Larathon statue gets very solid foundation

By Cathy Flynn

KINTON - Local officials, business people and members of the Hopkinton Athletic Association gathered at Weston Nursery yesterday to dedicate a statue of the late Greek marathon "Spirit of the Nation." The statue was unveiled by Spiridon Louis, winner of the 1896 Marathon. It will be the exact size of a statue in Marathon, Greece, statues were created by Tewksbury artist Miro Kaufman and commissioned by the Boston-based athletic company.

At a ceremony yesterday at Weston Nursery in Hopkinton, a heavy granite slab is put in place for what will be a Boston Marathon statue.

As spectators watched, a crane lowered a two-ton slab of native Hopkinton granite onto the grass in a corner of the Weston Nurseries property, a few yards from "Lucky Rock," the Boston Marathon starting point in 1946.

Many in attendance yesterday predicted the statue, which will be installed and unveiled before the next Boston Marathon in April, would become a destination for runners and visitors from around the world.

"Both elite athletes and everyday runners will have interest in this statue and the story behind it," said Fred Treseler, who helps manage elite Marathon runners from around the world for race sponsor John Hancock. "As magnificent as the statue will be, the story that it represents is timeless."

Winner of the 50th Boston Marathon,