

In the long run, Ethiopian food and athletes sta

I dined with Abebe Bikila the other night.

Okay, so maybe Bikila has been dead for 20 years, but I'm sure his spirit was hovering somewhere near the shrine set up in his honor at the small, out-of-the-way restaurant.

Before you pick up the phone and start screaming that the *Palisadian-Post* is defiling the sportspage by running restaurant reviews alongside soccer and basketball, give me a second to explain. This isn't really a restaurant review, per se — I leave those to the master, our own Grace Hiney.

It's more of an esoteric attempt to show how sports can apply to any situation and how we can all cross social and cultural barriers through the wonderful world of sports.

It all started with an invitation from my friend Elizabeth to join her and two other friends, Staci and Audrey, for Ethiopian cuisine at a place called Messob, in L.A. on Fairfax. Being raised on Hamburger Helper and Dodger dogs, I initially balked at the thought of gnawing on half-cooked wildebeast and lumpy gruel. But the journalist in me saw it as a chance to experience the foods of another people and perhaps come to understand them better. Besides, a good reporter never, *ever* passes up a meal.

On the way to the restaurant, the conversation flowed rather well. Everyone had previously met everyone else — except that I had never been introduced to Audrey before. We engaged in the usually polite banter: I work for a newspaper and she works in the motion picture industry. Somehow, the conversation veered to our junior high school days. I went to John Adams and she went to Paul Revere.

"Paul Revere? Did you go to . . . ?," I began to ask.

"I went to Palisades High for two years," Audrey said.

"I work for the *Palisadian-Post*," I said in disbelief.

At the dinner table, she rattled off names of Palisadians from her days at Palihi. Most of the names I failed to recognize, but one stood out: Jackie Hansen. It seems that Audrey and Hansen both have that annoying knack for being able to run 26 miles without falling down dead. The only way I'd ever run that far is if a rhinoceros was chasing me and the closest Ben & Jerry's store was 26 miles away.

Audrey said she had run 13 marathons — including the famous New York City race without registering. Upwards of 20,000 people annually

Press box



Matt Purdue

are turned away from the New York Marathon, so a dedicated (sick?) few, like Audrey, jump the barriers and run anyway. She was only 100 yards from the finish line when she was grabbed and pulled out of the race by marathon officials for not having a number. Apparently, it left a bitter taste in her mouth. Or was that the Ethiopian chicken?

She spoke of Hansen almost with a sense of awe. Hansen now helps organize the youth running program at Paul Revere (of all places). Hansen won the Boston Marathon in 1973. In December, 1974, and again in October, 1975, she set the women's world record in the marathon. Her '75 record stood for more than a year and a half, practically a lifetime in the world of marathons.

We talked and ate. The food was excellent, I might add. It was sort of like stew in a chili sauce, but you scooped it up not with spoon, but with floppy, pancake-like pieces of bread. (Now you know why Grace Hiney writes the restaurant reviews.)

And the Ethiopian beer, Ngok, could kick all of those Bud's butts at once if they let it in the Bud Bowl.

Before long, I noticed the huge portrait of a skinny man in a tank top the colors of the Ethiopian flag hanging over one of the tables. After dinner, I examined the picture and found out it to be a rather haunting tribute to Abebe Bikila, an Ethiopian who won the 1960 and 1964 Olympic marathons, running barefoot through the streets of Tokyo and Rome and setting two world records. Bikila died just nine years after winning the gold medal in '64.

I left Messob stuffed with great food and content in the knowledge

that, somewhere out there, if Audrey and I had ever had the conversation at our

On the mend: Palisades High point guard Jamie Dudley wasn't a Bulldog came into town to for against Pepperdine last Friday.

Dudley underwent knee surgery for anterior compartment syndrome a three weeks. Ironically, Dudley sustained a career-high 20 points against Sam Houston State.

Soon after the injury, Dudley was asked a question as to whether he would respond well to surgery and could

Crow-magnon man: The blue lunch room this week has been portions of it.

In our December 17 issue, I wrote nothing short of a natural disaster winning another Super Bowl. In fact, "America's Team," the Dallas Cowboys, won the Super Bowl last Sunday, 20-30.

It seems that Dallas, the NFL's "Young" 49ers, whose quarterback was in the fourth quarter.

Not that I'm bitter or anything. Cowboys hats and shirts a few laughingstock of professional football.

We're talkin' beisbol: Pacific Tri-State will release the first major league baseball game entirely in Spanish next month. The game will be a stock and feature two full color photos.

