

# SUN CHRONICLE

## **GOBIS: Dodge ball Feehan pitcher earns full ride to Harvard**

**Monday, April 5, 2010**

There is more than a fastball firing from the right arm of Sam Dodge.

There are the cute changeup pitches and the knee-buckling curveballs that tantalize batters and nick the corners of home plate.

There is knowledge of the game of baseball, knowledge of how to pitch ... knowledge, period.

You do not become one of the premier high school pitchers in the Commonwealth without a vast array of recording outs at the plate, minimizing the amount of balls that fall into fair territory, reducing the numbers of feet that cross the plate.

There are numbers other than the 02916 area code in which Dodge resides. Like the number of eyes who gained a better appreciation for his athletic skill at the East Coast Showcase tryouts at Bentley College in June; followed by the invitation-only appearance at the the Atlantic seaboard showcase event in Orlando, Fla.; then the invitation-only appearance at the Area Code Games in Long Beach, California; not to mention the Bay State Games and the Mass. State American Legion Championship series with South Attleboro's Post 312 congregation.

More importantly for Dodge, it has been the numbers and letter grades received on tests and research papers during his four years at Bishop Feehan High School; the numbers on his Scholastic Aptitude Test scores; the numbers that have him ranked among the top 20 academically in his class.

All those numbers, those

area codes visited for baseball games added up to 02163 - Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Harvard University has granted him admission to matriculate as a student, to mature and develop as a member of the Crimson baseball team.

"I work harder at school than baseball," Dodge was saying over the weekend as the Shamrocks were preparing to begin their 2010 season. "My parents (Ogden and Jacqueline) installed in me good habits and goals from an early age, that's how it started. I did work hard, not just playing baseball."

Which is why institutions of higher learning with impeccable academic and athletic programs to match, such as Duke, Notre Dame, Princeton and Wake Forest among others began calling.

"I wasn't sure, I was open-minded," Dodge added of the decision-making process. "First and foremost I wanted a good academic school and I wanted to be able to contribute (play baseball) right away. I didn't want to go that far from home and Boston is the best college city in the country.

"I tried to take the name (Harvard) out of it, I had good criteria. One, I fit in there. The other is the reality that the chances of me making a living playing pro ball are so small. Going to Harvard, which plays a very good Division 1 schedule, doesn't eliminate that."

So Dodge follows in the footsteps of a number of former Shamrock baseball standouts who can play at the next level - like St. John's University third baseman Greg Hopkins, like Georgetown University outfielder Bill Cupelo and another ex-Crimson standout, Mikey Cataldo.

It has been an ever-evolving process, since the days a decade ago when he was trying to throw the ball anywhere near the plate in the Rumford, R.I. Little League. Then it was with the R.I. Tides AAU team while he was matriculating through the middle grades at St. Margaret's School.

Dodge's name became commonplace last year, during his junior season with the Shamrocks. The college and pro scouts with their radar guns aimed at his delivery. The looks of fear and indecisiveness from batters who had to step into the box. The words of admiration from opposing coaches.

There was a four-hitter with 14 strikeouts to beat Somerset and clinch a share of the Eastern Athletic Conference title. There were two scoreless innings of relief against Dennis-Yarmouth in the first round of the MIAA Tournament. There was a two-hitter with 14 strikeouts to beat Hanover in the second round of postseason play.

Every starting assignment, every trip to the mound became a happening, an event to be witnessed.

The Shamrocks won 14 regular season games, advanced to the semifinals of the Division 2-South Sectional Tournament and the 6-foot-2, 175-pound Dodge finished the season with a 7-1 record and foes batting just .179 against him.

"The expectations are different," said Dodge. "Last year, there were none. I had pitched 20 innings or so as a sophomore, I got a couple of starts. But at the beginning of last year, I realized what I could do."

That is throw the baseball for strikes, get outs and pocket wins.

