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|  | **For Release:** Upon Receipt | **Contact:**  **Mary Kate Shea**  **Phone: (617) 596-7382**  **Email:** [**MaryKate\_Shea@jhancock.com**](mailto:MaryKate_Shea@jhancock.com) |
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| **MEDIA ADVISORY** | | |

**BOSTON, MA,** December 21, 2017—John Hancock said today that Japanese runner Yuki Kawauchi has been invited to participate in the company’s 2018 Boston Marathon Elite Team.

During a visit to Boston the last week of December, Kawauchi will train on the Boston Marathon course. And on New Year’s Day, he will to attempt to break the world record for most sub-2:20 marathons ever run. Currently the co-record holder with American Doug Kurtis, each having run 75 marathons under the 2:20 mark, Kawauchi will attempt to break the record at the USATF certified Marshfield Road Runners New Year’s Day Marathon.

“I can think of nothing better than breaking the record in Marshfield on New Year’s Day and then improving that record in Boston on Patriots’ Day,” said Kawauchi. “There is no place more appropriate than Boston for writing new pages in marathoning history.”

An international icon for his high-volume, high-quality racing, Kawauchi is a self-coached amateur who works full-time. His personal best marathon time is 2:08:41, he has won 30 career marathons, and he has competed on several Japanese national teams, including three IAAF World Marathon Championships. He holds the Japanese record in the 50K and world records for running the most sub-2:12 marathons (25), sub-2:13 (40), sub-2:14 (48), sub-2:15 (53), sub-2:16 (62), sub-2:17 (67), sub-2:18 (71) and sub-2:19 (74).

The 2018 Boston Marathon marks the 33rd year of John Hancock’s landmark sponsorship of the legendary race. The complete elite international field will be announced in early January. For additional information about the elite athlete program and sponsorship, please visit [www.johnhancock.com/bostonmarathon/sportspartnerships.html](http://www.johnhancock.com/bostonmarathon/sportspartnerships.html) or follow us @jhboston26 and @johnhancockUSA on Twitter.

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