



PRESS RELEASE

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Julius Koskei wins 40th running of Anthem Richmond Marathon; Bethany Sachtleben claims women's title

Ngeno, Mandefiro take Markel Richmond Half Marathon crowns

RICHMOND, VA – Julius Koskei, 35, of Kenya, won the 2017 Anthem Richmond Marathon in a time of 2:19:44, finishing ahead of Temesgen Habtemariam of Ethiopia and Ricky Flynn of Greenville, South Carolina. Habtemariam, 27, finished in 2:21:28 and Flynn, 30, finished in 2:22:05.

Bethany Sachtleben, 25, of Alexandria, Virginia, was the first female to cross the finish line, coming in with a time of 2:39:00. Sachtleben, a former George Mason University standout, posted the third-fastest winning time in the Richmond Marathon since 2002. Meseret Ali Basa, 28, from Ethiopia, finished second, followed by Annmarie Tuxbury of New Hartford, Connecticut, Keira D'Amato of Midlothian, Virginia, and Teal Burrell of Richmond.

Koskei also earns a bonus of \$500 for posting a time under 2:20, while Sachtleben and Basa earn \$500 bonuses for finishing in times under 2:46.

In the Markel Richmond Half Marathon, Benard Ngeno edged out Joshua Izewski in a close finish to take the men's title. Ngeno, 21, of Kenya, finished in 1:03:41, just ahead of Izewski, 27, of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, at 1:03:42. In the women's race, 24-year-old Ethiopian Firegenet Mandefiro came in first at 1:14:05, ahead of Nicole DiMercurio, 26, of Blowing Rock, North Carolina. DiMercurio's time was 1:14:10.

23-year-old Craig Nowak of Greenville, South Carolina, won the VCU Health 8k with a time of 22:40, followed by Willy Fink, 23, of Blacksburg, Virginia in a time of 22:48. Greenville residents also took the top two places in the women's race, with Stephanie Garcia, 29, finishing first in 25:39, followed by Rachel Johnson in second in 26:19. Garcia is a graduate of the University of Virginia.

The top three local marathon runners, male and female, were also awarded prize money in the seventh-annual Richmond Region Marathon Championship. Don Strehler of Moseley, Virginia, was the first male from the Richmond region to cross the finish line with a time of 2:26:25, while Midlothian's D'Amato was the first female finisher from the region in the women's race with a time of 2:47:00. Nearly 18,000 runners took part in all three races combined, with participants coming from all 50 states and over a dozen countries. Tens of thousands of spectators lined the streets to cheer on runners as they made their way to the riverfront finish in downtown Richmond.

Special recognition was also given to veterans in honor of Veterans Day, with participating veterans able to wear race bibs commemorating their service, while other participants could wear 'Running In Honor Of' bibs to recognize friends or loved ones who have served. In celebration of the 40th running of the Richmond Marathon, one marathon finisher was chosen at random to receive a ruby, the 40th anniversary gemstone, along with their finisher medal. The ruby and medal went to Jill Clark, from Farmington, Connecticut. All runners received a finisher medal with a ruby-colored gemstone.



The fifth-annual Whole Foods Market Marathon, Jr., a kids-only running event tied to the Anthem Richmond Marathon, was held on October 28. Over 1,000 children ages 4-14 participated in the event, which is a past winner of the 'Youth Running Event of the Year' award given by the Running USA industry group.

The 2018 Anthem Richmond Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, November 10. A **special \$70 marathon entry fee and \$60 half marathon entry fee** is available through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, November 16. For more information and full results, please visit www.richmondmarathon.org.

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