

2nd Annual Mississippi Blues Marathon & Half-Marathon

www.msbluesmarathon.com
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Marathon Legend Bill Rodgers to Speak at Mississippi Blues Marathon Expo

(Jackson, MS) – Organizers of the 2nd Annual Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon have confirmed that American running legend Bill Rodgers will speak at the race expo on Friday, January 2, 2009.

“Bill Rodgers set the standard for American distance running and continues to inspire runners everywhere,” said John Sewell, Director of Corporate Communications for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi. “His involvement with the Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon will offer participants and spectators alike a unique opportunity to hear his perspective on racing and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.”

Over the course of his career, Rodgers has been recognized as one of the premier American marathoners of all time. Of his 58 marathons, he has won 20 and 28 have been run under 2:15. He has won the Boston Marathon four times (1975, 1978, 1979, and 1980) and the New York City Marathon four times (1976, 1977, 1978, and 1979). He was the first runner to win both events in the same year (1978), and is the only runner to win both events in the same year twice (1978, 1979).

Rodgers’ other marathon victories include Bay State (1973); Sedo Island, Japan (1976); Baltimore (1976); Kyoto, Japan (1977); Amsterdam (1977); Fukuoka (1977); Toronto (1980); Houston-Tennaco (1981); Atlantica-Boavista, Brazil (1981); Stockholm (1981); Big M-Melbourne, Australia (1982); and Orange Bowl (1983).

In 2006, Rodgers was cited by *Runner’s World* magazine as one of the 40 most influential people of the past four decades. Rodgers continues to race approximately 25 times per year, and frequently speaks at races around the country.

Additional details regarding the 2009 Mississippi Blues Marathon and Half-Marathon are available at www.msbluesmarathon.com.

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