

SPARTATHLON

INTERNATIONAL HISTORIC ULTRAMARATHON ATHENS - SPARTA 246 km

SPARTATHLON 2000

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Japan Scores Double Victory

Friday the 29th of September, it's a little after 7:00 am on a cool but clear morning and Spartathlon '2000 is finally underway. The pre-race week had been plagued by a trucker's strike that had threatened to close gasoline stations and cut supply lines but on this morning, fuel tanks are full and supply and support teams are already on their way southwards on the 250 km trek to Sparta.

The Annual Spartathlon Ultra Distance Race started from the roadway at the foot of the ancient Acropolis of Athens. At first there was some confusion as to the actual starting point but just as the ideal spot is found the 5-minute warning is called. The runners jostle for a position on the starting line and a hush falls as the count grows shorter, then at exactly 7:00 am the starting pistol is fired thus marking the start of the 18th Open International Spartathlon. The 200 participants cheer and suddenly the road is empty except for a few barking dogs and handful of bewildered tourists shaking their heads at the craziness of this Athenian morning.

The Spartathlon is actually 246-Km (154-miles) in length, a distance set by British Wing Commander John Foden when he led a team of RAF runners in an expedition to Greece in 1982. The first sector of the route follows the old National Highway from Athens to Corinth and it is here that a push is usually made to ensure an early entry to the Peloponnese and the crossing of the Artemission Mountain Barrier. This year proved to be no exception and Japanese runner Masayuki Ohtaki took the early lead, completing the Marathon distance in 3:24 and passing the 100-Km marker in 8:36. Previous two-times winner Costas Reppos of Greece started out strong but had to pull out after completing 154-Km.

36-year-old Ohtaki raced home in 24 hours, 1 minute and 10 seconds, almost an hour in front of 1999 winner Jens Lukas of Germany who clocked

24:59:54. Third place went to Cees Verhagen of the Netherlands in 25:35:60. The women's section saw Spartathlon returnee Hiroko Okiyama of Japan finish first in 29:16:37, Sweden's Mary Larsson second in 30:56:16 and Helga Backhaus of Germany third in 31:35:24. This was a double victory for Japan underlining their growing presence in Ultra Distance events.

A record field of 200 starters left Athens on Friday and 88 runners representing 14 countries crossed the finishing line at the statue of King Leonidas in Sparta within the 36-hour cut-off period.

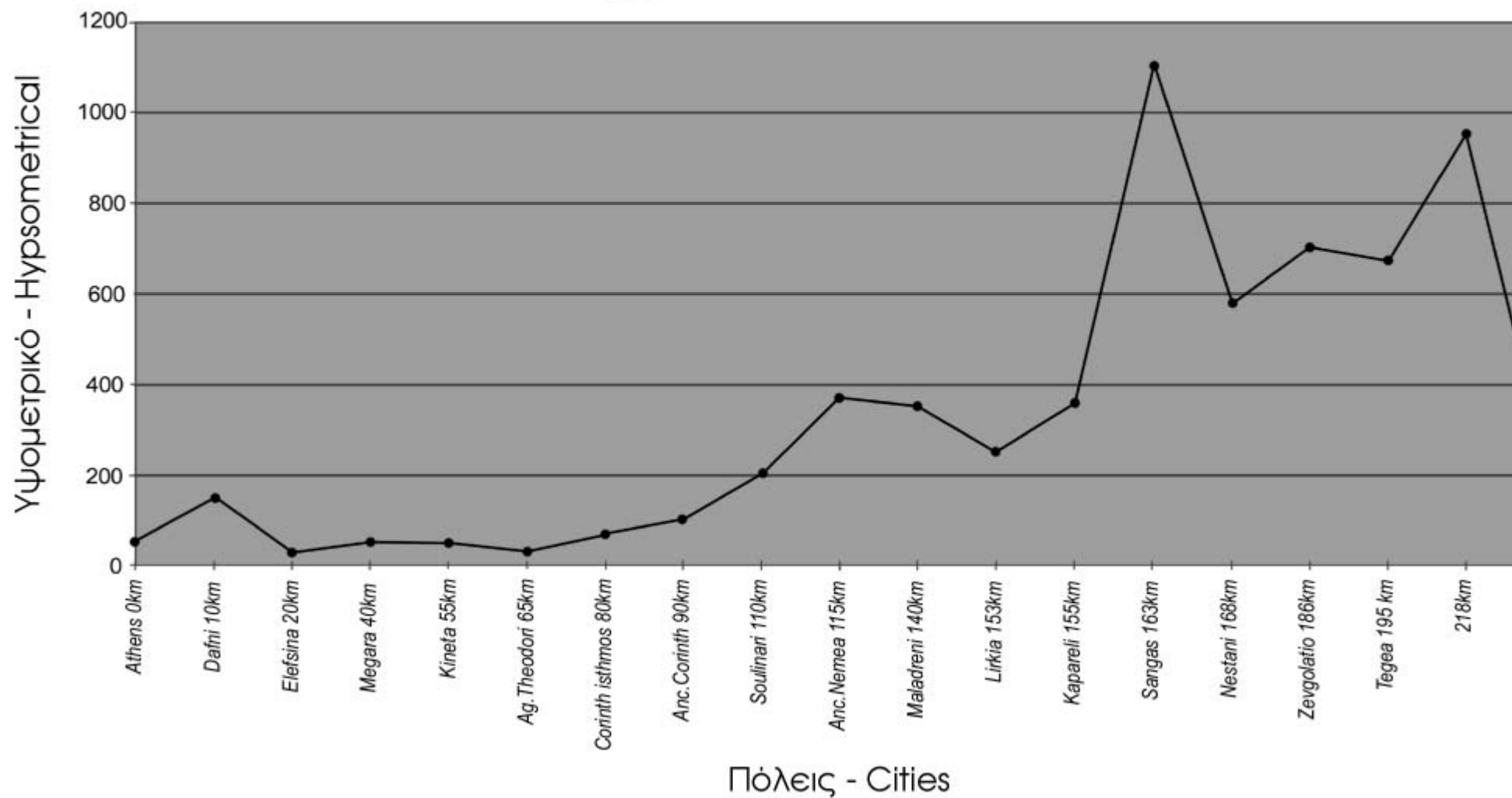
Keith Ledgard (keith_ledgard@hotmail.com)



