

KERRY

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heavy on a night when temperatures dipped to 16 degrees.

The early results suggested that the race was changing significantly after months in which Dean seemed to have the nomination all but in his grasp. Propelled first by the antiwar sentiment of young voters, Dean led the field in fund-raising and rounded up the backing of party establishment figures ranging from former Vice President Al Gore to popular Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin.

"We would have liked to have done better," Dean said Monday night. But he said he has a 50-state organization and vowed to fight on in New Hampshire, which votes next Tuesday, and beyond.

"The response has been extraordinary, overwhelming," Edwards said Monday night. "We were sort of the little engine that could," he added, noting that he fared well despite lacking the union support that helped his three chief rivals.

He attributed his showing to "an incredible response to the message that is finally getting through, my message of hope and optimism."

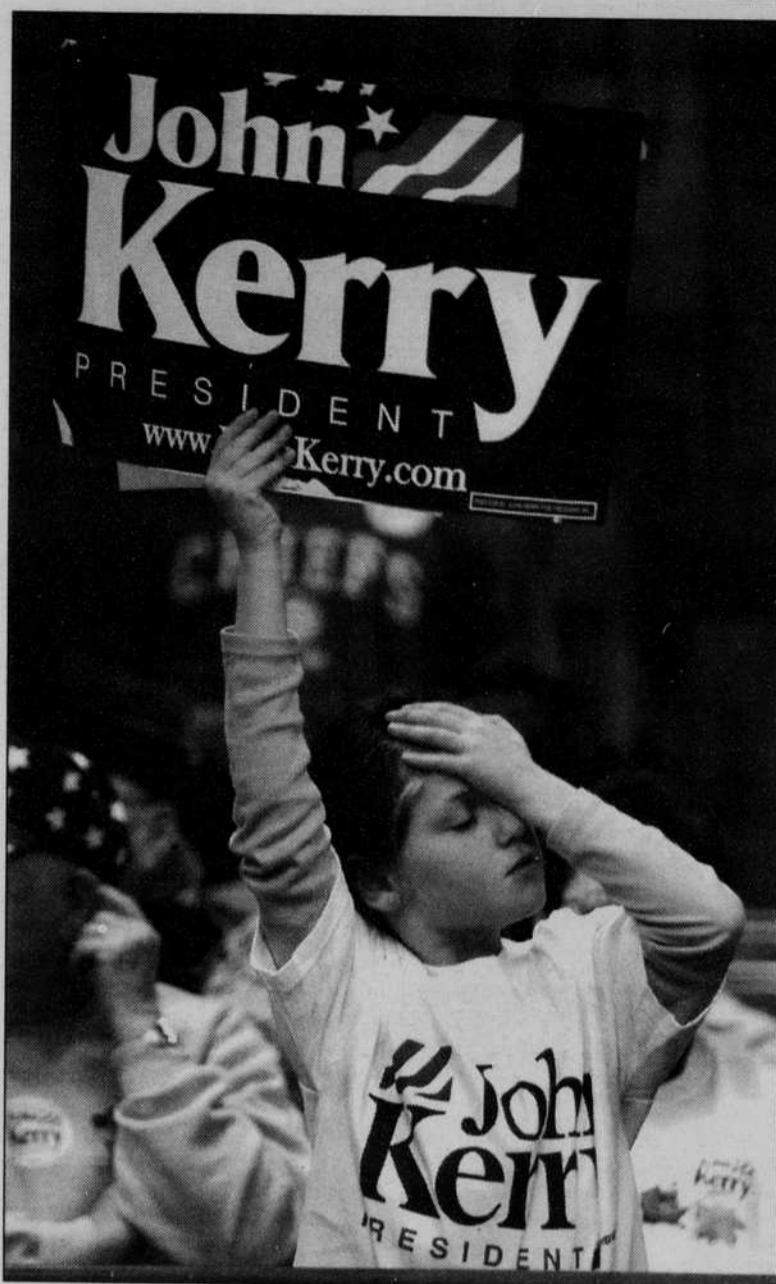
The returns gave new life to the campaigns of Kerry and Edwards and put Dean on the defensive.

The caucuses were held as the first step toward awarding 45 Iowa delegates to next summer's Democratic National Convention, the first of 2,162 that will be needed to win a majority and the nomination.

They also served to screen the field for the rest of the country, to reward those who did well with approval from ordinary voters and to deliver a potentially fatal blow to those who did poorly, particularly those who finished below third place. Political analysts believe that there are three tickets out of Iowa. They'll face Clark, a fourth strong candidate in New Hampshire.

Winning Iowa is no guarantee of winning the nomination. The elder George Bush won in 1980 but lost the Republican nomination. Bob Dole won in 1988 and also lost the nomination. Gephardt won Iowa in 1988, then faltered and lost the party nod to Michael Dukakis.

Dean likely has the strength to persist even with a disappointing third-place finish. He has more cash than any rival and still enjoys an Internet-based net-



Courtesy

work of followers around the country.

"We are not going to be stopped until the right wing is out of power," Dean told campaign workers Monday morning. "No matter what happens, we're going to have more to do."

But a poor fourth-place finish would leave Gephardt broke and without a victory to leverage money out of already skeptical party contributors. Gephardt recently had to leave Iowa to try to raise more money.

"We all face the same test here," Gephardt said Monday morning. "Everybody's got to do well or win. I think that's my test as well."

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