

b bigs cheer marathon ilestone

Even if they didn't break the finish line tape, Hubsters had reason to celebrate vesterday:

■ New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft had a VIP view (along with Bank of America's Chad Gifford and Hill Holliday's Karen Kaplan).

"We're different in New England," Kraft said. "We have a different kind of way of looking at things. The fact that people ran towards the trouble rather than away and then seeing this happen this afternoon, (it's) great karma that an American — first time in over 30 years — this is a good one to win."

Boston Marathon — had a party vibe as spectators bopped to music, some in costumes or holding signs that read "Your pace or

mine" and "Those shorts make your butt look fast." At Mile 21, which featured a Lululemon cheer station, local DJ Costa and Boston rock band Skinny Cleveland soundtracked the race from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A few bopped to the beat in tutus;

everyone cheered.
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"I DJ in clubs in the city so I didn't expect this kind of energy," Costa said. "After a year of recov-ery, today feels great," said Skinny Cleveland lead singer Jamie Simon. "And it feels safe. I mean, there are Blackhawk helicopters fly-ing around."

Memories of last year

■Heartbreak Hill — the loomed large, but people most brutal stretch of the still had a great time at marathon fetes around the city.
"Everybody realizes there's
a certain sadness that won't go away, but the overwhelm-ing sense was, 'It's time to

move forward," said John Nucci, veep of Government Relations and Community Affairs at Suffolk University, who was at Herb Chambers' annual party at Abe & Louie's near the finish line on Boylston Street. "It was a very nice time with great food and good spirits, and people really enjoying themselves despite the sad-ness." Suffolk District Attorney Dan Conley and his wife; state treasurer Steve Grossman; Celts pooh-bah Steve Pagliuca; insurance guy Brent Cross; Councilor Sal LaMattina; and state Rep. Aaron Michlewitz were among the noshing notables.

Bloomberg Radio live-broadcasted from Abe & Louie's, and New York City police commissioner Bill Bratton, a guest of the Red Sox with his wife, attorney legal commentator

Rikki Klieman, stopped by. PR guru George Regan was with Bratton for much of the day. "When he walked down the street, all the po-lice offers kept asking to have his picture taken with them," Regan said of the ex-BPD commish.

Former Patriots players Joe Andruzzi and Matt Chatham stopped by Forum, one of the restaurants hardest hit by last year's bombings. And the seventh annual (and final) Marlo Marketing/ Communications party (before they relocate from 667 Boylston St.) hosted Repub-lican candidate for governor Charlie Baker, Vivlan Li of the Boston Harbor Association, and the Grafton Group's Patrick Lee, among others.

Jed Gottlieb, Sara Gaynes and Gayle Fee contributed to this report.



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New York City police Commissioner Bill Bratton and his wife, attorney and legal commentator Rikki Klieman, attend PR gury George Regan's pre-marathon party.