ΣΠΑΡΤΑΘΛΟΝ

Historical Ultra Distance Race

246 km. Athens - Sparta





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FINISHERS 2000

	POS	RACE No	SURNAME	NAME	SEX	COUNTRY	TIME
	1	91	OHTAKI	MASAYUKI	M	JAPAN	24:01:10
	2	187	LUKAS	JENS	M	GERMANY	24:59:54
	3	86	VERHAGEN	CEES	M	HOLLAND	25:35:50
	4	93	ONOKI	JUN	M	JAPAN	26:49:01
	5	28	PETERSON	STEFAN	M	U.S.A.	27:27:25
	6	94	UTSUNOMIYA	HIDEMASA	M	JAPAN	28:21:58
	7	18	KOCH	RAINER WILFRIED	M	GERMANY	28:51:22
	8	226	GAUTRON	HUBERT	M	FRANCE	29:00:52
	9	24	MUSTALA	ARI	M	FINLAND	29:12:45
	10	113	OKIYAMA	HIROKO	F	JAPAN	29:16:37
	11	260	LOW	ANDRAS	M	HUNGARY	29:43:59
	12	51	KANKAANSYRJA	JANNE	M	FINLAND	30:36:48
	12	127	YAEGASHI	TOMOHIKO	M	JAPAN	30:36:48
	14	38	KOYAGO	NOBUAKI	M	JAPAN	30:44:41
	15	75	LARSSON	MARY	F	U.S.A.	30:56:16
	16	6	FOXALL	PETER- LESLIE	M	ENGLAND	31:14:43
	17	193	SCHOBBERL	SEBASTIAN	M	GERMANY	30:31:02
	18	189	BACKHAUS	HELGA	F	GERMANY	31:35:24
	19	228	MAGONI	FRANCIS	M	FRANCE	31:43:01
	20	249	ROUX	ROLAND	M	FRANCE	31:58:32
	21	153	NAKAYAMA	ETSUO	M	JAPAN	32:03:00
	22	13	BYRNE	ROB	M	U.S.A.	32:09:34
	23	115	NISHIMURA	YOSHIO	M	JAPAN	32:15:03
	24	110	AKAMICHI	TETSUYA	M	JAPAN	32:38:40
	24	133	IKEDA	KAZUYOSHI	M	JAPAN	32:38:40
	26	236	POIRIER	MICHEL	M	FRANCE	32:41:18
	27	138	HARA	KENJI	M	JAPAN	32:47:17
	28	213	VOICIN	PIERRE	M	FRANCE	32:47:17
	29	118	HAYASHI	TOSHIHIKO	M	JAPAN	32:49:51

