

Maine AAU Potato Blossom Marathon
July 22, 1950 | Fort Fairfield



RK note: Eight of the top marathon runners of the United States came to run in what is right now the earliest known marathon (26.2 miles) held in the State of Maine. The Maine AAU Marathon was conducted in the evening of July 22, 1950 in Fort Fairfield, Maine as part of the Maine Potato Blossom Festival.

Participants included - Jesse Van Zant of the BAA, George Pike of the BAA, Mike O'Hara of the Millrose AC of New York, Harry Murphy of the New York Pioneer Club, George Younis of Boston, who is unattached, John Semple of the BAA, Ralph Murray of the BAA and John Laffery of AD 1, United States Navy of Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Two Maine runners has been identified one as Sam Ouellette of Ashland and the other as Edwin Sheppard of Gorham.

Other notable runners included Johnny Kelley of West Acton, Mass (two time winner of the Boston Marathon), Bill Steiner, Millrose AA, New York, three times 30K champion and Clarence DeMar (seven time winner of the Boston Marathon).

Winner was John Laffery running in 2:44.07, Second Place was Johnny Kelley running in 2:44.41. First Maine Marathoner receiving the Governor's Trophy from Governor Frederick Payne was Edwin Sheppard (who finished 6th overall).

Top Finishers:

1. John Lafferty 2:44:07
2. John Kelly 2:44:41
3. Gerard Cote 2:49:53