Dodge's fastball hovers in the 86-89 mph range. His curveball, thrown in the 75-80 mph range, is his best pitch. His changeup is a work in progress. With the fastball, it's a matter of keeping it low and finding the corners of the plate. With the curveball, it's a matter of "staying back and not opening my front shoulder. My changeup is my least developed, it's the most 'feel' pitch - I grip it loosely, I have a loose arm motion. I'm comfortable with it, but I don't throw it a lot."

But what Dodge threw last summer at the East Coast Showcase camps and at the Area Code Games put check marks next to his name on the baseball VIP's from all walks.

Back in his sophomore season, he attended the "Perfect Games" camp, where for a fee, pitchers are evaluated and given a "rating" over the course of their two-day workouts. Whereas his junior season in a Shamrock uniform continued to gain him rave reviews, it was Dodge's "showcases" that convinced the peering eyes.

Dodge was one of two dozen pitchers from New England and New York invited to Bentley College for a preliminary workout for the East Coast Showcase, being recommended by a Los Angeles Angels scout. He was selected to the Northeast Region team, which then played four games in Florida, once again under observing eyes. Then it was on to California for the "Area Code" games, a six-game series.

"Every pitcher got three innings, it was nerve-wracking," said Dodge. "You have kids from Mississippi, Florida - states with big-time high school programs, kids going to big-time Division 1 colleges. I was extremely nervous, but I pitched well in both places.

"Facing kids like that, they see fastballs all the time, so you have to mix it up, you have to hit your spots. Plus, the scouts and coaches there are looking to help you and give you tips. Like after my first inning in Florida, I had given up two hits and one of the coaches reminded me to keep the ball down, that I was trying to throw my curveball too hard. I learned so much, it was great exposure for me."

And with a tip of the cap to Bishop Feehan High coach Mark Cooke, who made many of his college and pro baseball scouts aware of what this kid playing baseball in the 02703 area code could do.

Then and now, Cooke and his staff are aware of Dodge's pitch count, mindful that they do not want to over-burden a teenager's arm. "They're on top of that stuff, you don't want to be out there throwing 120 pitches," said Dodge, who ices his arm after every game and undergoes a special regimen of training and conditioning exercises for his rotator cuff.

"My arm does get tired, but that's part of pitching. You have to listen to your body, listen to the coaches."

And your teachers, after all Harvard University heard and pro baseball scouts continue to watch Sam Dodge.

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## Harris could be out as Somerville basketball coach

By Dan Guttenplan  
GateHouse News Service

Apr 07, 2010

Somerville — Brian Harris learned last week that he will have to reapply for the job of Somerville girls basketball coach for the first time in 18 years following a negative evaluation from the school's athletic director, Nicole Viele.

Harris, who has led Somerville teams to 260 wins and seven Greater Boston League titles in 18 seasons, received a letter from Viele, which was dated on March 29, stating the athletic director's intention to pass on recommending Harris for renewal for the 2010-2011 season. The next day, Superintendent of Schools Anthony Pierantozzi dated a letter that informed Harris he would not be reappointed as the girls varsity basketball coach.

In Viele's letter, she wrote that the basis of her recommendation was based on four points:

1. Harris' confrontational and intimidating actions on the court toward the girls of the varsity basketball team;
2. Rantings with a hostile, loud tone, which have been observed by staff and administration;
3. Loud and disrespectful public ridiculing of behavior of athletic performance; and
4. Hostile body language (i.e. first pumping, leaning over players in a time out, calling a time out and chasing girls on the court), which Viele considered to be condescending.

Harris said he initially received a poor review from Viele following the 2008-2009 season, when his team won its second straight GBL title. The Highlanders added a third straight GBL title this season.

Following the 2008-2009 season, Harris said Viele rated his performance in 33 areas, 13 of which she felt needed improvement. According to Harris, Viele told the coach at that time that the 2009-2010 season would be the last in which his contract was renewed.

