

# Recalling a long-running crusade

By Joe Concannon  
GLOBE STAFF



They were gathered for a reunion yesterday as the 96th Boston Marathon loomed on the horizon. There were just a few of the women who have won this race since they were officially permitted to compete in it 20 years ago, but to 1973 winner **Jacqueline Hansen**, returning evoked memories of a race she didn't win in 1984.

Hansen had been in the vanguard of a movement to see the women's marathon included in the Olympic Games, and she was a part of a group trying to convince the International Olympic Committee that there also should be a 5,000- and 10,000-meter race in the Games. She won the first battle, but wound up going to court in Los Angeles over the 5,000 and 10,000.

She and other supporters held a press conference to announce the lawsuit on the rest day of the inaugural World Championships in Track and Field in Helsinki a year earlier, so Hansen was in the eye of the storm. She also dearly wanted to race Boston in 1984, since it was the final qualifying race for the first US Women's Marathon trials in Olympia, Wash.

This was the scenario on a cold, damp April day in Boston eight years ago.

"I recall my time very vividly," said Hansen, who is now 43 and lives in the Topanga Valley section of Southern California, in the Malibu area. "It was the most dramatic day of my whole running career. I spearheaded a movement to include the women's distance events in the Games.

"We had succeeded in the getting the marathon in, but it came to a lawsuit about the 5,000 and 10,000, and the case was in court in LA that day, and I couldn't be there. It was also the last day you could qualify for the Olympic trials, and after working on getting the marathon in the Games for 10 years, I had to go to the trials. It just meant everything to me.

"The reason I was qualifying so late is I had hamstring surgery that year. I was just getting back, and it was a day like this. Cold, rain, wind. I was running great. I got to the 25-mile mark and there was a clock that said your projected time will be 2:44 and you will be in 10th place. I thought, 'Great. All I have to run is sub-2:50. Piece of cake. One mile to go.'

"The next mile, my vision started to narrow. I was blacking out. I was trying



Last year's winners, Wanda Panfil and Ibrahim Hussein, have the numbers to beat. GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / JANET KNOTT

hard not to faint and fall on the sidewalk. I couldn't believe this was happening. I kept saying over and over, 'You deserve to finish this race.' The next thing I know, I wake up on a hospital cot looking at an IV bottle, and the doctor said, 'You're not doing very well. We're going to keep you here.'

"I said, 'Did I finish and what was my time?' He went to find my time. I was high 2:47, and in 14th place. I lost four minutes and four places in one mile, but I still qualified. I called home and said, 'I'm going to the Olympic trials.' Then I got the news we'd lost our case in court. It was the most emotional high and the most emotional low all in one day."

## Street was Memory Lane

Dick Beardsley, who engaged in a monumental duel with Alberto Salazar 10 years ago, returned to town for the first time Friday from his dairy farm in Shafer, Minn. He strolled to the Eliot Lounge from his hotel, walking the reverse route from the present finish line, taking a right on Hereford Street and walking outbound on Commonwealth Avenue. In 1982, he stepped into a pothole near the Eliot Lounge that loosened up his hamstring enough to catch Salazar as they turned the corner on Hereford Street, but Salazar called on his track speed to overtake him and win by two seconds. "It was like deja vu walking up Hereford Street," said Beardsley, who was seriously injured in a farm accident nearly three years ago.

walked up to the corner of Boylston and Hereford, I stopped and looked back and for a short instance I could hear the crowd roaring. It was weird. I could feel the crowd and hear them cheering. I have nothing but the best memories of this race. I don't feel I lost. I've probably gotten more publicity out of this race than anything I've ever done."

## The weight is over

Michiko Gorman, who won Boston in 1974 and 1977, becoming the first masters woman to win a major marathon outright, returned for the reunion. She is 56 and works in a law firm in Century City in the outskirts of Los Angeles. She weighed just 87 pounds when she raced, but skyed recently to 110 and returned to running. One inspiration was Hansen, who has returned to the track and competes in the 1,500. "I was doing a time trial in the mile," said Hansen. "Here comes Miki and I'd never seen her fat in my life. She's lost it now." ...

Johnny Kelley, who was presented No. 61 yesterday by the Boston Athletic Association to recognize his 61th Boston start, sat in the lobby and looked ahead. "I'm going to give it a try and give it a good effort," said Kelley. "If I have to take a ride, I will."

## They're getting warmer

According to the National Weather Service, the Greater Boston metropolitan area forecast for tomorrow is for partly sunny and warmer weather. Highs will be around