La Asociacion de Jugadores de Beisbol en Espanol para la temporada 1991-92 disponibles para el consumidor en I

SPORTS

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THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1996

FINALLY...

Jacqueline Hansen Returns to Boston Marathon to Right 23-Year-Old Wrong

By MATT PURDUE
Sports Editor

Even for a marathon runner, 23 years is a long, long time.

But that is how long Jacqueline Hansen has waited for tomorrow to come.

As you read this, Hansen, the 1973 winner of the Boston Marathon women's division, is winging her way toward that shivering city. Tomorrow, she and four compatriots will receive their first prize medals from the mayor, three days prior to the 100th running of the venerable road race.

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"It's like an Olympic medal, Boston being the oldest marathon in the world next to the Olympics," said Hansen. "It is the most traditional medal in the world—and I want one!"

"It's been a long time coming, but it will be really nice," Hansen added, her deep hazel eyes becoming misty. "It's going to be great. It's going to be like a big family reunion."

Hansen won Boston 23 springs ago, one year after the marathon had bowed to pressure and finally recognized women as official competitors. On that sunny Patriot's Day in '73, Hansen stood on the podium and reaped the rewards of the struggle. Well, almost.

Hansen received a first-place trophy, as did men's



laurel wreath, as did Anderson. But she did not get the traditional Boston Athletic Association (BAA) winner's medal, which was awarded only to men.

The first five female winners of Boston—Nina Kuscsik, Hansen, Liane Winter, Kim Merritt and Miki Gorman (who won twice)—received what amounted to this metallic slap in the face until the BAA finally relented in 1978. But for all these years, the five original trailblazers have gone without, waiting and wondering if the world's most prominent road race would right this wrong.

Their wait ends tomorrow. Finally.

Hansen, a Topanga resident who has spent the last 20 years successfully pressuring the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to include women's distance events in the Games, harbors no bitterness toward Boston for the oversight.

"It isn't like I've gone without recognition, because I've been recognized as a bona fide winner all along. That was never the issue; it was just they weren't giving equal awards," Hansen explained. "The recognition was there. I was a Boston Marathon winner and it launched a whole career for me and I really have no regrets."

Regrets, no. But while listening to Hansen talk about her storied career—her world marathon records, her gutsy lawsuit against the IOC—it becomes clear that she does have a small void, an empty space exactly size of a Boston Marathon medal. For a woman that has given most of her adult life to running, that piece of metal with the unicorn and diamond chip on it hung around her neck tomorrow will symbolize not just one good day in 1973, but an entire career run well.

Although Hansen is as competitive today as she was while waiting for the starter's gun in Hopkinton 23 years ago, her legs have admittedly slowed.

When the BAA told her last fall that she would finally get her medal, Hansen immediately booked a flight to Boston. But when she got a complimentary runner's entry packet in the mail, her spirits took off. "There was something about getting that application. I don't know why," Hansen admitted. "I'm a very goal oriented person. I looked at it and thought, 'Oh, I have to run.'"

There were only two problems. Hansen hadn't run in two years. And she has arthritis.

Five years ago Hansen underwent knee surgery to correct what doctors thought was torn cartilage. But what

Jacqueline Hansen, above, has always run apart from the crowd, whether it's while setting a world marathon record in 1978 (top) or winning her prized certificate in Boston in 1973 (right).

surgeons discovered was bad news for any runner, devastating for a former world record holder.

"They found that arthritis had eaten away tissue that was floating free, catching in my knee and causing it to lock," Hansen recalled.

Stubbornly, she refused to give up running. She suffered arthritis in her other knee and her body balked at pounding the pavement. After runs, her knees would swell up like footballs and she would have to have them drained. "They come at you with 18-gauge needles and no anesthetic. They leave the needle in until all the fluid's out," Hansen said, cringing as if it had happened that morning instead of years before. "I did that enough times to where I said, 'All right. I'll learn how to swim, already.'"

Per usual, Hansen turned a negative into a positive. She took private swim-

ming lessons with Palisadian Paul Henne and soon was working out with the local masters team. She also created an aquaerobics class at the YMCA's Temescal Canyon Pool that is still meeting three years later.

But that Boston Marathon application was enough to get her back on the road. She's been training since last fall and recently cracked 20 miles on one of her long Sunday workouts, even though she's also become closely acquainted with Advil and ice baths to assuage the pain arthritis in her knees, back and neck. (Doctors tell her she inherited it.)

Hansen's confidence is soaring.

