

BOSTON GLOBE
Saturday 27 446

Next Chapter of B.A.A. Marathon Duel May Be Written Over In Athens

By JERRY NASON

The storybook Marathon race of last Saturday afternoon unfolds to more incredulous chapters.

One week ago today Stylianos Kyriakides set forth on a 26-mile 285-yard journey to everlasting Grecian glory, and he broke the form but not the heart of John A. Kelley in his headlong flight.

And it has been the life's ambition of this same Kelley some day to measure his stride with that of the immortal Pheidippides over the original mountain roads from the Plains of Marathon to Athens.

It is an ambition which Stylianos Kyriakides will strive to bring to a happy conclusion for the aging Kelley, his arch rival of the highways.

Advancing upon the age of 40, Kelley's racing days are dwindling rapidly. When he returns to Athens next month, where a national holiday will be declared, Kyriakides will make an effort to have funds raised to bring Kelley to Athens.

"Ah," he says, happy at the thought, "Johnee and myself will have a fine race, and the people of Greece will cheer him like never before has he been cheered. The Marathon in Greece is a tremendous event, and they will throw flowers from the windows when we reach the city streets. Thousands and thousands of people will watch.

Will Get Marvelous Reception in Greece

"Over three mountains, on rough roads, we will run—and Johnee will find it very hot, much hotter than when we race in Boston, for the Greek Marathon is raced in August. He will come to my home and I will show him all Athens.

"Somehow, some way, we must bring him to Athens, for he has always had his heart set on it."

Kyriakides is not sure through what agency he will be able to maneuver his plan to bring Kelley to Athens. "I speak to the Mayor of Athens," he promises. "Or maybe my companee. For an American runner—for Kellee—for maybe one or two others—they do this. I wish it to happen. Johnee is a wonderful sportsman. In Greece he will get a marvelous reception."

One angle of the grim stretch struggle between these two small, dark men was neglected last week. George Demeter brought it up at dinner Thursday night.

"Did you realize," said he, "what a strange coincidence it was that an electrical worker from SOUTH Boston and an electrical worker from SOUTH Athens should struggle so desperately for the race?"

Hah. That's right. Kelley works at the Edison Plant. Never gave it a thought.



KYRIAKIDES



KELLEY

Demeters Almost Fainted Three Days Before Race

The various Demeters, who sheltered and fed this hungry-lean Athenian at Hotel Minerva, still view their handiwork with wonder and awe. Every now and then James Contanis, the chef who cooked the choice steaks, the eggs and bacon which put four pounds on Kyriakides' picket-fence frame before the race, pinches him to see if he is filling out.

George and Harry Demeter Jr. revealed how each nearly died a premature death out on the Marathon course three days before the race. Kyriakides was taking his last workout. George and Harry went along for a ride.

"We were driving along, remarking with satisfaction on how well he ran," relates Harry, "when, suddenly, Stanley stopped running. He reached down, unlaced his left shoe, and ripped it off.

"His stocking was covered with blood. I nearly fainted."

The two Greeks rushed Kyriakides to a foot specialist, frantic with their recollections of how his feet were smashed to bloody pulp in the '38 Marathon.

But Stanley was okay. His shoes were a bit too tight. So he wore a more comfortable old pair on the day of the race.

"Whew!" grimaced Harry Jr. "Three days before the