

Ndeti, Pippig defend Boston Marathon titles

BOSTON (AP) — Cosmas Ndeti won the Boston Marathon for the third year in a row and Uta Pippig took the women's race today, the first time both defending champions have repeated.

Despite running far ahead of their closest challengers, Pippig and Ndeti were unable to beat their course records they set last year.

Ndeti, 25, credited his victory — in an unofficial time of 2:09:22 — to religious beliefs.

"I was strong," he said. "The Lord was always renewing my strength."

Pippig, 29, of Germany, blew kisses to the crowd as she crossed the finish line in an unofficial time of 2:25:11, about four minutes over her record-breaker.

Ndeti, of Kenya, was two minutes over his record time of 2:07:15. "It was such a great race. It was a little bit warm. It was nice," Pippig said.

Her record time was 2:21:45. Ndeti noted today was the birthday of his son Gideon Boston, named in honor of his winning the race in 1993.

This year, his countryman

Moses Tanui finished second with a time of 2:10:22. In third place was Luiz Antonio Dos Santos of Brazil.

For the women, Elana Meyer of South Africa, finished second. Meyer had followed Pippig closely but fell behind and appeared to be limping at the 22-mile mark.

Meyer and Tegla Loroupe, of Kenya, lost about 40 yards at the 20-mile mark when they tried to pick up water bottles and ran into each other.

In the wheelchair division, Jean Driscoll had her sixth

straight win for the women, and Franz Nietlispach of Switzerland was the wheelchair winner for the men.

Driscoll, 28, won with a time of 1:40:41, about six minutes behind her winning time last year. Nietlispach, 37, crossed the finish line well ahead of the wheelchair pack with an unofficial time of 1:25:59.

Of 12,000 runners, 9,410 were entered officially in the 99th edition of the race. The 7,233 men and 2,177 women came from all of the United States and 74 foreign countries.

As the marathon started in Hopkinton at noon, officials scrambled to block off a hole in the course left by a water main break two miles from the finish line.

The course had been cleared of water after a 12-inch pipe burst early this morning at the 24-mile mark in Brookline. But the crowds prevented the public works department from repairing the 10-foot-wide hole, so about 30 feet of the course was narrowed from three lanes to one.

CARTER

Continued from Page 9A

ta or even Cleveland, the team he'd prefer. "That would be a great place of me to go," Carter says of Cleveland, which is 150 miles north of his home in Westerville, Ohio.

But there's a problem with all the potential trades.

Washington is a good fit for Carter because despite a 3-13 record a year ago, the Redskins' offensive line has a lot more talent than the one in Carolina, where the "bookends" at offensive tackle are Harry Boatwain and Derrick Graham. Anyone who suggests those two are adequate is advised to watch tapes of Boatwain trying to protect Steve Young when the line-man was forced to start for San Francisco early last season.

But the Redskins have little to give other than to swap places and hand the Vikings the fourth pick of the second round, or 36th overall. The Panthers would then take Collins with the fourth pick.

Minnesota, which has two picks in each of the first and second rounds, has more to offer the Panthers. But although they could get Collins or McNair with the 11th pick, they may want more than just the Vikings' second first-round pick, No. 23.

Cleveland picks 10th and reportedly is ready to take yet another Penn State player, tight end Kyle Brady. But the Browns might have to sweeten the pot with just what the Panthers don't have — a good, relatively young offensive lineman.

What does all this mean?

It means that Ki-Jana Carter has one airline ticket — to New York, where the draft will be held.

He hasn't purchased the second yet.

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