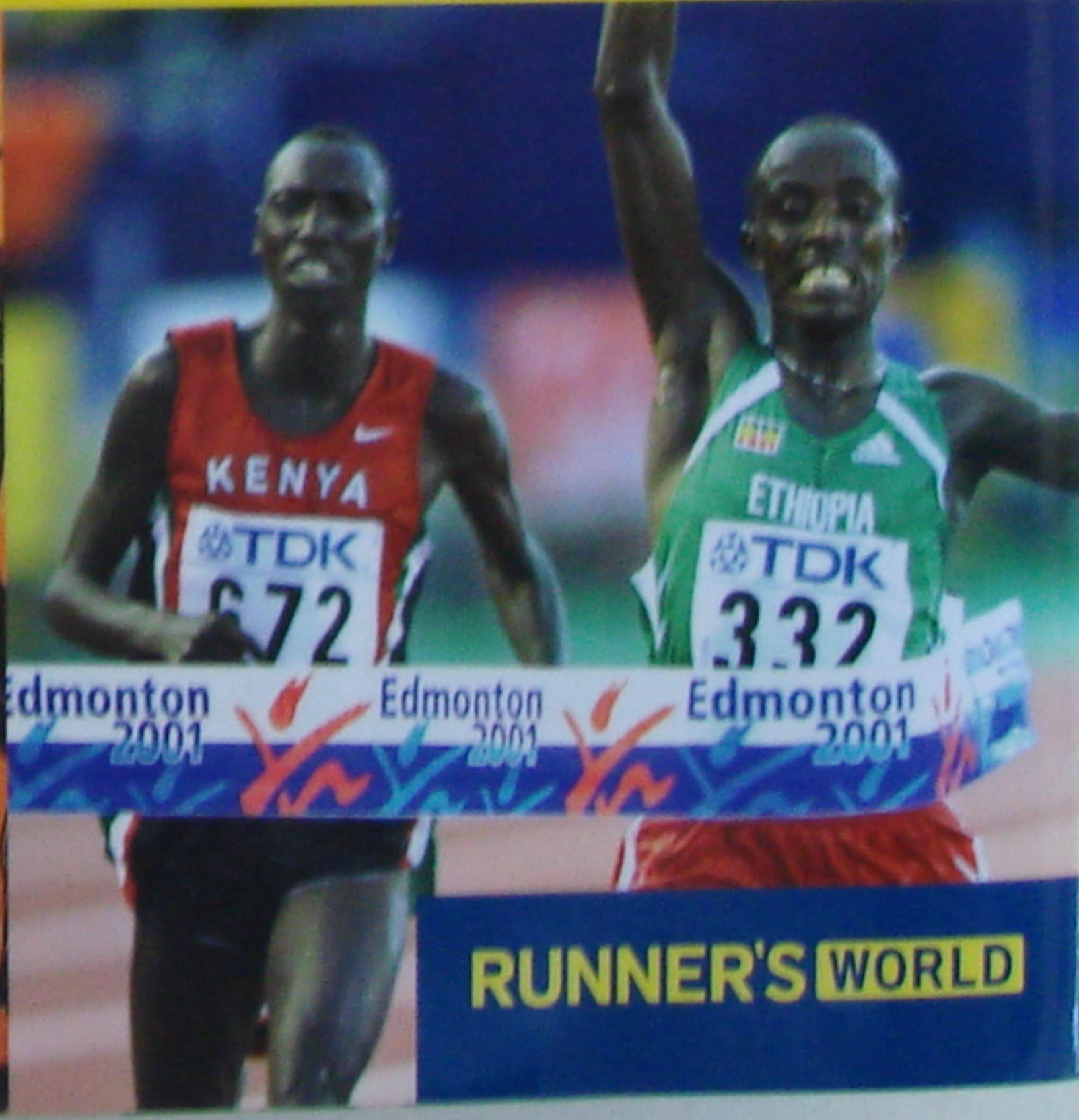




26.2

MARATHON STORIES

KATHRINE SWITZER AND ROGER ROBINSON



RUNNER'S WORLD



Gérard Côté Canada, b. 1913
Best time: 2:28:25 (1943)

For all his panache and post-race cigars, the debonair Quebecker was a rugged competitor. He won Boston four times (1940-48), placed top 10 on nine other occasions, and won marathons in Canada and Los Angeles. The war deprived him of his best Olympic years; he was 17th in 1948.



Stylianos Kyriakides Greece, b. 1910
Best time: 2:29:27 (1946)

He embodied the revival of a war-ravaged world, especially starving Greece, with his emotional win at Boston in 1946. Like Pheidippides, he carried a message: "Win or die." He had placed 11th at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, an achievement that twice saved his life under Nazi occupation.



