2025 Hardeeville Half Marathon Returns to South Carolina's Fastest Course

Hardeeville, SC — Sunday, November 9, 2025

Grounded Running Beaufort

The Hardeeville Half Marathon is set to return this fall, bringing elite competition back to what has been called the fastest certified half marathon course east of the Mississippi River. Scheduled for Sunday, November 9, 2025, the race will begin at 7:15 AM from Hardeeville School, located at 1458 Red Dam Road in Hardeeville, South Carolina.

This year marks the first elite-level event on the course since Hardeeville hosted the USATF National Championship Half Marathon in 2021. That historic race saw a breakout performance from Connor Mantz in his professional debut, clocking an impressive 1:00:55. Eleven men ran under 1:03:00 that day, while Keira D'Amato dominated the women's field with a 1:07:55 finish, leading nine women under 1:12:00. Several athletes who raced in Hardeeville that year—including Mantz, Clayton Young, Dakotah Lindwurm (formerly Popehn), and Leonard Korir—went on to qualify for the 2024 U.S. Olympic Marathon Team.

Although the qualification window for the 2028 Olympic Trials marathon does not open until January 1, 2027, the 2025 Hardeeville Half Marathon offers an ideal opportunity for athletes preparing for late 2025 or early 2026 marathons. The course is USATF- and World Athletics-certified, USATF-sanctioned, and designed for speed. Featuring three smooth loops plus a one-mile add-on, it has only six meters of elevation change from its lowest to highest point. The start and finish lines are within 43 meters of each other, making it not just fast, but also logistically efficient for athletes and spectators alike.

A \$10,000 prize purse will be awarded per gender, with prize money going ten deep. Prize pay-out will be to the top ten for each gender of \$10,000 per gender in amounts of \$3.5k, \$1.75k, \$1.25k, \$900, \$600, \$500, \$450, \$400, \$350, and \$300.

Entry is free thanks to the generous support of private donors who are passionate about distance running and committed to giving back to the sport. The field will be capped at 100 men and 100 women, and all entrants must meet the minimum qualifying standards of 1:25:00 for men and 1:35:00 for women. Each participant will receive a commemorative race t-shirt and a finisher's medal.

Athletes and agents are encouraged to reach out early, as several top competitors have already confirmed their participation and the field is expected to fill quickly. To request entry or for more information, please contact Larry Kimball at larykimball@outlook.com or call 843-540-3654.

A full race website with course maps, elite athlete bios, travel details, and additional event information is currently in development and will be available at <u>www.hardeevillehalfmarathon.com</u>.