

United States Naval Academy Marathon Team

Date: Monday, 17 April 2017, 1000 start time

Event: Boston Marathon

Distance: 26.2 miles

Location: Boston, MA

Weather: Sunny, Warm, Mid-High 70s

Participants: 9 Midshipmen Runners
3 Midshipmen Drivers/Volunteers
1 USNA OREP - LCDR Casey Rayburg
1 USNA Coach - Coach Nate Nudelman

The Boston Marathon is the most famous marathon in the world – almost everyone who runs a marathon aspires to someday run the Boston Marathon. In order for the midshipmen to be able to run this weekend, the men had to previously complete a marathon in 3:05:00, or a 7:05/mile pace, and the women in 3:35:00, or a 8:12/mile pace. These standards are grueling, and the fact that these midshipmen qualified is a testament to their training and their dedication to the physical mission of the United States Naval Academy.

The race draws the most elite runners from all over the world – the winning time for the race today was 2:09:37 by Geoffrey Kirui for the men, and 2:21:52 by Edna Kilplagat for the women. Today also commemorated the 50th anniversary of Kathrine Switzer running the Boston Marathon. She was the first woman to run the Boston Marathon when she entered her name as “K.V. Switzer” so that the race organizers would not know she was a woman.

There were approximately 27,000 runners in today’s race from all over the world, and the Navy Marathon Team made up 10 of those runners.

Saturday, 15 April 2017

The team spent a long day traveling together to the 121st Boston Marathon. They arrived at the expo, where they were met by Commander Monihan, USN, a Boston native who showed the team around during the event.



Team poses outside with a future midshipman and CDR Monihan

Runners, volunteers, Coach and OREP pose for a picture with the race numbers

The team picked up their packets and spent the afternoon searching for deals on running items and interacting with fellow runners. Many people thanked them for their service. They also met several other alumni and potential future midshipmen at the expo. The midshipmen were a great representation of the Naval Academy and the military.



In the photo above, CDR Monihan presents Team President, MIDN 1/C Holly Sandler with a certificate declaring the Governor of Massachusetts, Charles Baker's formal welcome to the Navy Marathon Team.

Sunday, 16 April 2017

The team members had a day to relax and took the time to spend with their families. Many went to church services for Easter and explored the Boston area.

Later in the evening, the team had a pre-race dinner at Vinny's where they had pasta, bread, pizza, and salad. The team was surrounded by family members and teammates. Vinny's graciously hosts the Navy Marathon Team every year, and the team was delighted to be back again this year. Doctor Thomas Hattar, an assistant coach since 2013, sponsored this year's team dinner.



Coach Nate Nudelman makes a pre-race speech to the team and families at the pasta dinner



Team photo outside of Vinny's



I/C Midshipmen Gabriel Larios, Stephen Ward, Kaitlan Moynihan, Holly Sandler, and Noah Wachlin show off their Firstie Navy Marathon Team jackets.



Coach Nudelman with Michael McMonogal, USNA '12 and Navy Marathon Team Member

Monday 17 April 2017

On a hot and sunny Boston day, the Navy Marathon team sent 10 runners to complete the world's most famous marathon. Because of the heat, many ran a bit slower than normal, but all completed the race with grit and determination.

Results:

Men

| Last Name | First Name | Time | Overall Place | Notes |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Zepeda | Kurt | 3:01:57 | 1649 | Boston 2018 Qualifier |
| Keating | Conor | 3:05:24 | 2081 | |
| Palladino | Chris | 3:06:25 | 2214 | First Boston Marathon |
| Larios | Gabe | 3:14:21 | 3546 | |
| Wachlin | Noah | 3:22:26 | 5165 | First Boston Marathon |
| Henson | Thomas | 4:05:15 | 16733 | |

Women

| Last Name | First Name | Time | Overall Place | Notes |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------------|--|
| Dooley | Cassandra | 3:08:20 | 2503 | Boston 2018 Qualifier, First Boston Marathon |
| Robinson | Cara | 3:27:27 | 6373 | Boston 2018 Qualifier, First Boston Marathon |
| Moynihan | Kaitlan | 3:31:53 | 7530 | Boston 2018 Qualifier |

Officer Representative

| Last Name | First Name | Time | Overall Place | Notes |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Rayburg | Casey | 3:30:50 | 7244 | First Boston Marathon |



The medal of the finishers of the 121st Boston Marathon

In addition to the runners, three midshipmen tagged along as drivers/support staff.



1/C Stephen Ward, 1/C Holly Sandler, and 2/C Trevor Karn pose for an iconic Boston photo

Coast Guard Station-Boston graciously allowed the Navy Marathon Team members a rendezvous point and a place to shower and relax before heading home to Annapolis, MD.

The Navy Marathon Team had a great weekend running the most prestigious marathon. It was a whole team effort, from the runners, to the drivers, to the families, and preparations have already begun for Boston 2018.

After Action Report Prepared By MIDN 1/C Holly Sandler