

United States Naval Academy Marathon Team

Date: Monday, 16 April 2018, 1000 start time

Event: Boston Marathon

Distance: 26.2 miles

Location: Boston, MA

Weather: Rain, 25 MPH Wind Gusts, 38°F

Participants: 13 Midshipmen Runners
6 Midshipmen Drivers/Volunteers
1 USNA OREP/runner - LCDR Casey Rayburg
1 USNA Coach - Coach Nate Nudelman

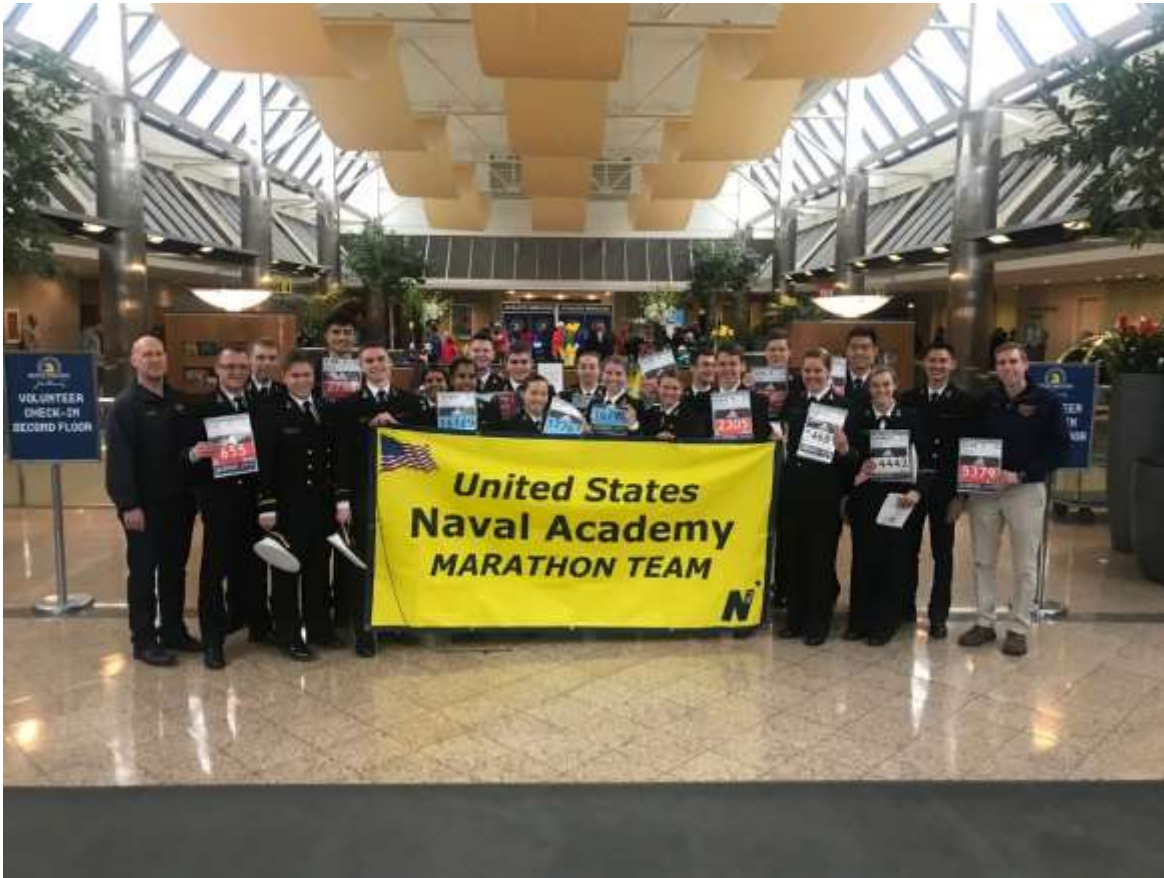
The Boston Marathon is the oldest and most famous marathon in the world – almost everyone who runs a marathon aspires someday to run the Boston Marathon. In order for the midshipmen to be able to run this weekend, the men had to qualify by completing a marathon in 3:05:00, or a 7:05/mile pace, and the 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 2:15:53 by Yuki Kawauchi for the men, and 2:39:53 by Desi Linden for the women. Today was also the coldest Boston Marathon in decades, with officials announcing a temperature of 38 degrees at the start. On a day when none of the seven top contenders by personal-best times completed the course, torrential rain and a 25mph headwind hindered the midshipmen, but kept none of them from finishing the race.

There were approximately 29,960 runners in today's race from 109 countries and all 50 states. The Navy Marathon Team made up 14 of those runners.

Saturday, 14 April 2018

The team spent a long day traveling together to the 122nd Boston Marathon.



The team poses at the Expo for a group photo.

The team stopped first at the Boston Runner's Expo - picking up their race bibs and packets and spending the afternoon searching for deals on running items and interacting with fellow runners. The midshipmen were a great representation of the Naval Academy and the military.

