

Palmer captures Bostonfest race

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BOSTON — Andy Palmer, coach of the women's track team at nearby Brandeis University, picked up ground on the hills, charged into the lead less than five miles from the finish and won the first Bostonfest Marathon Sunday despite a late charge by Rhode Island school teacher Mark Skinkle.

Palmer, a native of Madawaska on the tip of northeastern Maine, passed Mark Kimball with a friendly pat on the behind as the early leader faded badly and went on to cover the 26-mile, 385-yard course on the streets of Boston in 2 hours, 16 minutes and 25 seconds.

Skinkle, a 29-year-old distance runner from Warwick, R.I., closed strongly, but was unable to catch Palmer, settling for second place in 2:17.1. Jim Miller, 25, a former intercollegiate star from Burlington, Vt., was third in 2:18.48.

Paul Oparowski, 27, of Methuen was next in 2:19.11, followed by Douglas Sweazey, 26, of Brookline in 2:19.52.

Martha White, 23, of State College, Pa., an outstanding runner at shorter distances for several years, celebrated her first marathon by winning the women's race in 2:39.40. Kate Wiley of Harvard University was second in 2:43, followed by Patricia English of San Anselmo, Calif., in 2:44.11.

Sunday's race followed about six months after the traditional Boston Marathon, the "granddaddy" of distance running.

Palmer, 29, who has been in intensive training while earning his master's degree at Springfield College, Skinkle and Miller qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials set for next May in Buffalo, N.Y. The qualifying time was 2:19.4.