

Alliant Energy Fifth Season Race – July 4, 2008
On June 19th - race postponed to September 1, 2008
Postponement comments by Mike Regan, Race Director

Why did you decide to postpone rather than cancel the event?? The Fifth Season Race has been an annual event in downtown Cedar Rapids for 23 years. It has been a part of the Freedom Festival for many years. We surveyed our major sponsors and without exception, everyone said they were on board. There was a strong feeling of commitment to the heritage of the race and a responsibility to our sponsors, participants, supporters, workers, the Freedom Festival & the City of Cedar Rapids. Especially this year coming off the devastating flood in downtown.

Why not an event somewhere else on July 4th?

It was only considered if we couldn't utilize the USATF Track & Certified 8K route downtown, or an alternative race course could not be found & certified in time for the alternative date, Labor Day, on September 1st.

- a) The difficulty of getting an alternative route identified and certified plus the logistical problems of moving a project of this size to another site.
- b) The psychological “state of mind” especially of our runners and workers. 80% of our participants and all of our workers came from the Linn & Johnson county areas. To the area that have been severely impacted by the recent floods. We just felt and that included a lot of CVRA members and race officials, that people's attentions and priorities would be justifiable not be on a race at this time.

Who made the decision?

It was the mutual decision of the race director, the full CVRA board of directors along with the CVRA board president to postpone to Labor Day.

When will you know if you can run the usual 8K course downtown?

I think we will have a pretty good feel by late July or early August but we should know no later than two weeks prior to the event.

What are the contingency plans for alternative courses?

An alternative location that is been given a lot of consideration, at least in the talking stages, is Green Square Park, But, it is only in the talking stages at this point.

What safety concerns do you have?

The physical conditions of the street that the participants run on must be in good condition. The start and finish area need to be normal, the staging, parking and awards area on May's Island will need to be “returned to pre-flood conditions. These areas will have to be back to normal for the race as we know it to happen in downtown Cedar Rapids.

Will elite athletes be competing for prize money?

Yes we will be supporting the elite athletes. It may not be at the same level as in the past, but we will be supporting the elite athletes.

Where will the post-race festivities be located?

Again if May's Island is back to its "normal state", the award festivities will take place there. The post race parties will be held as last year on Mays Island and the parking lot at United Fire & Casualty Company.

Will there be adequate parking?

We have discussed this issue with the Freedom Festival. I'm afraid this is one of those items that you have to describe as "wait and see".

Any plans to donate to flood victims?

Race participants are again asked to donate to the Donna & Dennis Oldsdorf Mercy Hospice House, and this year we are asking them to contribute to the "CVRA-Flood victim's fund" to assist those who suffered losses in the recent floods. In additions \$1 from every race registration is earmarked for the Dennis & Donna Oldsdorf Mercy House of Hospice. The CVRA and the race has likewise made a \$5,000 pledge to the "flood victims' fund".

How many race participants do you expect compared to previous years?

I am crossing my fingers!! Originally we were planning on numbers exceeding last year's record participation. But with everything this year, I'm probably realistic looking at a 20-30% reduction in registrations.

Will the city be able to support it?

They say yes, and I say yes. With a "can do" attitude, I say we'll be standing on 3rd Avenue Bridge at 8 am on Labor Day.

Yes, it is our intention to put on the same quality races that we have sponsored in the past. The only difference this year is it will be held on Labor Day instead of the 4th of July.

How will you handle registration?

The same way we have done so the past races. The registration process is pretty much routine. We will apply those that registered already toward the postponed race.

Will you reprint the entry forms? At this point, I would say we are planning on reprinting the registration form, but could also change. Just don't know yet.

What is the policy on entry refunds? The entry fee is nonrefundable. We will decide and let you know whether we refund, apply to the 2009 race, or apply to another person's race entry for the postponed 2008 race.

When will registration resume? Please allow some time to update the race website and active.com and we will open registration for the postponed race event to be held September 1, 2008. We expect Monday, June 23rd or Tuesday, June 24th to resume registration.