Sunday, 15 April 2018

The team members had a day to relax, enjoy the city of Boston on liberty, and spend time with teammates and family members who travelled to the race. That evening, the team had a pre-race dinner at Vinny's Ristorante, where they 'carbo-loaded' with delicious pasta, bread, and salad. Family members who had travelled to the race also attended the event. Vinny's graciously hosts the Navy Marathon Team every year, and the team was delighted to be back. Doctor Thomas Hattar, the Navy Marathon Team's original founder, sponsored this year's team dinner. After dinner, the first class team members received their '4year Jackets' commemorating their longtime dedication to the team.



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



Team photo outside of Vinny's



Coach Nudelman with team founder, Tom, and former coach, John

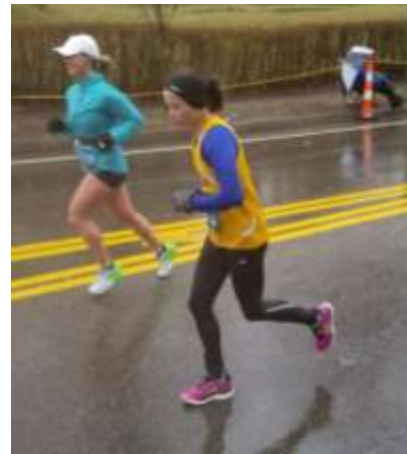
Monday 16 April 2018

In the windy, rainy, early morning of Marathon Monday, snow was visible on the ground. The team made their way to Hopkinton High School, the jumping point for all runners of the Boston Marathon. From Hopkinton High, all runners must disembark and begin their way on foot to the starting line. Several hours before the start, Coach Nudelman and a contingent of runners assembled the team tent in a patch of open grass – using desperate measures to keep the tent from blowing away – and began to cook a hearty breakfast of pancakes and scrambled eggs. During this time, alumni of the Naval Academy and Navy veterans flocked to the USNA Marathon Team tent to rekindle old memories and to get out of the constant rain and near-freezing temperatures. Meanwhile, runners bundled, applied anti-chafing material, and prepared themselves mentally for the grueling task ahead of them. When the speakers announced the opening of Wave 1 around 0930, the midshipmen sprung up into the cold and driving winds for their crack at the Boston Marathon.



Coach Nudelman prepping breakfast, next to 1/C Zepeda and 1/C Jensen enjoying the results

The runners spent the next three to four hours running in soaked shoes, in many cases using trashbags as outer layers and using socks as makeshift gloves (many local stores sold out). They accomplished much by finishing, regardless of the time it took them. By all standards, this year's group from the Navy Marathon Team performed incredibly well.



Waiting at the finish line, Coach Nudelman, MIDN Jensen, and MIDN Zepeda stood, watching for fellow midshipmen to finish the marathon. As the rain and winds picked up through the early afternoon, this small group gained permission from Boston Marathon officials to reassemble the USNA Marathon Team tent in order to allow finishers the opportunity to change clothes and gather a brief respite from the chilling rain. Since the persistent wind and cold caused most runners to lose basic motor functions in their hands, the group assisted numerous finishers with undressing and dressing as they waited for Naval Academy midshipmen to finish.



Coach Nudelman and the Volunteers greeting tired finishers.

Results:

	Name:	Personal Best	Official Finish Time	Notes:
MEN:	02:43:54	02:42:55	Wegner, Michael	Finished in 255 th Place, 400 places better than seeded.
	02:51:18	02:56:32	Palladino, Chris	Personal Best by 5 minutes, 2,397 places better than seeded
	02:53:13	02:54:09	Huntress, Jack	Personal Best by a minute, 1,406 places better than seeded
	02:57:22	03:02:51	Kim, Victor	Personal Best by 5 minutes, 4,203 places better than seeded
	02:58:31	02:54:26	Oestreich, Charles	Finished 761 places better than seeded
	03:27:39	02:57:17	Keating, Conor	Finished despite injury and conditions
	03:38:50	02:55:53	Redito, Luke	Finished despite injury and conditions
WOMEN:	03:17:42	03:04:57	Dooley, Cassandra	Finished 2,450 places better than seeded
	03:26:31	03:24:57	Robinson, Cara	Finished 7,898 places better than seeded
	03:39:32	03:32:27	Roxbury, Niki	Finished 7,171 places better than seeded
	03:39:56	03:27:03	Lane, Grace	Finished 3,958 places better than seeded
	03:39:32	03:32:27	Roxbury, Niki	Finished 7,171 places better than seeded
	03:51:03	03:29:00	Walsh, Svetla	Finished 2,513 places better than seeded
OREP:	03:48:47	03:02:03	Rayburg, Casey	Finished after dominating a 100 mile race last weekend



The medal of the finishers of the 122nd Boston Marathon



(L→R) 2/C Brendan Fish, 2/C Anmol Walha, 1/C Thomas Henson, and 2/C Garrett Yu cheer on their teammates in the Boston Weather.

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 the coaching staff. Preparations have already begun for Boston 2019.

After Action Report Prepared By MIDN 1/C Conor Keating, 1/C Kurt Zepeda, and 2/C Raymond Gerrety