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The Columbus Marathon Continues Legacy of Ohio State and Olympic Great Jesse Owens Through New 5K and 1 Mile Races
DEI effort returns in elevated form to benefit entire Columbus community

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon weekend of events kicks off Saturday, Oct. 15 at 11 a.m. with new 5K and 1 Mile races, presented by Park National Bank, honoring Ohio State and Olympic great Jesse Owens.

From 2015 to 2019, Marathon weekend featured the “Jesse Owens Jog,” a 2.62-mile fun run and walk honoring the “Buckeye Bullet.” It focused on encouraging more of Columbus’ diverse community to participate in a health and wellness activity through walking, jogging or running. It was not held in 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jesse Owens 5K will be a timed race for runners and walkers, followed by the 1 Mile Fun Run & Walk, an untimed, family-friendly event. You can register at: <https://www.columbusmarathon.com/5k>. Both events will use the same Start/Finish as the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon with registrants receiving an event beanie hat and medal for finishing. The 42nd edition of the Columbus Marathon and the 16th running and walking of the ½ Marathon will take place the following day, Sunday, October 16.

“Jesse Owens is not just a Black American hero, he is an American hero; and after the pandemic pause, we brainstormed a way with the Jesse Owens Foundation to make this event bigger and better,” said Darris Blackford, Race Director of the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon. “We will keep our focus on building greater diversity in long distance running and these two events with shorter distances are a great way to get more people involved in Marathon weekend and feel the thrill of the start line.”

“It is a full-circle moment for our family to have these events and this impact in Columbus,” said Marlene Rankin, daughter of Jesse Owens and herself a graduate of The Ohio State University. “Dad loved his years at Ohio State, and we are thrilled at continuing to honor his legacy at a higher level in such an inclusive, health-minded way.”



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MARATHON

About Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon:

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon has raised more than \$11 million for Nationwide Children's Hospital since it became the title beneficiary of the event in 2012. The Columbus Marathon will be held for the 42nd time in 2022; this year will mark the 16th edition of the ½ Marathon and the first for both the 5K and 1 Mile races. For more information, visit www.columbusmarathon.com.

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