



THE WINNER AND NEW CHAMPION flashes the victorious smile in the old B. A. A. club house. In case you haven't read the headlines, the gentleman is Stylianos Kyriakides of Greece, winner of yesterday's B. A. A. Marathon.

Kyri Best Kisser In Kissing Parade

*Johnny Kelley Smacked so Often
He Blushes Like Schoolboy*

By WILL CLONEY

The finish of the B.A.A. marathon yesterday looked like a June wedding, with everybody kissing everybody else and emotional tears splashing all over the premises. Head man in the kiss-parade was the victor himself, Stylianos Kyriakides of the Olympic A. C., Athens, Greece.

TRIES TO DO HIS BEST FOR GREECE

Second-place Johnny Kelley was the June bride. When he came through the tape, his wife swept him into her arms and revived him with a hearty smack. Johnny blubbered silently into her neck but recovered enough to return the compliment a moment later.

Down in the dressing room, Kyriakides startled both Kelley and the photographers by embracing Johnny and kissing him on the cheek. The photographers insisted that the performance be repeated so many times that Johnny wound up blushing like a schoolboy.

It wasn't too funny, however, for Kyriakides was emotionally spent from his mental and physical exertions—physical from covering 26 miles 385 yards faster than anyone else in the field of 102 starters, mental from worrying about his wife, two children, and the sad plight that still afflicts his country even after the sounds of war have been stilled.

"I try to do my best for Greece," explained Kyri as he stretched gingerly on a cot. "I make better than I wish. It is my fastest time. In London I did 2 hours 40 minutes, which is the Greek record. My boss at the electric company will be very pleased. He told me he would be happy if I finished in the first three."

THINKS OF CHILDREN AND WIFE IN GREECE

Showing commendable acquaintance with the English language, which he learned in six months of private tutoring back in 1930, Kyriakides explained that he was running against time. He looked at his stop watch every five miles, was not at all concerned when Kelley led briefly at Coolidge Corner. "I knew from the beginning I was going to do good. I was fit. After I have been running a while, I knew I would win.

"All the time I am thinking of my wife and children back in Greece. We have had such hard times together. Sometimes we have only peanuts to eat—" He could not continue, covering his eyes with his arm to hide the tears. George Demeter, outstanding Greek champion in this section, explained that only yesterday morning, Kyriakides had received a letter from his children, Helen, 3, and Demetrios, 1½, encouraging him.

"I think I win because of American food. In two weeks I have returned to my pre-war weight because the Greek cook at Mt. Demeter's Hotel Minerva has been giving me special food, mostly steak. I hope I stay around about a month trying to get food and athletic equipment for my countrymen."

Kelley was swell. He told Kyriakides sincerely, "It was a wonderful victory for you. You did it for your country. What could be better than having a Greek win the Golden Anniversary race? Me? I'm satisfied. The odds are against repeating, and as long as I had to be beaten, I'm glad he's the one who did it."

COTE THINKS HE MUST BE GETTING OLD

Cote offered no excuses, although for a time it looked as if he weren't going to appear in the dressing room at all. He went directly to his room at the Hotel Lenox and came back all slicked up. "Where is the Greek, dying some place?" he asked after looking for Kyriakides.

Gerry indicated that he still may turn professional, partly because he then could settle down to business. Brandishing his third-place trophy, he said, "See. This is what you get for running 26 miles. I am getting old. Maybe I should make room for the kids. They like this stuff. I have to settle down some time."

Sixth-place John Kersnason of Millrose turned out to be quite a character. He's 34, an N. Y. U. graduate and cross country star, a stenographer in the auditor's office of the main New York Post office, and national junior 10,000 meter champion. "Did I fool my wife," he gloated, "She thought I'd finish 18th."

Some did worse, some did better—but the Greek did best of all. He'll go down in history as one of the most popular winners in this New World athletic classic.