Harris said he made efforts to improve his sideline demeanor this season. Viele recognized those efforts in Harris' most recent evaluation, citing only four areas out of 33 that needed improvement. However, Viele did not mention any improvements in her notification of non-renewal.

"What I construe as motivating, she construes as bullying," Harris said. "I'm honestly trying to get a sense between the two. She says I need to monitor my first-pumping, ranting, raving and chasing players. I disagree, but it's an employer's observation of me, so I have to present myself more professionally."

Harris said he will reapply for the position once it is posted to interested parties outside of the Somerville School District. As an assistant probation officer at the Somerville District Court, he does not have the advantage of being a district employee. Thus, he will only have a chance to apply if no internal candidate is hired.

Viele did not wish to discuss Harris' future on Tuesday afternoon.

"It's a personnel issue, and I'm not allowed to publicly discuss personnel issues," Viele said.

Harris is a Somerville High alumnus who earned an undergraduate degree from Notre Dame University and a law degree from Harvard Law School. He serves on the Board of Directors at the Somerville YMCA and is the director of the girls basketball tournament at the Bay State Games.

In terms of winning percentage, his program is among the most successful of any sports program at Somerville High over the last 18 seasons along with girls track. Harris claims he has not had a single player on his last two Highlander teams become academically ineligible during the season. Of the 20 seniors that left his program over the last two seasons, all 20 graduated high school and attended colleges.

Harris said Viele told him he would be granted the opportunity to interview for the coaching position next week.

"I've told the administration I'm willing to put my credentials against anyone else in this hiring process," Harris said. "Name a candidate, and I bet I can do a better job at coaching girls from Somerville. Give me a team out there that has the diversity of my team, and tell me if they're as competitive as my team. My girls are like sisters by March every year. No one quits on my team. Everyone graduates. I've been in this situation for 18 years, I've won seven league titles -- three in a row -- I took three teams to the Tsongas Center. In the pond I'm swimming in, I think I'm the best candidate."

Harris, 55, figures to have many other coaching opportunities should Viele hire another coach at Somerville. He started his career at Arlington Catholic, posting a 54-50 record in six seasons before returning to his alma mater. He is one of the most respected coaches among his peers, as is evidenced by his ability to coordinate with other coaches in constructing one of the toughest non-league schedules in Eastern Mass. His team has a standing invitation to the annual Comcast Tournament and annual non-league games with perennial powerhouses like Fontebonne Academy, Arlington Catholic, Wachusett and Lynn English. It is unclear whether any of those rivalries or invitations will be sacrificed with a coaching change.

The Somerville girls basketball team's varsity assistant, Vicky Palmaeci, played under Harris at Somerville before graduating in 2001. She said if Harris is not rehired, she will follow him wherever he goes.

"He was calmer this year than in past years," Palmaeci said. "They asked him to mellow, and he did. It wasn't the same Brian, and I don't think it was for the better. When it's crunch time, he usually raises his voice and becomes really animated. That's what the team needs to get motivated. For someone watching from the stands who doesn't understand basketball, they might see it as an adult yelling at a child. But it's no different than a parent yelling at their own child because that's the relationship Brian has with his girls."

Palmaeci said she has been on the receiving end of the behavior Viele deems as Harris' "rants," and has never felt threatened.

"The way I always took it was that if Brian was yelling, it was because he wanted me to do better," Palmaeci said. "If he wasn't yelling, I'd worry that he had given up on me or didn't think I could get better. He'd give the shirt off his back to any one of his players. The people who make these decisions see the yelling, but they don't see what he does off the court."

Harris believes the moment that clinched his non-renewal occurred during a game late in the season when he chided the team's leading scorer, junior Kelsey Garrity, about her struggles from the free throw line as she prepared to shoot free throws. He said that behavior was recognized as the "sarcastic" style that led to his poor evaluation.

Garrity's father, Paul Garrity, was the boys basketball coach at Somerville from 2003-2008 before the administration opted for non-renewal after citing similar concerns to the ones Harris is facing.

"It's disgusting," Paul Garrity said. "As a parent, if my kid is in class or on a team, I evaluate how my kid is being treated. Brian couldn't possibly have been better to Kelsey. She adores him. Watching her myself, I know that any other coach would probably be 10 times louder with her. If his sideline behavior is an issue, I don't know what they're looking for."

Garrity, who took five consecutive teams to the state tournament in his five seasons as coach, believes the program will suffer if Harris is replaced.

"Basketball used to be the strongest sports tradition at Somerville," Garrity said. "There was no history of girls basketball before Brian. The administration has let it be known that if there is a person or group from here, and they do a lot of good work here, they're not welcome here. I'm horrified by this decision."

Harris' supporters have started a petition at <http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/BRIANHARRIS> in hopes that Harris will be reinstated as coach.

"I'm putting 100 percent of my energy into reapplying," Harris said.



## **Bruins honor Lions' Doherty**

**By Stephen Tobey**  
**GateHouse News Service**  
**Apr 08, 2010**

Chelmsford — Michele Doherty's senior year with the Chelmsford High girls hockey team did not go exactly according to plan, but it did have a memorable ending.

Last Thursday, Doherty was at the TD Garden, receiving the Boston Bruins/MIAA Sportsmanship Award.

"It was great," said Doherty. "I got to spend some time in the Bruins suite and meet some of the Bruins alumni. They had us go into the hallway where the Bruins go on to the ice and we got our pictures taken."

The season had its share of challenges, both on and off the ice, for Doherty. The Lions did not qualify for the postseason, but she was still able to see some good things come out of the season.

"It wasn't the best season, but we stayed together," she said. "It was a building year. There were a lot of good things that happened. The other captains [Nikki Murphy, Jaime O'Brien, Vanessa Valleri and Julie Simard] stood up and showed the younger players how to do things."

Said Chelmsford coach Lenny Rowe, "Michele plays a strong, aggressive style of hockey, yet even in the heat of battle, when a referee's call may not have gone her way, she has never complained, rolled her eyes or shown any disrespect toward referees, her players, opponents or coaches. She began as a somewhat timid freshman but has grown into a strong and encouraging leader."

While the Lions' season ended with the final regular-season game, Doherty's season ended even earlier. After being diagnosed with Crohn's disease, she missed the last quarter of the season.

"I missed Senior Night," she said. "I got to play on all the other senior nights, but I missed my own. I'm still recovering and getting better. I'm taking medicine that keeps it under control."

Though she has played town league softball and played lacrosse as a freshman, Doherty has focused on hockey for most of her high school career and has played the game for 10 years. She's played for the Bedford-based east Coast Wizards. She's played in the Bay State Games, the New England Women's Hockey League All-Stars and Hockey Night in Boston.

"If there is extra ice available, you can be sure Michele is there," Rowe said. "She takes every opportunity given to her to improve her game."

Next year, Doherty will attend the College of Holy Cross, St. Michael's College or Colby College. She plans to keep playing hockey one way or another.

Earning the Bruins/MIAA Sportsmanship Award meant a lot to her.

"Sportsmanship means a lot to me," she said. "It's great to be recognized for it."

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## TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

### Ice dancers celebrate club's silver year

**By Tim Faulkner**  
**Staff writer**  
**Apr 11, 2010**

Taunton — Two superb ice shows at the Aleixo Arena this weekend proved why the Skating Club of Southern New England has prospered for 25 years.

The two-hour-plus anniversary performances held before near-sellout crowds marked the culmination of five months of practice and planning by 40 skaters who executed 35 routines.

The annual ice pageant also signifies the end of the nine-month figure skating season, a commitment that requires serious dedication from skaters and their families.

Gail Green, president of the Skating Club of Southern New England, said 25 years is a great achievement.

