



IN AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION, EXPEDIENT'S CLOUD BEAT

Is this the worst weather ever at the Boston Marathon?



By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF APRIL 16, 2018

The Boston Marathon has seen it all when it comes to weather conditions: driving wind and rain, extreme heat, mist so heavy that TV coverage was limited.

Some Marathon observers might say 1905 was the worst year, when temperatures hit the 100-degree mark. Others will tell you nothing beats 2007, when the race was [almost canceled because of ice and rain](#).

It's a bit subjective to rank what type of weather is toughest — for some it's the sweltering heat that's a deal-breaker, for others nothing is worse than snow squalls. Here's a list of some of the most unwelcoming conditions in the history of the race, as described by the BAA in a historical rundown listed on its [website](#).

Snow

ADVERTISEMENT

IN AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION, EXPEDIENT'S CLOUD BEAT

1907: Traces of sleet

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

1908: Snowflakes and drizzle

1925: Cold wind and occasional snowflakes

1961: Snow squalls driven by

RELATED LINKS

winds of 10-12 miles per hour;
recorded temperature was 39
degrees

1967: Snow squalls accompanied
the runners through the first five
miles

Driving rain



**Runners, spectators brave bone chilling
weather**

As more racers arrived in Hopkinton, the rain and
wind started to pick up.

ADVERTISEMENT



1970: Mix of rain and sleet; temperatures in the high 30s

2007: Rain; winds gusting 25–30 miles per hour; temperatures in the mid-40s

2015: Rain; winds gusting up to 15 miles per hour; temperatures in the mid-40s

Extreme heat or unseasonable warmth

1905: The temperature was reported to have reached the 100-degree mark

1909: The temperature soared to 97 degrees

ADVERTISEMENT

1915: Reports of “intense heat”

1927: With the temperature reaching 84 degrees, a newly surfaced but uncured road melted under the
runners’ shoes

1931: Reports of “terrific heat” that “spelled ruin to the hopes of countless ambitious runners”

1952: The temperature rose to the upper 80s, with a high of 88 degrees

1958: The temperature climbed to 84 degrees

1976: For much of the first half of the race, the temperature along the course was reported to be 96 degrees

1987: The temperature was in the mid/upper 80s and the humidity was more than 95 percent

2004: The hottest Marathon since 1976 (86 degrees at the finish) caused a record number of heat-related illnesses

2012: The temperature reached 75 degrees by the start of the Women’s Elite field (9:30 a.m.), with a high of 89 degrees reported in Framingham (10K mark) by mid-day

Other unusual weather conditions

1939: Runners at the start of the race in Hopkinton experienced dark skies caused by a partial eclipse of the sun and a northeast storm

2002: A heavy mist severely reduced visibility, grounding helicopters, which resulted in limited televised coverage of the race

2010: Eyjafjallajokull, a volcano in Southern Iceland, erupted in late March, and again on April 14, interrupting European air travel for weeks. Hundreds of Boston Marathon entrants were unable to make the trip and were granted the option of deferred entry into the 2011 Boston Marathon

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

Show 13 Comments

Top 10 Trending Articles

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.

Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking

Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved

The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla

Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth’s last surviving child, dies at 102

Six things to know about Michael Bennett, the newest Patriot

‘SNL’ tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue

Yvonne Abraham | Recycling can’t fix what really ails us

Patriots could be diving into the quarterback market

Can a former agent succeed in running the Mets?

Why Trump lies, and why you should care

In Boston, some specialized police units are more diverse than others

Chart: The percentage of women and men in each profession

School suspensions don't work. It's time for something better.

Eduardo Nunez feels he has his legs under him again

Munch Madness 2019: The top restaurants in Boston

Greater Boston's first recreational marijuana shop slated to open in Brookline soon

The movie is called 'The Post,' but it was the Times that got the scoop on the Pentagon Papers

100 years ago, Boston welcomed Babe Ruth

Millennials aren't lazy, they're workaholics

Sex trafficking is in plain sight in Massachusetts communities

Recycling can't fix what really ails us

First lady has a growing ease in her official role, but not politics

At SXSW, Elizabeth Warren defends call for breaking up tech giants

Tara Sullivan: Enough with the PED excuses

New Orleans Saints fans need to get a grip

As UMass makes a big bet on online education, rivals offer words of caution

Drugs took their children but not their hope: That others might be saved

Trump will seek more money for border wall

Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time

Most Popular In Metro →

Subscribe Now

Digital Access

Home Delivery

Gift Subscriptions

My Account

Manage my Account

Mobile Customer Service

Sign Up For Newsletters

Contact

Help

FAQs

Globe newsroom

Advertise

Order back issues

Social

Facebook

Twitter

Google+

More

ePaper

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

[Terms of purchase](#)

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC