

For Immediate Release
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**Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Celebrates 35th Running with International Field
and \$35,000 in Prize and Bonus Money**

WASHINGTON – Back in 1973, a small band of less than 200 runners toed the line at the first running of the Cherry Blossom 10 Mile. On April 1, 2007, 10,000 runners will line up at 7:55 a.m. in West Potomac Park to continue the tradition as the event marks its 35th running. The weekend will be full of history with appearances by four-time champion Bill Rodgers and other past winners of the event.

The eyes of the world-class runners, who make this race an annual stop on their tour of the world's elite road races, will be on Kenyan road racing ace John Korir as he seeks to extend his odd streak of odd-year-only victories to four. If he is successful and adds to his wins in 2001, 2003 and 2005, he will match Rodgers as the only runner to win the prestigious event four times. Rodgers' wins came in consecutive years from 1978 through 1981.

Event Director Stewart expects to announce in the next two weeks the names of other talented additions to the elite athlete field that will be chasing after a record amount of \$35,000 in prize money and bonuses in the Metropolitan area's only world class running event. The men's and women's winners will earn \$6,000.

The organizers expect the total of charity donations made by the sponsoring Credit Unions and race participants since 2002 to surpass \$2 million dollars. The primary recipient of these funds is the Children's Miracle Network, a national consortium of 170 children's hospitals across the U.S. Funds raised by Credit Unions in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area go to the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Funds raised from outside the Metropolitan area go to CMN affiliates in the home states of the participating Credit Unions.

Entries to the Credit Union Cherry Blossom Ten Mile Run® closed out in December. With 10,000 participants expected, the organizers, with the support of the Credit Unions, have arranged to have Metro begin its Sunday operations an hour early -- at 6 a.m., on Sunday morning, April 1st. Shuttle buses will provide round-trip service between the Metro Center and L'Enfant Plaza stops to the race site.

The course starts and finishes in West Potomac Park and includes stretches of Independence Ave., Memorial Bridge and an out-and-back stretch on Rock Creek Parkway. In addition to the 10-mile, there will be a 5k Run Walk (also closed) and a 1k Kids Run. Spectators are invited to see all the action starting with the elite women's start at 7:50 a.m. and the mass start at 8:00 a.m.

The event is part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the Professional Road Running Organization Circuit.