Mark**

By MIKE GILLOOLY

Hundreds of thousands of spectators will nod their heads in collective and puzzled wonderment along the 26-mile, 385-yard BAA Marathon course from Hopkinton to Boston tomorrow—just as they've done for the past 50 years—as they spot remnants of the 116 starters weaying their way along in the most gruelling of sports tests.

They'll mumble, "They're nuts!" after the field has passed but they'll be back again and again to catch a glimpse of the annual classic.

They'll start to quit the line a dozen times but they'll wait 'until Clarence DeMar comes through'. The tiniest tot and the most ancient by-stander in sports want to spot the seven-time winner of this madcap affair (he'll be wearing No. 94), probably following a flock of younger and fleetier runners along the lengthy journey.

DeMar will be in there but he's hardly conceded a chance of winning. He's just coming along for the run—and possibly for sentiment's sake.

He'll be up against too powerful a field, as a matter of fact, a surprisingly powerful field for a race that was nearly cancelled out of the sports picture for the year. It has been delayed a day because of Good Friday but that will be the only major change from the past 49 years. They'll still start at noon and they'll finish around 2:30 o'clock at the old BAA clubhouse on Exeter st., now the property of Boston University whose officials paved the way for the race when the going was dimmest last month.

There's a possibility that the first of the plodders will labor across the finish line before that time. There's strong enough competition to force a new record, cracking the time set by Joe Smith at 2:26.51 1-5 in 1942.

Gerard Cote of Canada, out of the race last year while serving overseas, has his heart set on retirement after he chalks up his fourth victory in the BAA. He hasn't been beaten over the pavements since 1943 and, in his only local effort this season, he romped against a handicapped field in the North Medford 20-mile jaunt. Cote captured the laurel wreath in 1940, '43 and '44.

He's confident, knows the opposition inside out, and he's just



**GERARD COTE**  
*May Retire if He Wins*

good enough to win.

Some authorities feel it will be a two-man affair between the cigar-smoking Canadian and Johnnie Kelley of West Acton, defending champion. Kelley shed his "bridesmaid" cognomen last year, proved to the local backers that he was in condition by smiling his way to victory in the Reddish A. A. 15-miler a month ago, and since has been working up a grudge against Cote in setting his sights on this meeting.

However, one of the nation's outstanding authorities on mara-

thoning, Tom Kanaly of the Boston Garden, feels that the BAA's own Lloyd Bairstow, a 23-year-old Coast Guardsman with four years of service in his wake, could upset the entire beef-stew wagon. Bairstow, second in '45, could provide the drama of the year in becoming the first BAA man to win the race on its Golden Anniversary.

But if it's drama the fans want, what could be more appropriate than having Stylianos Kyriakides, a modern Pheidippides from Athens, Greece, take the wreath back to its native land? That would be the Hollywood finish and that could be the BAA finish if the sociable, olive-skinned invader from the war-torn land had his way.

Any one of a dozen top-notchers could win it. They'll tell you a lot will depend on the weather just where the above mentioned—or how Charlie Robbins, national champion; Tarzan Brown, a two-time winner; Don Heinicke, third last year; Lloyd Evans, fifth last year; Tony Madeiros, eighth last spring; Lou Gregory and Willie Wicklund—finish.