Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K to host 2016 Collegiate Running Association 10k road race national championship

December 1, 2015 - RICHMOND, VA – Sports Backers and the Collegiate Running Association announced today the 2016 Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k Presented by Martin's will serve as host to the 2016 Collegiate Running Association 10K Road Race National Championships. This marks the third consecutive year that some of the nation's best and brightest college students will compete for the national championship in Richmond.

"We could not be more excited to be back in Richmond and to partner with the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K and Sports Backers," said Collegiate Running Association co-founder Jon Molz. "Since our founding as a non-profit organization we have been thankful and committed to this event as we believe it is one of the country's premiere road races. The amazing opportunities for runners, both social and competitive, are what make this event so special."

The entry list for the past two years has included U.S. national champions, U.S. Olympic Team Trials qualifiers, current and former NCAA All-Americans, representatives from various college running clubs, and first-time 10k runners. A total of over 5,000 combined college students registered for the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K in 2014 and 2015 and more than 2,000 indicated that they never completed a 10k race before.

"We formed the Collegiate Running Association in order to create new opportunities for all college students that enjoy running and active, healthy lifestyles," said Collegiate Running Association president Steve Taylor. "Our vision includes elite runners, club runners, and social runners all converging at the same events. That vision has become a reality at the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k and we are thrilled to partner with this event."

As the first road race with prize money reserved specifically for college students, the 2014 and 2015 Collegiate Running Association 10k championships attracted a slew of highly decorated runners enrolled in college classes across the country as they battled for a \$10,000 prize purse. In 2016, the streets of Richmond will once again welcome college students for an amazing view of the city. Whether you are looking for social or elite competitive opportunities, the 2016 Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K will provide it all.

Register for the 2016 Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K presented by Martin's here today.

About the Collegiate Running Association



The Collegiate Running Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded November, 2013 with a mission to promote healthy lifestyles among college students by providing and expanding opportunities in the sport of running. Our vision is to offer national championship events in road, mountain, and trail running with prize money specifically reserved for college students that will be open to all college students enrolled in at least one class.

In our first year (2014) the CRA held two national championship events with \$16,000 in prize money reserved for college students: a 10k Road Race held within the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k in Richmond, VA, and a Mountain Race held in conjunction with the USATF Mountain Running Championships in Lincoln, New Hampshire. Combined, these events saw college students representing 150 colleges and universities compete.

In 2015, the CRA hosted four national championship events offering \$32,000 in prize money open to all college students, including two road races, a trail race, and a mountain race. Combined, these events saw college students representing 200 colleges and universities compete. To learn more, visit the CRA National Championships page.

Follow the CRA on <u>TWITTER</u>, <u>INSTAGRAM</u>, <u>FACEBOOK</u>, <u>GOOGLE+</u>, and <u>RunnerSpace</u>. Become a free member by clicking here: <u>BECOME A MEMBER</u>

About Sports Backers

Sports Backers is a non-profit organization dedicated to building a more active community. Sports Backers produces nationally recognized quality sporting events and programs that motivate residents and visitors alike to be more active, supports youth running and fitness programs, and advocates for safe and connected networks of bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Learn more at www.sportsbackers.org.