

**Sockalexis Tells Facts of Olympic  
Marathon | Indian Distance  
Runner Believes He Should Have  
Won Great Event - Going Home  
For Long Rest in Maine Woods**

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That the American Marathon runners taking part in the Marathon race in the Olympic games were over trained before the great race, which was won by two South African runners, was started, is the opinion of Andrew Socjalesis of Oldtown [*sic*], the only Maine athlete to compete in the games at Stockholm. Sockalexis returned to Portland today and he was present at the great welcome given the athletes in New York, Wednesday.

“By all odds America should have won first place,” said Sockalexis, “My settled conviction is that both the fact that the American Marathoners were overtrained and that our plan of campaign fell short in the actual requirements were the elements that contributed directly to the failure of the American team.

“Personally, I have never trained for such an event of the kind in such strenuous fashion. Whether the rest of the team have been accustomed to continuous work for a Marathon, I can’t say, but it struck me that we were overworked and were not in the best of shape for the event.

“If I had run my own race I believe that would have crossed the finish line a winner, but I did not get the word to start my sprint until within three miles of the finish, and the lead secured by the South Africans was too great for me to overcome. I finished in fine shape and the same night I attended a reception and banquet. I did not retire until 1 a. m., the following morning and felt fine the next day. The Marathon course was the worst I ever ran over, as there were 54 hills, and the last three miles of the course was over a road covered with small rocks. My time for the 25 miles was 2 hours 42 minutes and 7 seconds, and I was less than five minutes behind the winner. I was not more than one mile from the finish when South Africans crossed the line.

“If I had started my sprint at the 12 ½ mark I believe I would have won easily, as I knew at that time that I had the speed and strength to run the distance. The fact that I was in 14<sup>th</sup> place at that time and that I passed many runners before the finish convinces me that I did not increase my speed at the right time.

I was within 30 feet of the Portuguese runner, who afterwards dies from the effects of the race, when he fell to the ground, and I saw a number of men collapse as I passed them. While I was a little faint I was strong, and had the race been one mile more distance I would have certainly won."

Sockalexis call the Express-Advertiser today, arriving in town on his way home to his old home in Old Town where he intends to go into the woods for a long rest. Later he plans to go to Quebec and in regard to the future he said that he had not made any definite plans.

Mike Murphy, the world famous trainer, paid a pretty compliment to the Maine Indian in New York Wednesday. "Too bad you didn't come home with that big cup, Sox" said Murphy, patting the young runner on the back, "You are the greatest distance runner in the world today."