

# Hub Mecca of Marathon As Stage Is Set for BAA

By TOM MONAHAN

Boston became the Mecca of Marathon today as the month-long immigration of distance runners from all over the world neared a climax with final preparations that cleared the stage for the 51st running of the Boston Athletic Association Marathon scheduled for noon tomorrow as the initial tryout for the 1948 United States Olympic team.

## STEADY INFLUX OF FOREIGN STARS

Since the middle of March when Defending Champion Stylianos Kyriakides returned from his native Greece to attempt a repeat of his 1946 victory, there has been a steady influx of foreign distance stars, proud of the privilege of running the blistering and heartbreaking 26 miles, 385 yards from Hopkinton to Boston.

From both sides of the world they have followed the footsteps of Kyriakides. They have crossed the Atlantic from England, Turkey, Greece and Finland. They have crossed the Pacific from Hawaii and far off Korea. And they have come from the four scattered corners of America. All to make the 51st BAA Marathon the greatest, but the toughest, in history.

Although Kyriakides must be rated as the man to beat tomorrow on the basis of his victory last year and the fact that he appeared stronger than ever in his preparatory workouts, it takes merely a glance at the list of 181 names to see that there can be no assurance that he will cross the Exeter street finish line in first place.

## KOREANS MOST DANGEROUS VISITORS

Considering the international entries in the field first, simply because the visitors are not so well known as the local stars, Kyriakides must more than match the strides of his countryman, the 32-year-old Athanasios Ragazos who took second honors in the Reddish 15-mile race two weeks ago.

And at the same time, he must outrun Finland's Vaino Muinonen and Mikko Hietanen and Turkey's Sevki Koru. All of whom, incidentally, already hold decisions over Kyriakides. Then there are the four Hawaiians—Bert Hooper, Norman Tamanaka, Takko Tuskushi and Feliciaro Castilliano—and England's Kenneth H. H. Bailey to consider.

Thought to be the most dangerous of all the visitors, however, are the Koreans. There is Ki Chung Sohn, now 35 years old who won the 1936 Olympic race in record time as Kitei Son; there is Seung Yong Nam, 36 years old, who finished third in Berlin; and there is Yun Bok Sun, 24-year-old collegian who is picked by his two Olympic companions to win the laurel tomorrow.

the pace. Brown, admittedly, is always a question, but he has indicated that he intends to run a front race all the way and, if his mind is set on it, he can do just that.

As for Smith, the Medford milkman is returning to the road after a five-year retirement. He claims to be seeking only one of the first 20 berths. But in 1942, he was so ill up to an hour before the race that he had contemplated not even running and then went out to set the course record of 2 hours, 26 minutes, 51 1-5th seconds.

## CANADIANS QUIET, DANGEROUS

The Canadian contingent has been very quiet this year and for this reason alone they will be dangerous. Although three-time winner Gerry Cote is being considered just another man in the field, in contrast to his selection as top-heavy favorite last year, there can be no doubt that he will be running to win.

Young, on the other hand, is pulling a Smith and, while these may be good arguments that he will not be able to come back, the Verdun policeman has been snow-shoeing all winter and is in shape.

Just to add to the confusion, and to make the pre-race selecting even more difficult there is the flock of lesser luminaries who actually have the race by the tail and are in perfect positions to provide the unexpected.

Such upstarts as Ted Vogel of

Tufts, the 21-year-old collegian who is representing the BAA; and his teammate Lloyd Bairstow, a 25-year-old apprentice baker from Lawrence, cannot be overlooked. Vogel was ninth a year ago and Bairstow was runner-up to Kelley in 1945.

A play-by-play report of the Braves game will be broadcast over WHDH—850 on your dial—beginning at 1:55 P. M.

## DE MAR HAS ONLY SENTIMENTAL CHANCE

All of this foreign flavor is equally matched by the familiar local and Canadian favorites, however, who can list among their numbers six former winners and the course record-holder. Of course, Clarence DeMar, the seven-time winner who will be wearing No. 4 tomorrow, can be given only a sentimental chance to win, but the others, Johnny Kelley of West Acton, Gerry Cote of Montreal, Walter Young of Verdun, Tarzan Brown of Westerly, and Joe Smith of Medford are perfectly capable of turning the trick again.

Considering the locals, Kelley reported as early as three weeks ago that he was ready for this race. And, on past record alone, it can be expected that the little man from West Acton who has been on top twice and second seven times, will not be far off