

BO-MARATHON-LIST)

BOSTON (UPI) -- THE NAMES, FINISHING TIMES AND HOMETOWNS OF THE TOP 50 FINISHERS IN THE 1979 BOSTON MARATHON:

1. BILL RODDERS, MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS: 2:10:13.
2. JEFF WELLS, DALLAS, TEXAS: 2:10:15.
3. ESA TIKKANEN, FINLAND: 2:11:15.
4. JACK FULTZ, FRANKLIN, PENNSYLVANIA: 2:11:17.
5. RANDY THOMAS, BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS: 2:11:25.
6. KEVIN RYAN, NEW ZEALAND: 2:11:43.
7. DON KARDONG, SPOKANE, WASHINGTON: 2:14:07.
8. JOHN LODWICK, DALLAS, TEXAS: 2:14:12.
9. YUTAKA TAKETOMI, JAPAN: 2:14:34.
10. TOM FLEMING, BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY: 2:14:44.
11. BENJI BURDEN, LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA: 2:15:04.
12. BOBBY DOYLE, CENTRAL FALLS, RHODE ISLAND: 2:15:37.
13. JOHN DIMICK, BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT: 2:15:58.
14. LEE FIDLER, STONE MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA: 2:16:14.
15. JOHN VITALE, ROCKYHILL, CONNECTICUT: 2:16:17.
16. RUSSELL PATE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA: 2:16:39.
17. R. MCCOMBER, BOWLING GREEN, OHIO: 2:17:01.
18. MITSUD SUZUKI, JAPAN: 2:17:10.
19. E. STRABEL, FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS: 2:17:12.
20. TIM DONOVAN, BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS: 2:17:49.
21. ART MCANDREW, WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS: 2:18:01.
22. BRUCE ROBINSON, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND: 2:18:02.
23. FRANK SHORER, BOULDER, COLORADO: 2:18:15.
24. RAYMOND CURRIER, MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE: 2:18:18.
25. BARRY HEATH, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA: 2:18:24.
26. WILLIAM STEVEN, RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY: 2:18:28.
27. MICHAEL MURPHY, CROMWELL, CONNECTICUT: 2:18:44.
28. RALPH ZIMMERMAN, KENNORE, NEW YORK: 2:18:55.
29. LAURENCE OLSEN, FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS: 2:19:23.
30. BEN WILSON, TROY, VIRGINIA: 2:19:34.
31. RAFAEL TERES, COSTA RICA: 2:19:45.
32. JAMES BOWLES, BEALE, CALIFORNIA: 2:19:57.
33. CHUCK BURROWS, MCQUIRE AFB, NEW JERSEY: 2:20:03.
34. JOSEPH YURKOVICH, SALEM, OHIO: 2:20:14.
35. TIM MIKCEVICH, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: 2:20:23.
36. BARNEY KLECKER, LONG PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA: 2:20:28.
37. STEVE FLANAGAN, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN: 2:20:36.
38. FRITZ MUELLER, NEW YORK: 2:20:47.
39. LARRY CURRAN, SALINA, KANSAS: 2:20:56.
40. JOHN CALLACI, ONEONTA, NEW YORK: 2:21:25.
41. BOB HENSLEY, MILFORD, CONNECTICUT: 2:21:33.
42. TONY BRIEN, RICHDALE, OKLAHOMA: 2:21:50.
43. RICHARD DISERASTIAN, UPPER MARRY, PENNSYLVANIA: 2:21:52.
44. WILLIAM GAVAGHAN, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA: 2:21:54.
45. ARTHUR HALL, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK: 2:22:07.
46. MARTIN COHEN, BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS: 2:22:12.
47. ALASCAR KERN, ENGLAND: 2:22:27.
48. MARK DUGGAN, READING, MASSACHUSETTS: 2:22:35.
49. STEVE YEAGLE, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND: 2:22:42.
50. WILLIAM HAVILAND, ATHENS, OHIO: 2:22:51.

