

NICK TSIOTOS AND ANDY DABILIS



**RUNNING WITH
PHEIDIPPIDES**

STYLIANOS KYRIAKIDES, THE MIRACLE MARATHONER

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STYLIANOS KYRIAKIDES, THE MIRACLE MARATHONER

WITH A FOREWORD BY JOHNNY KELLEY

Stylianos Kyriakides, a championship Greek marathoner, promised to win the 1946 Boston Marathon—not for glory but to bring the world's attention to the plight of his war-torn country.

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RUNNING WITH **PHEIDIPPIDES**

"No mythology or tragedy here, *Running with Pheidippides* is a Greek triumph, beautifully crafted by Nick Tsiotos and Andy Dabilis."

—Dan Shaughnessy,
author of *The Curse of the Bambino*

It is 1946. World War II is over. As the rest of Europe struggles to rebuild itself, Greece—which had bitterly resisted Nazi occupation—is ripped apart by civil war. Thousands are dead or dying of starvation. In the face of such epic disaster, one Greek athlete takes valiant action.

This is the true story of Stylianos Kyriakides, champion Greek runner who against all odds entered the 1946 Boston Marathon, a race he had lost eight years before. Now Kyriakides ran not just to win, but to wake the world to the plight of his people.

Although ravaged by hunger, Kyriakides pushed his wracked body to the limits. Boston doctors urged him to quit. "You will die in the streets," they warned. Fueled by dauntless devotion to his countrymen and bolstered by the love of his wife, the runner persevered and triumphed.

But winning the marathon was only the first step. With characteristic grit, Kyriakides remained in the United States long enough to raise money, equipment, and medical supplies for his country. A grateful Greece proclaimed him a hero. Nearly one million welcomed him home.

Drawing on interviews and unprecedented access to family photos and papers, the authors vividly chronicle the real-life drama

(Continued on back flap)

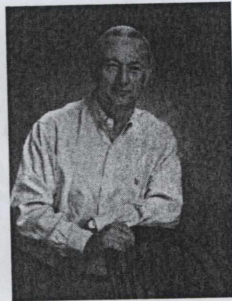
of Kyriakides: a runner who raced not for gold or glory, but for the betterment of his people and the survival of his homeland.

From the shadowy Berlin Olympics to the dark days of Nazi Greece and its aftermath, *Running with Pheidippides* speaks vividly of war and deprivation, of athletic competition and camaraderie, of genuine valor in a world bereft of heroes.

"For those of us who were young and Greek-American," recalls former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, "his victory in the 1946 Boston Marathon and the response of so many Americans to his pleas for help for his people was one of the most searing experiences of our young lives."



Lynn Wayne



Legacy Portraits, Chelmsford, Mass.

Nick Tsiotos is a teacher in the Boston Public School System. Andy Dabilis is staff reporter and assistant editor at the *Boston Globe*. They are coauthors of Harry Agganis, "The Golden Greek": *An All-American Story*.

Sports and Entertainment

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Stylios Kyriakides, a championship Greek marathoner, promised to win the 1946 Boston Marathon—not for glory but to bring the world's attention to the plight of his war-torn country. The next day, the headlines of Kyriakides' triumph filled the papers . . .

VICTORY BELONGS TO TWO NATIONS

"I have seen many athletes weep before in victory and defeat. Some were wonderful actors. This noble Athenian shed real tears, tears right from his strong Grecian heart. A heart that didn't weaken for more than 26 miles, but

which nearly burst at this point amid a mixture of pride and sorrow at the recollection of years of hardship his country has just recently endured."

—Arthur Duffey,
Boston Sunday Post, April 21, 1946

KYRIAKIDES OF GREECE BEATS KELLEY IN BOSTON MARATHON

"A true son of Pheidippides, Grecian immortal who ran the first marathon almost 2500 years ago, courageous Stylios Kyriakides from war-ravaged Athens, today won the Boston AA 50th

race of 26 miles, 385 yards in one of the most capable fields in its long history."

—*The New York Times*,
April 21, 1946

KYRI WILLING TO OFFER LIFE

"He [Stylios Kyriakides] said after the race that he had been determined to win or die, that he would have given his life for victory, if necessary, for he would have felt that he was giving his life for his people. . . . There's seldom been more drama behind any single

human being's athletic effort and none probably felt himself so truly obligated to give better than his best in an attempt to do something for others."

—Bill Cunningham,
Boston Herald, April 1946

Front cover: Weary from his bid to catch defending champion John Kelley, Kyriakides still managed to glance at his watch as he crossed the finish line the victor, setting a personal best and the best time in the world for 1946.

Sports and Entertainment



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