

Boston Marathon 2006
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As a first timer all I can say is that the race absolutely deserves its reputation. It is an incredible experience. There are people every step of the way for 26.2 times. Sometimes it is only a few folks, a lot of the time in is maybe in the hundreds, and at times it is thousands of people screaming, cheering, and clapping like it is their last day on earth. The women of Wellesley deserve special mention because they were nearly deafening. No matter who is cheering, it is an amazing boost and the waves of people in Boston definitely help the last few miles.

As for the race itself, it was a perfect day: partly sunny with comfortable temperatures. The course itself wasn't as bad as I expected. I didn't find the hills of Newton particularly difficult and they actually felt kind of good after the downward slope of first 15 miles or so of the race. Heartbreak Hill is certainly not something I would want to do every day but if you shorten your stride and just keep plugging away it eventually passes. The last 10K or so is filled with people and, at least for me, it helped mentally to clearly see we were getting closer to the city and the finish line. The last quarter mile or so down Boylston Street seems to take forever but it is an amazing feeling to finish and feel like you are a part of history. Overall I can't say enough about the race and I only hope that I am able to make it back again some day.