"It's harder and harder to keep any non-profit going. That's why we have this big show," she said.

Like many of the volunteers who donate time selling baked goods, choreographing performances and traveling across the state and country for competitions, Green believes the hours helping out are a labor of love.

"The children, that's what brings them here," said Green, whose 11-year-old daughter, Lily, skated in three routines.

"Its like another family," said Christine Russell, co-chair of the "Ice Spectacular" and one of the backstage managers

Three days a week, the Norton parent accompanies her 12-year-old daughter Mackenzie to practices. On other days she at hockey games with her 14-year-old son.

"I'm a rink mom. We're on the ice all the time," Russell said.

Marci Costa, 18, was one of three "seniors" honored during the ice show for graduating from the program.

During 13 years with the skating club, Costa, a high school senior, competed in the Bay State Games and State Games of America in Colorado. Prior to her solo performance Sunday, she said her last show was a bittersweet moment. "I'm happy I get to move on, but it's sad because it's been my family for five years. It's kind of become my whole life."

Dartmouth High School senior Grace Gormley said she looked forward to skating competitively at Miami University in Ohio next year. She said the sport and its demands, have prepared her for college. "I've learned dedication and commitment through skating."

Many Skating Club of Southern New England grads have gone on to national competitions and performed in touring ice shows, like Kristen Youlden, who won several competitions over her career and skated with the 1997 International Ice Capades Tour.

After 29 years of skating, one of the club's most recognized members and coaches, may have performed in her last ice show.

"I've been here from the very beginning," said Youlden, who grew up in Taunton. To continue performing, she said, she'd probably need surgery to fix the nagging injuries from a lifetime of skating.

"I'm the old veteran in the club," said the 32-year-old. "You can't skate forever." As she cheered for her students on the ice, Youlden said she was proud of the young skaters. "It's nice to see [that everyone] — from the little ones to my age — gets to skate through the show."

Adding that she was glad to see some things haven't changed during the last 25 years. "This is still my home club. I find it's all about the skaters."

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## Burke repeats as MVP

**By Howard Herman, Berkshire Eagle Staff**  
**Wednesday April 14, 2010**

CHESHIRE -- Coaches often compare their teams to a family, but the resemblance between Robbie Burke and Bill Robinson, while beneficial, is purely coincidental.

Burke reminds Robinson a lot of himself as a player, though Robinson had to due without the 6-foot, 5-inch height advantage and the automatic 20 points per night scoring skills.

"He and I are so much alike when it comes to temperament," Robinson said. "[We have] the will and the desire to be better than our peers."

At the Hoosac Valley basketball postseason banquet, the veteran Hurricane coach -- who only has daughters at home -- said Burke was like family.

"I found my son," Robinson said with a chuckle. "This is me. This is how I was 25 years ago."

"The banquet was really emotional," Burke said. "It was tough because, for the basketball season he is pretty much my father. I see him more than I see anybody in my family or my friends."

The All-Eagle most valuable player completed his senior season as a three-time selection and a back-to-back MVP. He is the first selection to repeat as the MVP since Pittsfield's Sedale Jones was so honored in 2005 and 2006. Jones, though, shared the MVP with teammate Jerome Edgerton in 2005.

"I would run through a wall to make sure we wouldn't lose," Robinson said. "He could do that amazing thing at the end of a game that I couldn't do."

Burke was All-Eagle as a sophomore and averaged 15.6 points and nine rebounds per game. As the junior MVP, he averaged 20.7 points, 12.4 rebounds and four assists per game in helping lead the Hurricanes to a Western Massachusetts Division II championship and a berth in the state championship game.

"It means a lot" to be the MVP again, Burke said. "I appreciate it just to be granted the award for the work I put in. I thought this year was a little closer than last year. Chris Bush [of Taconic] had a really good year. I'm excited. It's good to win back to back."

This year, the Hurricanes lost to Sabis 70-57 in the Western Mass. Division II title game. On the way to his second MVP award, Burke averaged 23.8 points and 17.5 rebounds.

