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## BOSTON MARATHON

# 'Not going to let this get us down'

Houstonians recount Boston Marathon blasts with their personal stories, details of the horror

BY SARAH TUCKER AND CORY STOTTLEMYER  
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Students at Boston University have Marathon Monday off.

Still, they wake up as early as possible to watch the race,

which cuts through BU's campus.

Many students, like Maria Henning, a freshman marine biology major from Southside Place, spend the day celebrating and cheering on the runners.

Henning was watching the

marathon from the sidelines about a mile away from the finish line when police began stopping and turning runners around.

"We didn't really understand the scope of the situation," Henning said. "We didn't really get what was hap-

pening."

It didn't take long before Henning and her friends were told about the bombings at the marathon's finish line.

Walking back to her apartment along the marathon

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TSARNAEV

**MARATHON**

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route brought Henning face-to-face with runners headed the opposite direction.

“Runners were sobbing; everyone was confused,” she said. “Their eyes were just glazed over; people kept hugging each other.

“It felt like a giant heartbreak.”

**‘NOT GOING TO LET THIS GET US DOWN’**

While media outlets scrambled to piece together clues from Monday’s bombings, which killed three and injured more than 170, the FBI released photos of two suspects on Thursday, which the public helped identify as brothers and Cambridge, Mass., residents Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

After shooting and killing an MIT police officer that same night, the two suspects led police on a police chase that resulted in the death of older brother Tamerlan. After a citywide lockdown by police, Dzhokhar was eventually found the next day hiding in a boat on someone’s property in the Boston suburb of Watertown.

Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Monday that Dzhokhar was



Submitted by Mark Provenzano

Mark Provenzano captured this photo after the blasts at the Boston Marathon from the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

charged with using a weapon of mass destruction against persons and property at the Boston Marathon.

While speaking at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston last Thursday, President Barack Obama told the crowd that they were there to also reclaim “a state of grace,” something 41-year-old Sugar Land resident and Boston

marathon finisher Michael Bordelon echoed.

“There was a transition probably in the afternoon [the next day]. People started saying, ‘next year is going to be even bigger,’” Bordelon said. “We’re marathoners. We’re not going to let something like this get us down. I can’t wait to see how we’re going to celebrate our way to overcome

this.”

Bordelon, who had already finished the race an hour earlier, was watching runners turning onto Boylston Street from his hotel room when suddenly many of the runners began turning around.

“When I’m at the end of a marathon, I need food and water. I am absolutely done. Those people on the course had no money, no protection, no anything,” Bordelon said. “My hotel’s lobby turned into a refugee camp after the event. It was crazy.”

**‘A GRUESOME SIGHT’**

Houston resident Mark Provenzano had just returned to his hotel on Boylston Street when he heard the explosion and immediately saw smoke, injuries and panic outside of his window.

“You could see a lot of people hurt,” he said. “It was a gruesome sight for everyone.”

Susan Davis, another Houston resident, had just finished her third Boston Marathon when the bombs went off. After the first bomb went off, she turned and saw the second explosion happen.

“The sound was the worst part,” Davis said. “It was not like a cannon or something. I didn’t panic, and then there were some popping sounds

for whatever reason, and it kind of caused a stampede.”

**FRAYED NERVES**

Likening Patriot’s Day to Houston’s Freedom over Texas celebrations, Provenzano described the finish line as full of joy.

“It was a zone of triumph and great happiness and, in a matter of minutes, a terror-filled site,” Provenzano said. “Until you feel the buildings rattle and hear people scream-

ing and see the chaos, you can’t imagine.

Provenzano described Boston’s atmosphere as “very, very sad” on Tuesday.

On Thursday, Henning was attending class and attempting to go about life as usual, though she said she still has “random waves of emotion” about the blasts.

“It’s sad that this amazing event will always be a memorial,” Henning said. “Such a magical day has been ruined.”

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