

HARILAOS VASILAKOS

The First Marathon Race Winner in History

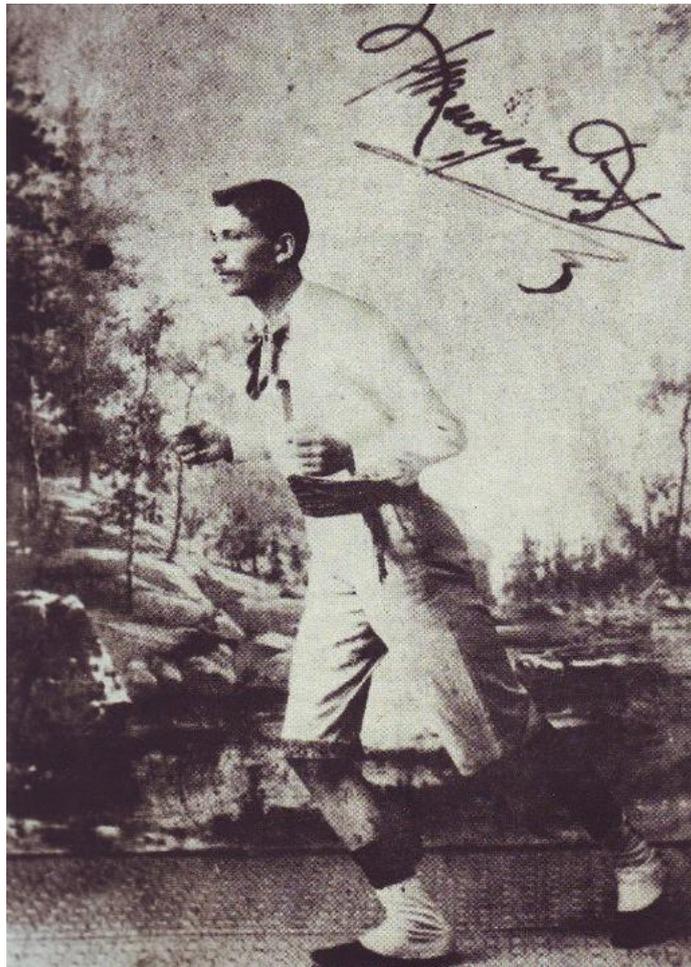
1875 – 1964

Harilaos Vasilakos, from Mani, was born in Piraeus in 1875. At a young age he lost his father in an accident and so was raised by his mother and his uncle. As a child he loved sports and enjoyed running.

He was tall and had high stamina in long distance running. This was due to his lungs being larger than those of an average person, something that was later medically assessed.

In 1896 he was a Law student in the University of Athens, while working at the Athens Court of First Instance and also preparing for the Marathon Race of the First Olympic Games as a member of the Panellinios G.S.

He listed a series of remarkable sporting successes.



Harilaos Vasilakos wearing clothes made by his mother. In this outfit he ran the Olympic Marathon. Worth noticing is the way he protected his feet from stones and thorns, by using leggings he made himself.

MARCH 10, 1896 “Panhellenic Games”

The First Marathon Race in History

1st Winner: Harilaos Vasilakos

With this victory he went down in history as:

1st Marathon Run winner in the history of the sport

and as:

1st Marathon runner to finish in Kalimarmaro Panathinaiko Stadium

Nineteen days later, on **March 29, 1896** he finished

2nd Olympic Winner in the Marathon of the first Olympic Games in Athens



To this day he remains the youngest Olympic Winner Medalist in the Marathon Race.



*The Olympic Metal from the 2nd Place in the Marathon Race, the honorary diploma and unique laurel wreath that has survived from 1896. Exhibited in the **Modern Olympics Museum in Ancient Olympia.***

1900: Introduced Race Walk in Greece

May 18, 1900: 1st winner in the first Race Walk 1000m race.



*The honorary diploma for winning the first Race Walk in Greece – May 18, 1900
It is displayed in the **Marathon Run Museum in Marathon City.***

As an athlete he participated successfully in numerous races.

In his civil life, he graduated from Law School in University of Athens. He was appointed to the Ministry of Finance. He worked in many different cities in Greece for 40 years as a customs officer, reaching the rank of Director.

Harilaos Vasilakos was the guest of honor at sporting events. Many times he served as an organizer, commissioner and judge in athletic competitions.



Harilaos Vasilakos

The political and sports leadership honored him for his athletic contribution to Greece with various events and medals until his death in Piraeus in 1964.