And he got the respect of every rival.

"We played in the Bay State Games and in AAU, and I know him real well," Sabis guard Andre King said after the Hurricanes lost to the Bulldogs. "I know he's a fantastic player."

Burke is the third MVP Robinson has coached -- joining Keith Czubryt and Chad Misiuk. All three started the same way, coming off the bench.

"Chad was our sixth man," Robinson recalled. "He eventually earned the job. That's the same thing that happened to Robbie."

Burke did not play in his freshman season as he recovered from cartical implant knee surgery.

When Burke played in his sophomore year, Robinson said that the challenge was instilling a team concept in the player.

"Dalton Larabee had a lot to do with selling him on team and roles. Everybody is different and everybody is important," Robinson said, referring to last year's All-Eagle pick from Hoosac. "Everybody doing their part allows you to do your part."

Burke, as shown by his point and rebound totals over the years, was always able to score.

"Robbie's big strides came on the defensive end," his coach said.

Offense is important in basketball. But if you are a Hoosac Valley basketball player, you had better play some defense.

"He really took it to heart when I told him he wasn't going to play with us if he didn't play defense," Robinson said.

Burke was pretty good, the coach explained, in defending his man. Robinson said that Burke's off-the-ball defense when he started wasn't.

"He had no idea what team defense was. That's what people don't understand," Robinson continued, "there are two ends of the court."

Burke was a defensive and rebounding force for the Hurricanes, especially this past season. Just look at a regular-season win over Wahconah Regional. Burke pulled down 30, count 'em, 30 rebounds in that game.

And if Robinson could say one thing made Burke the MVP, it was the following.

"He stepped into the gym and it was a competition every day," the coach said. "I've never had anyone like that, to that level. He was by far the most competitive."



## **No pause with his cause To New Yorker, cancer reason to push, not halt**

**By Steve Buckley | Sunday, April 18, 2010**

Used to be that folks would run the Boston Marathon simply to run the Boston Marathon, with no goal beyond coming across the finish line as quickly as possible.

But times have changed - and not just in the big sack of money that, along with the laurel wreath, awaits the victors.

Forget the prize money. The real beauty of the modern-day Boston Marathon - and it's something that never occurred to the race's organizers back in 1897 - is that it's possible to use the 26 miles and 385 yards to help make the world a better place.

Consider that Joey Flynn, a member of the Coast Guard who grew up in Quincy, runs the marathon each year to raise money for the Jimmy Fund. He does so in memory of his late cousin, Patrick White, who died of cancer.

Or Richard Toronto of Framingham. He runs the marathon to honor his daughter, Leah, who has Down syndrome. The money he raises goes to the Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress.

Or Anthony Santana of Lawrence. A few years ago, his track coach at Central Catholic High, Peter O'Sullivan, gave Santana a verbal jab in the ribs by telling him he'd never be able to run a marathon.

When the beloved coach died of a heart attack in 2006, Santana vowed to run a marathon in his memory. It'll happen tomorrow. The money he raises will go to the Bay State Games.

And there is Gary Resnick, a 48-year-old resident of East Setauket on Long Island. His New York accent is as thick as a tree trunk and he is a passionate and devoted Yankees fan, but when you hear his story, even the most devout Red Sox [team stats] fan will want to head out to Hopkinton and cheer wildly when he begins his trek to Copley Square.

Resnick will be running to raise money for the Lustgarten Foundation, which, according to its website, exists to "advance the scientific and medical research related to the diagnosis, treatment, cure and prevention of pancreatic cancer."

Resnick already has raised nearly \$10,000 on his own, but the real hook to this story is that Resnick is so much more than a doer of good deeds. He is proof that it is sometimes possible to have a talk with your own body in which you'll say, "Look, I'm going to do this," and your body backs off and says, "OK."

