

# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Deep U.S. Women's Field Set for 2012 ING New York City Marathon**

*2012 Olympic Trials Champions Julie Culley and Amy Hastings and Olympian Janet Bawcom to compete in November 4 race*

*Wheelchair field to feature defending champion and course record-holder Amanda McGrory, 2010 champion Tatyana McFadden, and 2012 Boston Marathon champion Shirley Reilly*

**New York, September 6, 2012**—A strong field of 2012 U.S. Olympians are set to compete in the 2012 ING New York City Marathon. Olympic Trials champions Julie Culley (5000 meters) and Amy Hastings (10,000 meters) are among the competitors, as is 10,000-meter Olympic team member Janet Bawcom, it was announced today by New York Road Runners President and CEO Mary Wittenberg.

Amanda McGrory, Tatyana McFadden, and Shirley Reilly will highlight the women's American wheelchair field.

Previously announced women runners in the race include New Zealand Olympian Kim Smith. The men's field will include previously announced three-time U.S. Olympian and 2009 ING New York City Marathon champion Meb Keflezighi, four-time Olympian Abdi Abdirahman, 2012 Boston Marathon fourth-placer Jason Hartmann, and 2012 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials fifth-placer Brett Gotcher.

Nationally, the telecast will be available on ESPN2, online at WatchESPN.com, and—for fans who receive their video subscription from an affiliated provider—on smartphones and tablets via the WatchESPN app. Locally, New Yorkers can watch the race on WABC-TV and 7online.com.

"We are honored to welcome a blockbuster field of up and coming American women," said Wittenberg. "Our Olympians, Amy, Janet, and Julie will lead the U.S. team and it will be a special treat to host "local" Julie Culley in her marathon debut."

Culley, 30, of Annandale, NJ, qualified for the 2012 Olympic Games by winning the women's 5000 meters at the U.S. Trials in a then-personal best time of 15:13.77; she lowered that to 15:05.38 in her semifinal race in London to qualify for the Olympic final. This will be Culley's

marathon debut. She was the 2011 USA 5K champion on the roads and the 2011 USA 10-Mile Championships runner-up. Culley finished second in the 2011 NYRR Dash to the Finish Line 5K on ING New York City Marathon weekend, and she ran the 2012 NYC Half in March, finishing in 1:13:31.

“It is only fitting I cap off the most memorable racing season of my career where it all began early this year,” said Culley. “Beginning with my first half-marathon at the NYC Half in March, 2012 was a year of firsts, including my first National Championship on the track at the Olympic Trials in the 5000 meters, my first Olympic Team berth, and now my first marathon. My “Road to London” started last fall with an exciting road racing season topped off with an incredible experience at the Dash to the Finish Line 5K and a personal tour of the ING New York City Marathon course on the women's lead truck. My connection to the Marathon and the City itself runs deep as a member of NYRR and an ASICS athlete, a member of the N York Athletic Club, training locally with the New Jersey/New York Track Club, attending Rutgers University, and utilizing the city weekly for its resources, doctors, and therapists. I couldn't be more excited and honored to represent my “home turf” on November 4 on the streets of New York City.”

Hastings, 28, of Leavenworth, KS, also triumphed at the Olympic Trials, winning the 10,000 meters in 31:58.36. She led the U.S. women in the London 10,000 meters, placing 11th, just one spot ahead of Bawcom. Hastings took second at the 2011 Los Angeles Marathon in 2:27:03, the third-fastest debut in U.S. history; she finished 15th in the 2009 NYRR New York Mini 10K (34:40) and sixth at the 2011 NYRR Dash to the Finish Line 5K (16:07).

“2012 has been the most incredible year of my running life,” said Hastings. “There have been ups and downs to try and make the Olympic team, but that only made it better when I finally was able to race in front of the Olympic torch for the U.S. For me, there is only one fitting way to finish a year like this, only one way that can live up to the hype of the Olympics, and that is by racing on the shut-down streets of Manhattan for the famous ING New York City Marathon. It is a race I have dreamed about running for years, but racing my first one in 2012 just seems right.”

Bawcom, 34, of Flagstaff, AZ, won the USA Championships in Grand Rapids, MI, earlier this year in a new American record time of 1:24:36. After finishing fifth at the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials in January, Bawcom qualified for the Games in the 10,000 meters, and she finished 12th in London in a personal-best 31:12.68. Earlier this spring, Bawcom won the USA 15K Championships in a blistering 49:41. She has run the last two editions of the NYC Half, setting her personal best of 1:09:55 in the 2012 race this past March.

Other top U.S. women competing this year include:

- Michelle Frey, 29, of Minneapolis, MN, who placed third in the 2012 USA Half-Marathon Championships
- Alisha Williams, 29, of Colorado Springs, CO, who finished fifth at the 2012 Olympic Trials 10,000 meters
- Serena Burla, 28, of Falls Church, VA, the fifth-ranked American marathoner in 2012
- Molly Pritz, 24, of Boulder, CO, who returns to the race after finishing first among American women in her 2011 debut

In the wheelchair division, Amanda McGrory, 25, of Champaign, IL, will return to defend her 2011 title. McGrory holds the course record of 1:50:24, which she set last year. Earlier in 2012, McGrory won the Paris Marathon in 1:55:50 and the 2011 London Marathon in 1:46:31, also a

course record. At the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing, she was the 5000-meter gold medalist and the marathon silver medalist.

Tatyana McFadden, 24, of Clarksville, MD, won the 2010 ING New York City Marathon and took third last year. She was the Bank of America Chicago Marathon champion in both 2009 and 2011. At the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing, she won silver medals at 200, 400, and 800 meters and a bronze in the 4x100-meter relay. McFadden is a member of the 2012 Paralympic team, and she recently won gold in the 400 meters.

Shirley Reilly, 27, of Tucson, AZ, won the 2012 Boston Marathon in a personal-best time of 1:37:36. She followed that victory by finishing fourth at the 2012 London Marathon. Reilly was a member of the 2004 and 2008 Paralympic teams and is competing on the 2012 team in London, where she took second in the 5000 meters. This will be her fifth appearance at the ING New York City Marathon; most recently, she placed seventh in 2009.

“The U.S. women who will compete in the wheelchair division this year are currently in London for the Paralympics Games, entered in track races from 400 to 5000 meters,” said Wheelchair Division Coordinator Bob Laufer. “Most will also compete on the road against the world’s best in the marathon, which will be contested on Sunday, September 9. Each of the three women featured here—McGrory, McFadden, and Reilly—has already won one or more of the world’s major marathons, and any of them could arrive in New York as the 2012 Paralympic Champion.”

#### **About the ING New York City Marathon**

NYRR’s premier event, the ING New York City Marathon is the most loved and most inclusive marathon in the world, attracting elite athletes and recreational runners alike for the challenge and thrill of a lifetime. The race has grown tremendously since it began in 1970 with just 127 runners racing four laps of Central Park. Now, more than 47,000 participants from all over the globe flock to New York City every November for an adrenaline-filled road tour of all five boroughs, starting on Staten Island at the foot of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and ending in Central Park. Some run for prize money or bragging rights, others for charity or their personal best. All are cheered on by more than two million live spectators and a TV audience of 330 million.

#### **For more information:**

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