PK-MARATHON-RODGERS ASTLEAD AND CORRECT 3053 4-18

BY DAVE RICHMINE

BOSTON (UPI) -- TWO-TIME BOSTON MARATHON WINNER BILL RODGERS CREDITS A KNOWLEDGE OF THE RUGGED, HILLY COURSE AND AN ENTHUSIASTIC HOMETOWN CROWD FOR HIS WIN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

RODGERS, 30, OF MELROSE, MASS., MISSED BREAKING HIS OWN 1975 MARATHON RECORD OF 2:09.55 BY ONLY 18 SECONDS MONDAY, BUT HE SAID ALL 138,435 FEET OF THE COURSE WERE TOUGH.

"I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER I WOULD MAKE IT. I WAS REALLY HURTING THE LAST SIX MILES," A PALE, PANTING RODGERS SAID AFTERWARD BETWEEN SIPS FROM A PLASTIC WATER BOTTLE. "IT WAS A VERY INTENSE PACE -- PROBABLY THE ROUGHEST I'VE EVER RUN."

RODGERS WAS CROWNED WITH THE TRADITIONAL LAUREL WREATH BEFORE POLICE WHISKED HIM AWAY FROM THE PUSHING, CHEERING MOB SCENE AT THE FINISH LINE IN DOWNTOWN BOSTON.

REFERRING TO THE LAST FEW CRUCIAL MILES, HE SAID: "I'VE NEVER BEEN CHEERED LIKE THAT IN A RACE BEFORE. I HAD A TREMENDOUS ADVANTAGE WITH THE PEOPLE ON MY SIDE AND I WANT TO THANK THEM."

RODGERS MADE IT OVER THE HEARTBREAK HILL STRETCH IN SUBURBAN NEWTON IN JUST OVER 20 MINUTES. IT WAS ONE OF THE BEST SPRINTS EVER SEEN ON A TORTUROUS, UP-AND-DOWN STRETCH OF CURVES WHICH OFTEN SHATTERS THE SPIRITS AND LEGS OF THE BEST RUNNERS IN THE WORLD.

WHEN TOLD OF HIS TIME IN NEWTON, RODGERS SAT BACK IN A FOLDING CHAIR AND SMILED. "THAT'S WHERE I TRAIN -- ON THOSE HILLS. I JUST GO UP AND CRUISE DOWN THE OTHER SIDE, OPENING UP MY STRIDE."

RODGERS SURVIVED A DRAMATIC FINISH CHALLENGE FROM JEFF WELLS OF DALLAS, WHO PULLED UP ABOUT TWO SECONDS AND 40 FEET SHORT.

"UP UNTIL THE FINISH LINE I DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER I WOULD MAKE IT. WELLS IS VERY TOUGH. HE HAS A LOT OF STRENGTH," RODGERS SAID.

"I WAS SO NERVOUS I DIDN'T THINK I COULD DO IT. I DON'T HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF. I KEPT ON LOOKING BEHIND, BUT COULDN'T SEE VERY WELL; I KNEW HE WAS CLOSE TOWARD THE END BECAUSE A MOTORCYCLE COP TOLD ME."

RODGERS IS KNOWN FOR STRONG, CONSISTENT MARATHON RUNS, ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDDLE MILES, WHILE WELLS IS A STRONG FINISHER. RODGERS SAID HE "HAD VISIONS OF HIM NIPPING ME GOING UP HEREFORD STREET" JUST A FEW YARDS FROM THE FINISH LINE.

"THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF WAS LOOKING AT TOMORROW MORNING'S HEADLINES AND ASKING MYSELF HOW I WOULD FEEL FINISHING IN SECOND PLACE," HE SAID.

BUT AS RODGERS ROUNDED THE FINAL TURN AND THE CROWD ROARED, HE DIDN'T LOOK BACK. AS HE BROKE THE TAPE, HE GRIMACED IN PAIN.

THE COOL WEATHER HELPED. LAST YEAR WHEN TEMPERATURES NEARED 80, HE FADED. BUT THIS YEAR HE WAS HAPPY WITH HIS TIME OF 2:10.13.

"I STILL WANT TO GET UNDER 2:09.55, BUT IN '75 THE WIND WAS AT MY BACK. THE WIND TODAY WAS PUSHING A LITTLE AGAINST US, BUT IT WASN'T A FACTOR," HE SAID.

(ELIMINATES EARLY)

UPI 04-18 09:33 REC