



Racing for a Cause

Thousands of runners—including a few stars—give greater meaning to their NYC Half experience

JUST ABOUT ALL THE RUNNERS who finished the NYC Half had the same thought as they ran past the brilliant lights of Times Square: “This is so cool.” Athletes smiled as they caught sight of themselves on the JumboTron, and they thrilled to cheers from spectators.

Many participants were further buoyed by the knowledge that every step they took raised funds for charity. More than 2,300 runners representing 66 official charities raised more than \$4 million for life-saving medical research, needy kids, troops serving overseas and at home, and many other worthy causes.

Team for Kids Runners Dazzle in Spring-Green Singlets

Athletes running on behalf of NYRR’s Team for Kids raised more than \$323,000 in the NYC Half. Unmistakable in their bright green singlets on the first day of spring, 240 TFK runners took to the streets in support of NYRR’s Youth and Community Services programs like Mighty Milers and Young Runners, which benefit students in schools and community centers in all 50 states as well as South Africa. They got a rousing send-off at the start from dozens of local kids who are just beginning their running careers.

Many participants laced up their sneakers as part of the TFK Trifecta Challenge: completing three (or more) events in 2011. Some have already conquered the Empire State

Building Run-Up in support of the cause, and others are looking forward to the five-borough ING New York City Marathon in November.

A Superhero Suits Up

You may know him as the Wolverine in the X-Men movies, but on Sunday, March 20, actor Hugh Jackman was just another sweaty, spandex-clad runner as he tackled his first half-marathon. Running on behalf of Shoe4Africa, Jackman covered the distance in a respectable 2:05:52, beaming the whole way.

Still riding his runner’s high after the race, the affable Aussie said he’d love to try the whole 26.2-mile enchilada—possibly as soon as this November. No word yet on whether he’ll run with his adamantium claws, but they’d be a big help if he hits “the Wall.” ■

