

DERBY FESTIVAL UPDATE

2009 Kentucky Derby Festival: April 11 – May 1

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR FESTIVAL RACES

Early Registration Deadline Is January 31

Jan. 26, 2009– LOUISVILLE, KY – The deadline for early registration for the Kentucky Derby Festival Marathon and miniMarathon is **Saturday, Jan. 31**. Registration numbers for the 2009 races are up 50% from last year at this time, so runners should register early to ensure their entry. The 2008 races attracted the full 12,000 registrants limit, breaking the record set in 2007 record of 11,269 registrants. The 2009 races will again be capped at 12,000 registrants.

“With the increase in participants from this time last year we may reach our registration capacity well before our April cut-off,” said Chad Pickering, race director for the mini/Marathon. “We strongly encourage people to register now to save significant money on entry fees, as well as to guarantee a spot in the field of runners. We are capping the registration at 12,000 to ensure that the infrastructure is in place to support the runners in the manner to which they are accustomed.”

The eighth annual Marathon and 36th annual miniMarathon will start simultaneously at 7:30 a.m. near Iroquois Park on Saturday, April 25. **Race registration fees are \$35 for the 13.1-mile mini and \$60 for the 26.2-mile Marathon if entered online or postmarked by Jan. 31, 2009.** From Feb. 1 to April 11, entry fees are \$60 for the mini and \$85 for the Marathon; late entry fees at the Race Expo (April 23 and 24) are \$70 and \$100. Runners may register at www.derbyfestivalmarathon.com.

The race route will once again include a lap around the infield at historic Churchill Downs; Marathon runners will also complete a short loop in Southern Indiana before returning to downtown Louisville at about Mile 24. Also featured on the race website is information on travel and accommodations, team challenge divisions, relay teams, charity fund-raising and the Race Expo.

Contributing sponsors of the 2009 Derby Festival Marathon and miniMarathon are: Bluegrass Family Health, Churchill Downs, courierjournal.com and Powerade; supporting sponsors are Jewish Sports Medicine, the Louisville Water Company and UPS.

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For more information, contact:
Derby Festival Press Office at 584-3378, ext. 822