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## Boilermaker Increases American Prize Money for 40th Edition

\$14,500 available to the first 5 Americans who finish in the top 25 at the 4th stop on the PRRO Circuit 2016-17

UTICA, N.Y. – (March 9, 2017) – The **Boilermaker Road Race** will introduce a more than two-fold increase to its American prize money allotment to celebrate the historic race's 40th running on Sunday, July 9, 2017.

Previously, prize money earmarked for elite American runners was \$3,250 for male & female Open divisions respectively, for a total of \$6,500. This year, the summertime classic 15K road race has increased the purse for American runners to \$14,500: \$7,250 for the top 5 male & female Open divisions with \$3000 to be awarded the top American per gender.

The race has also made an adjustment to the qualifier for American prize money. Previously, American runners had to finish in the top 20 of their gender to qualify for prize money. The 2017 U.S. qualifier will include the top 25. These changes combine to make the Boilermaker a much more attractive destination for America's top professional distance runners.

"We believe the new structure will go a long way in attracting upper-echelon American runners to our race," said Race Director, **Jim Stasaitis**. "As one of the country's premier road races, the Boilermaker takes very seriously its obligation to support American distance running."

Overall, the Boilermaker guaranteed prize purse totals \$66,000 (Open, American & Masters 40-plus). For the complete 2017 Boilermaker prize money breakdown, go to: <a href="http://www.boilermaker.com/events/15k.php">www.boilermaker.com/events/15k.php</a>

The Boilermaker Road Race is also the 4th stop on the <u>PRRO Circuit 2016-17</u> series, featuring 4 classic American road races, and the event is a qualifier for the **PRRO Championship 2017** presented by the 5th EQT Pittsburgh 10 *Miler* in October. The current Circuit features more than \$260,000 in prize money overall with \$74,900 available for U.S. athletes.

To be considered as an invited runner to this year's 40th Boilermaker, contact **Dick Mattia**, Elite Runner Director at: <u>dick@boilermaker.com</u>

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The nation's best 15K road race in its 40<sup>th</sup> year, the Boilermaker is the premier event of Boilermaker Week. The race consistently attracts elite runners from all over the world, including Olympians and world record holders, and features distance running's most enthusiastic fans, as well as the sport's best post-race party, hosted at The F.X. Matt Brewing Company. To register for other Boilermaker events visit the official Boilermaker web site at <u>boilermaker.com</u>. Hotel accommodations and information about other local attractions can also be found on the site.