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## **2017 BMW Dallas Marathon Welcomes Olympians Shalane Flanagan and Meb Keflezighi to Race Weekend Festivities**

**DALLAS (June 28, 2017)** – Participants in the 2017 BMW Dallas Marathon, Half Marathon and SMU Cox School of Business Relay will have a little extra inspiration at this year’s event as three-time Olympian, Shalane Flanagan, and Boston Marathon winner and four-time Olympian Meb Keflezighi join the race day festivities on Sunday, December 10. Both elite athletes will have leading roles in the race’s starting ceremonies and will hand out medals to participants crossing the finish line. Shalane will also be available for photos and autograph signings with fans during the BMW Dallas Marathon Health & Fitness Expo.

This will be Flanagan’s first time appearing at Texas’ oldest marathon. Flanagan has raced in three Olympics, placing sixth in the marathon in Rio in 2016, and in June of last year broke the American 10K record with a time of 30:52. She is also the author of New York Times best-seller, *Run Fast Eat Slow*, a cookbook focused on nutrient-dense recipes for athletes.

This year marks Keflezighi’s fourth consecutive appearance at the BMW Dallas Marathon. In 2015, Meb participated in the BMW Dallas Marathon’s Duo to Rio Relay, where he raced alongside several Olympic athletes including Desi Linden. Last year he served as an elite ambassador throughout the weekend.

“We are honored to welcome athletes as impressive as Meb and Shalane to this year’s event and to continue the tradition of bringing some of America’s most iconic runners to Dallas,” said Paul Lambert, president of the BMW Dallas Marathon. “The presence of these role models will add even more excitement to Sunday, December 10.”

Since 2013 the BMW Dallas Marathon has welcomed a notable roster of American elite athletes to participate in race weekend celebrations and unique contests. Past elite ambassadors include: Desi Linden, Ryan Hall, Sarah Hall, Deena Kastor, Becky Wade, Matthew Centrowitz, Leo Manzano, Abdi Abdirahman, Annie Bersagel, Molly Huddle, Luke Puskedra, Dathan Ritzenhein and Jared Ward.

A detailed schedule of public appearances by BMW Dallas elite ambassadors will be announced closer to race weekend, December 8-10. A group of professional runners sponsored by HOKA ONE ONE will also be in attendance and announced at a later date.

Registration for the 2017 BMW Dallas Marathon, Half Marathon, SMU Cox School of Business Relay and BMW Weekend Series is currently available. For additional information or to register as a participant or volunteer, visit [bwmdallasmarathon.com](http://bwmdallasmarathon.com).

### **2017 BMW Dallas Marathon Elite Ambassadors**

Shalane Flanagan, 36, is an Olympic medalist, four-time Olympian and currently holds the American 10K record with a time of 30:52. In the 2014 Boston Marathon she ran the fastest time ever by an American woman with a time of 2:22:02. She also holds a personal best of 2:21.14, which she gained at the 2014 BMW Berlin Marathon. She is also a New York Times best-selling author and public speaker on the importance of healthy eating.

Meb Keflezighi, 42, is the only athlete in history to win the TCS New York City Marathon, the Boston Marathon and an Olympic medal in the marathon. In 2014, he became the first American in 31 years to win the Boston Marathon, with a personal-best time of 2:08:37. Meb qualified for his fourth Olympic team in 2016, and ran for Team USA in the marathon at the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. He will retire in November 2017 following the New York City Marathon.

### **About the BMW Dallas Marathon**

The Dallas Marathon is a nonprofit organization with a focus on promoting health and physical fitness through running events and related activities. Dating back to 1971, the organization hosts year-round events culminating with Dallas' largest and Texas' oldest running marathon: the BMW Dallas Marathon. Now in its 47th running, the marquee race attracts runners from across the globe and hundreds of thousands of spectators to Dallas' largest single-day sporting event. The BMW Dallas Marathon racecourse highlights iconic Dallas landmarks and is recognized as the official marathon of the city of Dallas. Since naming a primary beneficiary in 1997, the Dallas Marathon has donated more than \$3.9 million to Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. For more information, visit [dallasmarathon.com](http://dallasmarathon.com).

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