

Olympic Victor Comes to Town April 15, 1909 | Bangor



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Olympic Victor Comes To Town Hayes to Go 15 Miles in Auditorium Tonight Against John H. Neary and Pat Dineen, Relay.

Johnny Hayes, world-famous as winner of the Olympic Marathon race from Windsor Castle to Sheppard's Bush, London, last year, came to town Wednesday from Boston in steamer City of Bangor and since his arrival the trim little runner has been gazed upon admiringly by about 99 per cent of the sport-loving natives of this part of Maine. The others couldn't break away from their jobs Wednesday, but they will be on hand tonight when Johnny starts away on the Auditorium track to travel fifteen miles as fast as Pat Dineen of South Boston and John H. Neary of South Natick, Mass., can do the distance in replay. All three men are here, all fit, and as they say, each confident of having just a bit the best of it.

ABOUT JOHNNY HAYES

John J. Hayes is a product of Old New York, having been born in that step-lively metropolis 23 years ago this April. He is what John L. Sullivan would call "a good little man," for although far-famed as an athlete of wonderful endurance and great speed, he is only five feet, three and a half in his shoes and weighs but 124 pounds. Beaming with natural intelligence, well schooled, modest and of very agreeable personality.

It was five years ago that Hayes took up running and he has been a professional since October, 1908. Besides countless races at various distances, he has competed in eight Marathon events, always finishing in the money. In 1906 he started with a field of a hundred men in the Boston A.A. annual event, Ashland to Boston, finishing fifth in 2:55, carrying the colors of the St. Bartholomew A.C. New York. This was the race won by Tim Ford of the Cambridgeport Gymnasium. In 1907, over the same course, 25 miles, when Longboat won in the record time 2:24.26, with Bob Fowler second, Hayes ran in 2:30, or within one

minute of the previous record for distance. Following this, he won the first New York Marathon race on the hilly Yonkers course, 25 miles, in 2:43, and that same year was third in the Junior National cross-country event, New York, afterward winning several cross-country races.

In 1908, carrying the colors of the Irish-American A.C., Hayes ran second to Morrissey of the Mercury A.C., New York, on the Boston A.A. course, which entitled him to start in the Olympic event in London, where he competed in a field of sixty. His famous victory there is athletic history.

Since the London Olympics, Hayes has taken part in three Marathon events – two with Dorando Pietri in Madison Square Garden, New York and one at the Polo Grounds, the results of which are well known. In the second Garden race he ran fifteen miles in record time for that distance in a Marathon contest – 1:26. It is the belief of Hayes's supporters and of many other sport followers that if he had not been held back by his handler at the Polo Grounds, and had started his speed a mile earlier, he would have finished second, or, if he had cut loose two miles earlier, he would have bothered the fleet Frechman, St. Yves, and possibly won. As between the Frenchman and the Svanberg, the Swedish wonder, Hayes says: "Well, you can't tell – there's a new one coming every day."

Hayes is accompanied on this trip by Jimmy Johnson, one of the front row sporting men of New York, who has managed the affairs of many athletic stars.

DINEEN IS A VETERAN

These few lines will serve to introduce Patrick J. Dineen, a sturdy little County Limerick man who came to America in 1890 and settled in South Boston, where when not running for money and fame, he gets the dough in another way – for he is a first rate baker. Dineen is a veteran of the track, as all followers of sporting events know. He was 39 years old in February last, and since he began running in 1892 he has competed in 35 races, at all distances from five to ten miles up to six days. In those 35 events he has finished first 21 times, second eight times, third five times and fourth once, so that it is plain that he has not been running entirely for the benefit of his health.

In 1902 Dineen won the Weston gold belt and the six-days championship of the world in Philadelphia, doing 519 miles on a 17 lap track against a field numbering 48 starters, including such men as Peter Heggeman, Peter Golden, George Noremac and George Cartwright. He won the Madison Square Garden 72 hours race (12 hours a day, six days) in the fall of 1903, in a field of 70, and also won the last 72 hours race run in the United States – that in Detroit last December, where he was the best man in a field of 27, doing 376 miles. He won the professional Marathon event in Boston last New Year's eve, and was second last Saturday's race in Boston, won by Louise Orphee.

Dineen is five feet four and a half inches in running shoes, and weighs about 122 pounds. He is, like most runners, a man of the best habits, and is seldom far out of racing condition. While in Bangor he is stopping at the Penobscot Exchange.

Asked for a line on tonight's event. Dineen said that he had no idea what kind of a race he would run and couldn't tell anything about it until he started. He says very little, boasts not at all - but believes that the relay team will beat Johnny Hayes.

John H. Neary, something of whose running career was told in the News the other day, was in Bangor Wednesday, bright and smiling, and with the others called at the News office. He also, smiles confidently when asked about the relay's chances.