

Kyriakides Visits City; Speaks at High School

Returnning to New Bedford for the first time since shortly after he won the Boston AA Marathon last year, Stylianos Kyriakides of Athens, Greece, spoke at the auditorium assembly at New Bedford High School today. He was introduced to the students by Mayor Harriman, who the Greek runner is visiting in this city.

In presenting the star long-distance competitor, Mayor Harriman



Kyriakides

talked of the origin of democracy in Greece and our debt to that country for its many, many cultural contributions.

Kyriakides thanked the students for their many gifts to the high school pupils of Athens and gave an account of the Greeks reaction to the gifts. He said they were overwhelmed with joy and gratitude.

Last year New Bedford High students replied to Kyriakides' plea for aid in a most generous manner, sending 14 large crates and 14 smaller particles of food and school utensils such as pencils and paper.

Tells of Handicap

Kyriakides explained that before these gifts were received, pupils in the three Athens high schools had to share what little paper and few pencils they had. They attended school barefooted for lack of shoes and undernourished for lack of food.

"The gifts helped a great deal,"

Kyriakides said, "and the pupils of Athens plan to write personal letters of gratitude to the students here.

Explaining his chances in the big BAA Marathon April 19, Kyriakides said he expected stiff competition. He spoke highly of Anthanasios Ragazos, a countryman who is making his first start in what Kyriakides calls, "the greatest Marathon race in the world.

"Runners from all over the world know the BAA Marathon as the greatest marathon race in the world. The winner is called the world champion by all long-distance runners.

Foreigners Hard to Beat

"This year I feel that the five Canadians, three Finns, two Bolivians and the Koreans will be hard to beat. I will try my best to win again."

Kyriakides told of the original Battle of Marathon when Pheidippides ran to Athens with the news: "We are victorious."

Accompanying the Greek runner was Sam Collins, well-known New Bedford business man.

Students were shown movies of the 1946 World Series and it was announced that the Kyriakides Greek Club of New Bedford High is still in existence under the direction of Marion E. Lord and that students correspond regularly with students in Greece.