

Marathon statue on pace for April

STATUE, *From B1*

Kyriakides used his triumph to draw attention to the plight of his war- and famine-ravaged homeland. Emaciated and having narrowly escaped execution when the Nazis occupied Greece, Kyriakides had not raced in six years when he came to Boston in 1946. Against his doctors' recommendations he ran the Boston Marathon and defeated defending champion Johnny Kelley.

Through his victory, Kyriakides raised awareness and money for rebuilding his homeland, and received a hero's welcome from millions when he returned.

The Hopkinton Athletic Association, Selectman Ron Clark and artist representative Susan Julian Gates initiated the idea for the statue. Kaufman, 82, a prolific sculptor who created many Boston-area sculptures and the commemorative coin for President Ronald Reagan's inauguration, was tapped for the project.

Gates said that Marathon's Kyriakides statue was unveiled a year ago during a nighttime

celebration with fireworks.

"My original concept for it started nine years ago," she said. "It takes a long time to find the money and the people who are willing to do it."

New Balance came through with the financing, and Kaufman, she said, was "a natural choice" for both statues.

The sculptor, who was on hand yesterday, said he created a model and has sent it to a foundry for casting.

"I've been working day and night to make this happen in five months," Kaufman said.

Besides the statue project, the Hopkinton Athletic Association has been working with Marathon, Greece, to establish a sister-city relationship with Hopkinton.

The association's Bruce MacDonald yesterday said he expected the relationship would be formalized before the Boston Marathon in April. Bob Foster, a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, has served as an ambassador to the Greek city.

Peter Mezitt, Weston Nurseries' vice president of marketing, said the statue would



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A statue identical to this one in Marathon, Greece, will be erected in Hopkinton.

"deepen Hopkinton's ties to the local and worldwide running community."

"This is an opportunity to tell the whole world who we are," said Board of Selectmen Chairman Eric Sonnett. Hopkinton, he said, "now has the opportunity for international exposure with this sculpture. I can't imagine anyone visiting and not making a stop to see this statue."

Sonnett also said his town might be the ideal place for a Boston Marathon Hall of Fame.

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