

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS PRESS CONFERENCE...

AND TO WELCOME SOME OF THE ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS...

IN THE LIFETIME MIAMI MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON THAT WILL TAKE PLACE THIS WEEKEND.

THE GREAT CUBAN-AMERICAN LONG DISTANCE RUNNER ALBERTO SALAZAR ONCE SAID:

"IF YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE A HIGH GOAL, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE SOME CHANCES."

I THINK WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT ALL GREAT ATHLETES HAVE HAD TO TAKE CHANCES AT SOME POINT OF THEIR CAREERS...

BUT ONE OF THE HIGHEST GOALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANY ATHLETE IS TO COMPETE IN A MARATHON.

IT TAKES A SPECIAL KIND OF PERSON WITH A SPECIAL KIND OF WILLPOWER AND DETERMINATION TO UNDERTAKE A MARATHON.

IT'S ONE OF THE OLDEST SPORTING EVENTS, AND IN ESSENCE, ONE OF THE PUREST.

IT'S JUST YOU, AND THE ROAD AHEAD.

BY TESTING THE LIMITS OF ENDURANCE AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT, MARATHONERS INSPIRE US.

AND SOME MARATHONERS TAKE GREAT CHANCES TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS...

AND THAT'S WHAT WE SEE IN MAICKEL MELAMED WHO JOINS US TODAY.

MAICKEL, WORDS FAIL TO DESCRIBE THE LEVEL OF HOPE YOU BRING TO US.

WE'RE HONORED THAT YOU ARE RUNNING IN OUR HALF MARATHON.

YOU'RE AN EXAMPLE THAT WITH THE PROPER ATTITUDE AND DETERMINATION, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

YOU ALSO INSPIRE ALL OF US TO SET OUR GOALS HIGH, AND ACHIEVE GREAT THINGS...

ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY...

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT YOU WITH A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR CERTIFICATE AS A SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE.

QUIERO DARLE LA BIENVENIDA A TODOS LOS ATLETAS QUE VAN A PARTICIPAR EN EL MARATON DE MIAMI...

Y ESPECIALMENTE A MAIKEL MELAMED...

UN ATLETA QUE NO TIENE LIMITES...

Y QUE NOS SIRVE COMO EJEMPLO DEL ESPIRITU HUMANO...

MAIKEL, ES UN GRAN PLACER TENERTE AQUI...

MUCHA SUERTE A TI...

Y A TODOS LOS CORREDORES.

LET ME ALSO INTRODUCE OUR ELITE RUNNERS WHO HAVE REACHED THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE SPORT...

AND THEY'RE HERE IN MIAMI NOT ONLY TO COMPETE, BUT TO WIN IT ALL!

IT'S MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT YOU WITH OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITOR CERTIFICATES...