Resnick has Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, and, as he said, "The prognosis is not good." But he says so rather matter-of-factly, as though it's doctorspeak that he doesn't necessarily believe. Or, as he likes to put it: "When I talk about the pancreatic cancer and the prognosis, I feel like I'm talking about a different Gary Resnick. Because I feel fantastic."

This is a man who, when he underwent his first round of chemotherapy a couple of years ago, would jog to and back from the hospital, figuring that would be the only way he could get his runs in.

"I had it timed," he said. "I knew exactly how long it would take after the chemo before I started getting sick, so the goal would be to get home before it would wipe me out."

Just two years ago Resnick thought he had life figured out. He was enjoying a successful career as a trader at the New York Mercantile Exchange, so successful that he was able to retire at 46 - the idea being that he'd be able to spend more time with wife, Christine, and their three kids.

He also dedicated himself to getting into shape and shedding the 50 pounds he had gained during his long, stressful days on the trading floor. So he took up running. As it turns out, he was rather good at it. The 50 pounds? Disappeared. Life was good. He was, as they say, smelling the roses. The three kids - Thomas, now 12, Ashley, 10, and 7-year-old Anthony - were on his radar screen much more than they'd been during the always-on-the-go days.

And then one day Resnick noticed blood in his urine. His wife told him he needed to see a doctor.

"They did the tests, and then they called and said, 'You need to come in right now,'" Resnick said. "Sixteen days later, I underwent surgery for six hours. They removed two-thirds of my pancreas."

This past January, more tests were taken. The doctors didn't like what they saw. So Resnick did what he's learned to do under the circumstances: He went out for a run.

It's a sad story, sure. But what makes Gary Resnick so special is that, without coming right out and saying it, he refuses to go down without a fight. And if his running can help raise money to find a cure for pancreatic cancer, then why not? He got involved with the Lustgarten Foundation, and that led him to the amazing Sue Hurley, who assembles and coordinates teams that plan to run the Boston Marathon with charitable goals in mind.

It so happens that Hurley is dating Drew Weber, owner of the minor league Lowell Spinners. Weber is no stranger to pancreatic cancer: His wife, Joann, died of the disease in 2006. So Hurley and Weber are obviously big, big Gary Resnick fans.

"He's one of the most amazing people I've ever met," Hurley said. "He's so tenacious."

How tenacious? Asked about his love of the Yankees, this is what Resnick said: "Tell all the Red Sox fans that I am a Yankees fan who is going to conquer the Boston Marathon, just like the Yankees always conquer the Red Sox."

Pretty bold talk for a guy who'll be running through Kenmore Square tomorrow just as Sox fans are emptying out of Fenway Park [map].

"I told Gary he better be careful what he says about Red Sox fans or they'll attack him," Hurley said. "But then again, this is one Yankees fan that even Red Sox fans would love. They'd know that as soon as they met him."

And if you are a Red Sox fan who'd like to help out a Yankees fan, visit [lustgartenfoundation.org](http://lustgartenfoundation.org), and make a donation in Gary Resnick's name.



## Runners all scored (except at Fenway)

By Dan Shaughnessy, Globe Columnist | April 20, 2010

Early in the afternoon, there were thousands of people running toward Kenmore Square, their faces twisted, their pain obvious at the end of an excruciating ordeal. Some needed medical treatment.

Those were the Red Sox fans, beating feet out of Fenway Park after another hideous (8-2) loss to the Tampa Bay Rays.

The Marathon runners? Most of them were doing pretty well by comparison. Running 26.2 miles is a piece of cake compared with watching the local baseball team these days. In April 2010, the Fenway mound is Heartbreak Hill.

The 114th Boston Marathon gave us a course record, a continuation of African dominance, and some old-time BAA mistaken identity.

