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5K and 1 Mile Events Being Upgraded in 2025
***Family friendly, accessible events will be renamed in honor of Jesse Owens,
become USATF certified, timed, and held on Downtown streets***

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The foot races that launch the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon weekend of events each year will take on more prominence designed to attract increased participation and inclusion in 2025.

This coming Saturday, October 19, an estimated 1,500 people will take part in the 5K and 1 Mile races honoring Olympic and Ohio State great Jesse Owens. The 5K and 1 Mile events, presented by Park National Bank, use the same Start/Finish as the Nationwide Children’s Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon, as well as a portion of the Scioto Mile multi-use trail in Downtown Columbus.

In 2025, the Saturday races will be renamed the Jesse Owens 5K & 1 Mile and upgraded to USA Track & Field-certified events held on Downtown Columbus streets. The 2025 races will be held on Saturday, October 18, the day before the 45th Columbus Marathon and 19th year of the ½ Marathon.

“The Jesse Owens’ family has always encouraged the Columbus Marathon to heighten the race experience and widen the appeal of the Saturday events for more runners and walkers,” said Race Director Darris Blackford. “This support is exciting, and we look forward to building on our 2024 races this coming weekend to even better ones next year.”

From 2015 to 2019, Columbus Marathon weekend featured the “Jesse Owens Jog,” a 2.62-mile fun run and walk honoring Jesse Owens. It was not held in 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After the pandemic pause, The Columbus Marathon worked with the Jesse Owens Foundation to improve the event, with the 5K being launched together with the 1 Mile fun run.

“These races have proven to be catalysts for people to improve their health and wellness, including those in communities that aren’t as familiar with long-distance running,” said Marlene Rankin, daughter of Jesse Owens and a graduate of The Ohio State University. “With the new name, ‘The Jesse Owens 5K & 1 Mile,’ along with the USATF certification and other enhancements, we believe we can attract even more people to take on running and walking while honoring the legacy of our Dad and his commitment to fitness.”

(more)

NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
COLUMBUS
MARATHON

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

The Nationwide Children's Hospital Columbus Marathon & ½ Marathon has raised approximately \$13 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 44th time in 2024; this year will mark the 18th edition of the ½ Marathon and the second for both the 5K and 1 Mile races. For more information, visit www.columbusmarathon.com.

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