

International Exhibition Introduces Twin Cities

"Sun Up to the Gun" Reportage Chronicles Preparations for 109th Boston Marathon in Hopkinton, Massachusetts; Gift to Marathon, Greece

Hopkinton, Massachusetts, October 22, 2007– Hopkinton Athletic Association (HAA) President, Tim Kilduff in concert with the Sports Museum of New England, today announced the exhibition "Sun Up to the Gun," a photographic exhibition which will open on November 4, 2007, at the Museum of the Marathon in Marathon, Greece. A gift to the Municipality of Marathon from the HAA in recognition of the Twin City relationship between Hopkinton, Massachusetts and Marathon, the exhibition is underwritten by the Hopkinton Athletic Association (HAA) through funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and donation of images by the eight photographers. Organized by Richard Johnson, Curator of the Sports Museum of New England, and Susan Julian Gates, Director of the project, "Sun Up to the Gun" is the official photographic record of pre-race activities on Patriot's Day, April 18, 2005, in Hopkinton for the world's oldest annual marathon.

"Life inside the ropes has typically been the preserve of runners and race officials alone," said Tim Kilduff, founder and president of the HAA. "This exhibit uniquely captures and preserves for an international audience a genuine behind-the-scenes view – one rarely seen by the outside world. We're convinced this exhibit will prove a powerful appeal to visitors to Marathon and the marathoning community at large. These fine art photographs by Massachusetts artists will act as a good-will ambassador for the citizens of the Commonwealth and bring international attention to the MetroWest region."

"The Boston Marathon traces its roots directly to Greece and the first modern Olympics held in Athens in 1896," said Richard Johnson, curator of the Sports Museum. "The links are very tight. The US Olympic team in 1896 featured a sizable contingent of athletes from the Boston area. Also representing the United States was Coach John Graham of both Harvard University and the Boston Athletic Association. In '97, the year following the Olympiad, Graham created a marathon race that in years hence would be known as the 'Boston Marathon' – a race universally recognized as the most important marathon in the world outside of its Olympic counterpart."

As part of the Twin City partnership, Tim Kilduff will visit Marathon for the November 2007 Athens Marathon. He will participate in the opening of the photography exhibit, observe the Athens Marathon at the start in Marathon, and meet with Mayor Spiros Zagaris and other Greek officials, as well as attend the AIMS (Association of International Marathons and Distance Races) Marathon Symposium. As Hopkinton has been the start of the Boston Marathon for more than 100 years, the HAA will share their experience with Marathon as to how a municipality can benefit from being part of an international marathoning event.