

# Unicorn Gallop Greatest of Kind In Race History

By GEORGE C. CARENS

The 1948 Olympic Marathon winner may or may not be on display tomorrow when the Boston Athletic Association's 51st run is held from Hopkinton to Boston, but this will be the greatest race of its kind in the history of foot-racing. For the Olympic field in London next year will be limited to three starters from each country, whereas our Patriots' Day test will include 112 New Englanders, 29 New Yorkers, 13 Canadians, 14 men from overseas, including the young Turk, Sevki Koru, who will wear No. 1.

## KYRIAKIDES PARTIAL TO NUMBER 77

Why No. 1 for a Turk? Because the 1946 victor, Athenian Stylianos Kyriakides, is partial to the number (77) he wore as he surged home in front—a hungry man from Greece with a mission. He broke the tape in 2:29:27, the fourth individual in the history of this honored and hoary competition to shade two and a half hours since the race was lengthened in 1927 to the traditional Marathon distance of 26 miles, 385 yards.

So the B. A. A. people gave the Greek "Red Grange's number," and the Turk was chosen over 26 other foreign entrants and 154 Americans in the field of 181 for the honor of wearing No. 1—if that's actually an honor.

No native of Finland ever has won the B. A. A. race, partly because their bids have been few and far between. This time the Finns will have two starters from the old country, wearing 67 and 68—Mikko Hietanen, aged 35, and Vaino Muinonen, aged 48, who ran 1-2 in the Oslo (European championship) race last fall.

## WALTER BROWN PICKS NUMBER 124

The Finns are a clannish race and since they were imported by countrymen in Maynard Mikko and Vaino have been as secretive as a Nurmi. They'll be more talkative if they break tradition by breaking the tape on Exeter street around 2:30 P. M. tomorrow; in fact, the victor will read with some surprise Sunday's ghost-written by-line stories of how they triumphed whether that man is a Finn, Turk, Korean, Hawaiian, Greek, the lone Briton or a North American homebred.

B. A. A. proxy, Walter A. Brown, influenced by his brother Paul, picks No. 124 as the winner. The name is Ki Chung Sohm, aged 35, and he was flown here at the expense of big-hearted American GI's, along with two others from Seoul, Korea. Sohm is none other than Kieti Son, 1936 Olympic champion, who won at Berlin for the honor and glory of Japan, and now is getting a chance to perform under his true name for his beloved homeland, no longer a Jap vassal.

"Watch No. 122, Yun Bok Su," urges Paul Brown. "He has a feathery style and after he had run from Hopkinton to Lake street he turned to his interpreter and inquired: 'Where are the hills?' He had already scaled them, of course."

## LET'S KEEP TABS ON SEUNG YONG NAM

While we're at it, let's keep tabs also on No. 123, Seung Yong Nam. He's the third Korean, who ran third in the Berlin Olympics 11 years ago.

Let's also keep tabs on America's greatest distance runner—physical equipment considered—in the person of Johnny Kelley of the Boston Edison Employees Club, who will wear No. 2.

"Hurray for Clarence DeMar, who is running despite the fact he will soon be 60," chirps Walter Brown, "but I'll take Kelley. First twice (1935, 1945), second six times and worse than fifth just once in the last 12 B. A. A. runs, Johnny is the acme of consistency."

No one can disagree with Walter's argument that this race has everything—quality, color and a dearth of freaks. Peter Foley, who used to traverse the course with a flowing white beard in order to get his beer while he was training, has gone to his last resting place. The self-advertiser who drew attention to himself by smoking cigars along the course has "retired."

## BAA TEAM WILL BE FAVORED FOR HONORS

Don't laugh off Gerard Cote, the only entrant who has broken 2:30 twice for this testing event. Victor in 1940, 1944 and 1945, M. Cote will be easy to spot, wearing No. 3 . . . B. A. A. will be favored for team honors, with 10 starters of German, Irish, English, French, Scotch, Finnish, Nova Scotian and "pure Yankee" extraction, the quotes being Johnny Semple's in referring to his Lynn neighbor, Walter Emery. A dark horse? Ted Vogel, Tufts student, wearing No. 9.

Ten years ago Walter Young won in 2:33:20. He's No. 181 tomorrow and maybe "the last shall be first." . . . Twenty years ago DeMar established the record for the present full-length course . . . Thirty years ago bricklayer Bill Kennedy scored one of the most popular victories on record . . . Forty years ago Tom Longboat, gliding out to a long lead when a freight train held up Cambridge Bob Fowler at Framingham, became the first Indian victor . . . Fifty years ago the first race finished on Huntington Oval, where Trinity place station now disgorges railroad passengers . . . Imagine, only four autos will cover the course. That's real progress.