"Even if I have to walk a little, I know I'll make it," she said.

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ANNUAL BOSTON

This is to certify

JACQUELINE

finished FIRST in

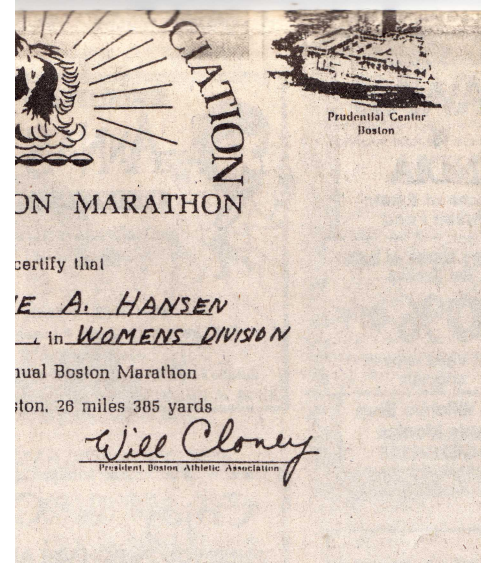
in the 77th Annual

from Hopkinton to Boston.

April 16, 1993

Winners of the Boston Marathon Women's Division

1972—Nina Kuscsik (New York)	3:10:26
1973—Jacqueline Hansen (California)	3:05:59
1974—Miki Gorman (California)	2:47:11
1975—Liane Winter (W. Germany)	2:42:24
1976—Kim Merritt (Wisconsin)	2:47:10
1977—Miki Gorman (California)	2:48:33
1978—Gayle Barron (Georgia)	2:44:52
1979—Joan Benoit Samuelson (Maine)	2:35:15
1980—Jacqueline Gareau (Canada)	2:34:28
1981—Allison Roe (N. Zealand)	2:26:46
1982—Charlotte Teske (W. Germany)	2:29:33
1983—Joan Benoit Samuelson (Maine)	2:22:43
1984—Lorraine Moller (N. Zealand)	2:29:28
1985—Lisa Larsen Weidenbach (Mass.)	2:34:06
1986—Ingrid Kristiansen (Norway)	2:24:55
1987—Rosa Mota (Portugal)	2:25:51
1988—Rosa Mota (Portugal)	2:24:30
1989—Ingrid Kristiansen (Norway)	2:24:33
1990—Rosa Mota (Portugal)	2:25:23
1991—Wanda Panfil (Poland)	2:24:18
1992—Olga Markova (Russia)	2:23:43
1993—Olga Markova (Russia)	2:25:27
1994—Uta Pippig (Germany)	2:21:45
1995—Uta Pippig (Germany)	2:25:11



The 1973 race was only Hansen's second marathon and second road race after a career on the track, so she ran in blissful ignorance, she remembered. In fact, she approached the race like a long day-hike and wore two pairs of socks and her heaviest running shoes on a 77-degree day. "I didn't drink water because my coach trained me as a track runner—and you never drink water during a track workout," Hansen recalled.

Somehow, she found the strength to pass defending champion Nina Kuscsik on Heartbreak Hill (at the 20-mile mark) and cruise to victory.

In 1978 Hansen set a world record and became the first woman to break 2 hours, 40 minutes in the marathon. In 1984, she returned to Boston in a last-ditch attempt to qualify for the Olympic marathon, which was debuting that year thanks mainly to her efforts. With two ABC-TV crews following her, Hansen's vision blurred with a mile to go. She collapsed at the finish line and awoke in the medical tent to find that she had qualified for the Olympic trials by three minutes. But sadly, a hamstring injury spoiled her chances to compete in the Games in Los Angeles.

So on Monday, Hansen will run her third—and quite possibly last—Boston Marathon with her husband, Tom Sturak. Although her knees, back and neck may not appreciate it, Hansen's mind will no doubt feel like it's 1973 all over again and that BAA medal is her's for the taking, waiting for her at the finish line in Kenmore Square.

"I don't have anything to prove. I don't have to win my division or anything," Hansen reflected. "But I'll tell you what: When the gun goes off and I see somebody my age, I'm probably going to respond. I discover that when I run on San Vicente that I still have to be a little faster than anyone else jogging out there. Heaven help anybody if they try to pass me."

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This is to certify that

JACQUELINE A. HANSEN
finished FIRST in WOMENS DIVISION
in the 77th Annual Boston Marathon
from Hopkinton to Boston, 26 miles 385 yards

April 16, 1973
Date

Will Cloney
President, Boston Athletic Association