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30	137	TAKEISHI	YUJI	M	JAPAN	32:50:59
31	155	NAKANO	TOMOKI	M	JAPAN	33:02:48
32	164	NAMIKOSHI	YASUMASA	M	JAPAN	33:04:40
33	261	PROVOST	DOMINIQUE	M	FRANCE	33:17:30
34	25	SKOGLUND	KJELL-OVE	M	SWEDEN	33:17:44
35	246	GUILBAUD	GERARD	M	FRANCE	33:19:22
36	92	TANAKA	KATSUHIRO	M	JAPAN	33:25:36
37	207	ROSA	FABRICE	M	FRANCE	33:27:20
38	152	ITO	NORIO	M	JAPAN	33:28:20
39	248	VOZEL	JEAN PIERRE	M	FRANCE	33:37:21
40	114	SHIOBARA	TADASHI	M	JAPAN	33:37:24
41	109	OKAZAKI	MASATAKA	M	JAPAN	33:42:09
42	122	TOCHIHARA	NOBIAKI	M	JAPAN	33:49:55
43	244	SOURISSEAU	MICHEL	M	FRANCE	33:50:40
44	77	VARGA	JANOS	M	HUNGARY	33:51:40
45	99	FUNADA	KIMIE	F	JAPAN	33:52:17
46	15	WILLIAMS	MARK	M	ENGLAND	33:59:24
47	208	YANN	ROBERT	M	FRANCE	34:13:34
48	186	LENZEN	WOLFGANG	M	GERMANY	34:16:18
49	69	LITTLEWOOD	ROBERT	M	ENGLAND	34:17:25
50	98	IMAI	HIDEHISA	M	JAPAN	34:21:29
51	159	KAMURA	MASAE	F	JAPAN	34:26:21
52	32	MICHALOPOULOS	KOSTAS	M	HELLAS	34:29:20
53	139	KATOH	HIDEO	M	JAPAN	34:37:55
54	103	OKABE	KAZUSHIGE	M	JAPAN	34:39:10
55	240	WEBER	FRANSOIS	M	FRANCE	34:42:18
56	183	BRANDT	MICHAEL	M	GERMANY	34:43:04
57	27	TSOKEV	DANIEL	M	BULGARIA	34:45:01
57	10	APOSTOLOV	EMIL	M	BULGARIA	34:45:01
59	96	OHKANDA	KAZUSHI	M	JAPAN	34:47:15
60	108	HIGAKI	HAJIME	M	JAPAN	34:53:00
61	239	DUMONT SANT	PRIEST LUC	M	FRANCE	35:03:06
62	154	YAMADA	HISAKO	F	JAPAN	35:03:50
63	35	SKVARIL	VLASTIK	M	AUSTRALIA	35:05:38
64	169	MITSUHASHI	SIGERU	M	JAPAN	35:15:40
65	229	FOUCAUD	THIERRY	M	FRANCE	35:15:42
66	191	BRITZ	HERBERT	M	GERMANY	35:15:45

67	145	IHARA	KAZUHISA	M	JAPAN	35:16:49
68	222	HATON	CHANTAL	F	FRANCE	35:17:22
69	219	NAULET	JEAN PIERRE	M	FRANCE	35:24:37
70	188	PAWZIK	HEIKE	F	GERMANY	35:26:02
71	218	ARROUCHE	ARTHUR	M	FRANCE	35:28:02
72	211	PONCHELET	ALAIN	M	BELGIUM	35:28:18
73	230	LAMARQUE	JEAN-CLAUDE	M	FRANCE	35:28:29
74	90	TOCKNER	FRANZ	M	AUSTRIA	35:29:00
75	233	FAURE	FRANCIS	M	FRANCE	35:29:15
76	205	LACROIX	ALAIN	M	FRANCE	35:32:00
77	264	DRAGATHS	ANDREAS	M	HELLAS	35:35:21
78	197	NEMES	ATTILA	M	HUNGARY	35:35:44
79	101	YOSHIKOSHI	OSAMU	M	JAPAN	35:37:18
79	105	OBA	HIROKO	F	JAPAN	35:37:18
81	221	GOMES	HERVE	M	FRANCE	35:46:54
82	161	NAKAMICHI	SUSUMU	M	JAPAN	35:47:56
83	224	BACH	MICHEL	M	FRANCE	35:49:00
84	160	MATSUMOTO	TAKUYA	M	JAPAN	35:50:17
85	132	SUZUKI	TAKAKO	F	JAPAN	35:53:36
86	119	SAKANASHI	MAKOTO	M	JAPAN	35:54:21
87	256	SAGO	AKIHIRO	M	JAPAN	35:55:23
88	171	SEKINE	KOJI	M	JAPAN	35:59:07