

Champs May Slow Down Marathon

De Mar Theory Boosts Chances of Dark Horse

By TOM FITZGERALD

Because of the imposing congress of international and domestic champions gathered for the occasion, a lot of the prophets are looking for a record-shattering performance in tomorrow's B. A. A. Marathon.

★ ★ ★
Mildly dissenting with this majority opinion is a gentleman who should rate as the foremost expert of them all on the basis of achievement as well as observation.

"It will be very interesting," observed Clarence DeMar yesterday. "It certainly is a wonderful field. But I wonder what will happen with so many champions in the race."

That was something to think about: a super-abundance of champions.

"What I mean," continued Mr. De Mar-athon, "is that with so many good fellows in the race you may find that they'll level off. You often find that happen in a classroom when you have a number of brilliant scholars. Their grades tend to hit the same mark."

A Slower Race?

And so tomorrow there is the possibility that the big stars may be so careful of one another that they'll be herded together. Nobody would want to take the chance of breaking away, and of course that would make a slower race."

Clarence didn't say so, but his

observations again stirred the hunch that J. Nason advanced on this page yesterday concerning the possibility of some unknown treating all the great ones to a rear view of his disappearing jersey.

As De Mar summed it up, "It will be very interesting."

As you are well aware, the master Marathoner has more than an expert's passive interest in tomorrow's classic. At the age of 59 he is making his 25th start in the Hopkinton-Boston derby with which his name is inevitably associated as a result of his seven victories.

The Master's goal this time is the same as the one he set for himself last year and missed—to his keen disappointment. He hopes to finish among the first 30 and inside of three hours.

"Of course it's going to be difficult coming in with the first 30, with all the fine runners in the race," he said. "But I'll be trying."

The untold thousands lining the curbstones will be enthusiastically cheering him on to his objective. Objective or no, he'll get the loudest public acclaim of anybody in the field, anyway.

MACADAM MATTERS

The entry list was opened by Tom Kanaly yesterday to allow the admission of Walter Young, the 1937 victor from Verdun, P. Q. . . . And with him were added The Mar J.

Gildea, CMM, USN, and Iggy Ruszyk of St. Francis Xavier A. C., Buffalo. . . . Young, a policeman in his home town, hasn't showed up for the Boston race for several years. . . . His last good showing was in 1939 when he finished third behind Tarzan Brown and Don Heinicke.

★ ★ ★
Young is the seventh former winner in the field. . . . Just to keep you up to date the others are defender Stylianos Kyriakides; Johnny Kelley (1935-45); Gerard Cote ('43-'44); Joe Smith ('42); Tarzan Brown ('36-'39) and DeMar ('11-'22-'23-'24-'27-'28-'30). . . . The only winner of the past decade not listed is Les Pawson ('38-'41).

★ ★ ★
Kyriakides says he is in ideal condition to essay a defense of the laurel leaves. . . . Earlier this week he had a slow "run and walk" test of 21 miles from Hopkinton to Boston College. . . . He loafed the distance in 3:20. . . . The Greek champion seldom tries to develop much speed in his workouts which generally are 10 to 12 miles. . . . Stanley says he should just about hit his winning figure of 1946 (2:29:27), always allowing for the myriad hazards that beset a marathoner.

★ ★ ★
Kyriakides considers the outstanding contenders to be the Koreans, the Finns and three Americans—Kelley, Robbins and Vogel.

★ ★ ★
Only three men have won the B. A. A. event in consecutive years. . . . The first was James J. Caffrey of Hamilton, Ont., in 1900-01. . . . DeMar, of course, turned the trick twice and Cote ('43-'44).