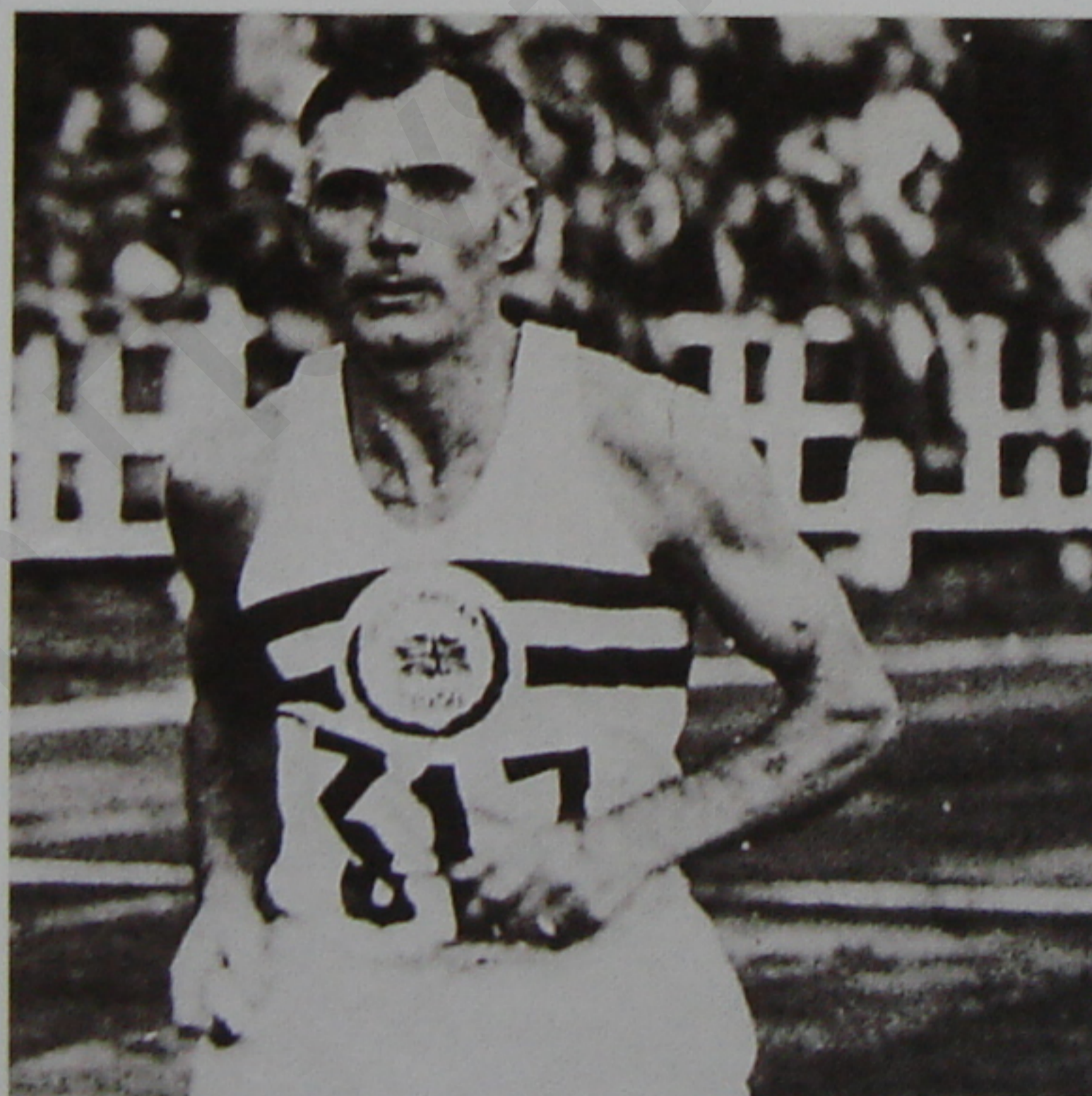
Yun Bok Suh Korea, b. 1923
Best time: 2:25:39 (1947)

American soldiers in Korea raised the expenses for two young runners, coached by Olympic champion Sohn Kee-Chung, to run at Boston in 1947. As a symbol of revival it matched Kyriakides's when the 115-pound Suh outran an Olympic-quality field for a world-record victory.



Delfo Cabrera Argentina, b. 1919
Best time: 2:26:42.4 (1952)

The multiple South American track champion finished fast in his first marathon, the 1948 London Olympics, passing the exhausted Belgian Etienne Gailly in the stadium. Eight minutes faster in 1952, he placed sixth. A teacher, he became president of Argentina's Olympic Association.



Jack (John) Holden England, b. 1907
Best time: 2:32:13.2 (1950)

After racing internationally from 1929 (International Cross-Country), he moved to the marathon at age 39 and for five years was among the world's best. One of the greatest all-time over-40 runners, he won the 1950 European and Empire marathons, despite blisters and dog attack in Auckland.



Veikko Karvonen Finland, b. 1926
Best time: 2:18:56.4 (1956)

The consistent Finn led the world at the end of the era before 2:20 was broken. He won 14 of 34 marathons, including the European championship in 1954, and major victories at Boston, Enschede, Athens, and Fukuoka. He ended his long elite career with Olympic bronze in 1956.