On a splendid day for running, men's winner Robert K. Cheruiyot hoofed from Hopkinton to the Back Bay in 2:05:52, a whopping 1:22 faster than anybody ever ran the course. This created considerable confusion, because the 21-year-old Kenyan is not the same guy who won Boston in 2003, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

A same-name winner is not a first for Boston. Back in the days when New Englanders actually won this race, the immortal John A. Kelley won Boston in 1935 and 1945, then later finished back in the pack when the race was won by John J. Kelley in 1957. They came to be known as "Johnny the Elder" and

“Johnny the Younger” and now we have “Cheruiyot the Elder” (he pulled out of this year’s race last month) and “Cheruiyot the Younger.”

The women’s race was won by Ethiopia’s Teyba Erkesso, beating Russian Tatyana Pushkareva, a 24-year-old former ballroom dancer who might be a candidate for “Dancing with the Stars.”

All in all, a good day for the 30,000 runners (including those lovable bandits) who ran for charity, heat sheets (we used to call them Mylar bags), medals, and the eternal thrill of saying they conquered Boston.

No more beef stew, people. The canned Dinty Moore is for those of us sitting at home, watching the race on television.

“It was just a very exciting day,” said race director Guy Morse. “We haven’t had times like this for many years. The weather [55 degrees, mostly sunny] was almost perfect for runners. And there was a crosswind that made it fair.”

Some of us xenophobes were hoping for the first American men’s victory since Greg Meyer (who has morphed into a dead ringer for Terry Francona) in 1983. For a few days it appeared the volcanic ash from Iceland might strand some of the elite runners on foreign soil, or perhaps they might oversleep like Trinidad’s Jean-Paul Jean-Paul of “Seinfeld” lore. Alas, almost all made it to Boston, on time, and three of them ran past my fellow American Ryan Hall (Mammoth Lakes, Calif.), who finished in an impressive 2:08:41.

There were 30,000 stories in the near-Naked City. A man from Japan stopped to photograph a clock above Boylston Street before he crossed the finish line. A military division, each soldier wearing his backpack and fatigues, crossed the line en masse behind the company flag. Evan Powers, a trader from Charlottesville, Va., who grew up in Wellesley, finished his first marathon in 4:07:55. He ran for the Bay State Games Foundation. Caitie Peterson of Hingham and Justin Bourassa, a teacher from Arlington High School, came in together at 4:51:20. They ran for Team Dana-Farber. Sarah Stevenson, who works for the Red Sox, finished in 4:47:58. She ran for Children’s Hospital.

Barry Miller of Sudbury and Kristen Elechko of Greenfield met at the finish line, both coming in just after 3 1/2 hours.

“For me, this was about ticking off one town after another,” said Miller. “Hopkinton, down. Ashland, down. Framingham, down. The group at Boston College was the best.”

Elechko had 26 names inscribed (in pen) on the inside of her right arm.

“These are the people that supported me on every one of those miles,” she said after crossing the finish line.

Brenna McNiff, a 20-year-old junior at Duke (via Beverly), finished in 3:31:31 and said, “I saw my dad and four younger brothers at Heartbreak Hill, and my mom was waiting for me on Hereford Street. I passed the Hoyts on Heartbreak Hill and said, ‘You’re awesome!’ ”

Meghan Murray of Raleigh, N.C., holding a baby girl on each hip, waited patiently on the sidewalk in front of the Boston Public Library. She was rewarded when her husband, Rory, a Hingham native who now works in commercial real estate on Tobacco Road, finished in 4:01:38.

“I only have one request,” Rory Murray said as he caught his breath after the finish. “What can we do to straighten out those Red Sox?”

As the endless stream of runners flowed down Boylston toward the finish, Sheryl Crow’s “If It Makes You Happy” boomed out of the public address system. A man with a microphone kept the crowd informed, announcing as many finishers as possible in the blur of singlets.

Caught up in the enthusiasm and spirit of this spectacular day, he bellowed, "We've decided not to announce the score of today's Red Sox game."

Some comfort there for the humanity, on an otherwise perfect Marathon Monday.