

HELLENIC AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (S.E.G.A.S)

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL MARATHON RACE

The "International Classical Marathon Race" to be held every two years, before and after the Olympic Games, was held for the first time on Sunday, October the 2nd 1955, organised by the "Hellenic Amateur Athletic Association".

A great number of excellent Marathon runners from all over the world hurried to Greece, wishing to fulfill the dream of all Marathon runners of the world, to run the original historical distance from MARATHON to ATHENS. This was the very course which was run by the ancient warrior two thousand four hundred years ago announcing the victory of Greeks against the Persians and the course where the first official Marathon Race was held on the first Olympic Games in 1896. (Winner: SPYROS LOUIS, Greece in 2 h.58' 50"-40 km.)

32 entries reached the SEGAS, but finally 21 Marathon runners reported for participation.

After a colorful local feast, the participants started their gruelling but noble competition at 2.30 pm. from the Church of the village of Marathon. The start was given by Stelios Kyriakidis, former Greek Marathon runner. (Boston Marathon winner in 1946 in 2h.29'27", Balkan Games and Greek Marathon Championships winner).

At the 5th Km. the runners turned to the left passed by the ancient "TYMBOS" (Grave) and after deposing a laurel branch, continued their course to Athens, ending the race in the Panathenean Stadium.

In spite of the unusual rainy weather, which put the runners before a very difficult task, the results are considered as being extremely good. The first four runners improved the former distance best time held by E. Hogrewe, Germany, 2 h.45'40" - 18.8.1951.

The European Marathon Champion of 1954 proved once more his high class by winning the First International Classical Marathon Race with the excellent time of 2 h.27' 30" which is a new distance record.

R E S U L T S

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| 1. VEIKO KARVONEN | (Finland) | 2 h.27' 30" |
| 2. MAHMOUD ABDELKERIM | (Egypt) | 2 h.39' 02" |
| 3. ALI HAMED | (Egypt) | 2 h.39' 04" |
| 4. FRANJO SKRINJAR | (Yougoslavia) | 2 h.42' 05" |
| 5. ARTIDORO BERTI | (Italy) | 2 h.45' 41" |
| 6. HANS VOLLBACH | (Germany) | 2 h.47' 51" |

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R e s u l t s

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| 7. | LUKA BOZANC | (Yougoslavie) | 2 h.50'51" |
| 8. | ABDELNABI HAKIM | (Egypt) | 2 h.56'32" |
| 9. | DIMITRIOS DERVENIS | (Greece) | 2 h.57'11" |
| 10. | MELIS HARALAMBOUS | (Greece) | 3 h.00'10" |
| 11. | ABDOULMAGD FADLALA | (Egypt) | 3 h.01'11" |
| 12. | HARILAOS KLAPSINAKIS | (Greece) | 3 h.06'40" |
| 13. | JOHN CHRISTOPOULOS | (Greece) | 3 h.06'41" |
| 14. | JOHN SKLAVOUNOS | (Greece) | 3 h.14'55" |
| 15. | A.PANAYOTOPOULOS | (Greece) | 3 h.19'32" |
| 16. | NICOLAOS DIAMANTIS | (Greece) | 3 h.19'45" |
| 17. | SOTIRIOS TRIANTAFYLLOU | (Greece) | 3 h.45'00" |

P R I C E S A W A R D E D .

- 1) To the first Winner: The Marathon Challenges Cup (Copy)
Gold medal and Diploma
- 2) To the second Winner: The Cup of H.A.A.A., silver medal,
and Diploma.
- 3) To the third Winner: A Cup ,Bronze medal and Diploma.
- 4) Every runner terminating the course in the time of equal
to, or less than two hours and fifty minutes (2 h.50')
received a distinction medal and Diploma.
- 5) Every foreign participant terminating the race except of
the above mentioned, received a Diploma of participation.

A t h e n s , O c t o b e r 1955

THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL MARATHON RACE
WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER 1957.

HELLENIC AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
A T H E N S (GREECE) 4 Kapsali Street

