



PRESS RELEASE

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Ben Zywicki wins Anthem Richmond Marathon; Waynishet Abebe claims female title

Zywicki is first American male winner since 2000; Wegi, Mariita take American Family Fitness Half Marathon titles

RICHMOND, VA – Ben Zywicki, 26, of Louisville, Colorado, won the 2014 Anthem Richmond Marathon in a time of 2:18:35, becoming the first American man to win the race since Michael Harrison in 2000. Waynishet Abebe, a 27-year-old Ethiopian, was the first female to cross the finish line, clocking in at 2:39:26.

In the American Family Fitness Half Marathon, Habtamu Wegi of Ethiopia edged out Rachid Ezzouniou of Morocco at the finish to win the men's title. Wegi finished in 1:05:38, narrowly besting Ezzouniou's time of 1:05:39. The women's race also saw an exciting finish, with Lilian Mariita of Kenya taking first with a time of 1:14:29, just ahead of Sophy Jepchirchir, also of Kenya, who finished in 1:15:05.

Charlottesville resident Sean Keveren won the HCA Virginia 8k with a time of 22:41. On the female side, Alice Kamunya captured first place with a time of 25:30, winning the title for the second year in a row.

A record 20,586 participants hit the streets of Richmond this morning, taking part in this weekend's events. The 26.2-mile Anthem Richmond Marathon drew 6,549 runners, a new registration record. The American Family Fitness Half Marathon also had a record field with 10,055 participants, and the HCA Virginia 8k had 3,982 participants.

In addition to a record-breaking number of participants, tens of thousands of spectators lined the streets leading to the spectacular riverfront finish. There were 27 bands and musical performers lining the courses as well as eight official cheering stations and four Party Zones.

The top three local runners, male and female, were also awarded prize money in the 4th annual Richmond Region Marathon Championship. Marcus Jones was the first male Richmonder to cross the finish line with a time of 2:39:38 and Morgan Denecke was the first female, with a time of 3:01:27.

The third-annual Call Federal Marathon, Jr., a kids-only running event tied to the Anthem Richmond Marathon, was held on October 25. A total of 1,071 children ages 4-14 participated in the event at Byrd Park, setting a new registration record.

The 2014 Anthem Richmond Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, November 15. A **special \$70 marathon entry fee and \$60 half marathon entry fee** is available through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, November 20. For more information and full results, please visit www.richmondmarathon.org.

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