

Press Release  
Prague, 25 April 2024

## Will Prague see another record-setting race?

**The first Sunday in May is the home of The Prague International Marathon. With an event record rewritten last year to 2:05:09, the standard of this event has been set very high, however this year, the elite field promises to bring excellent competition from the start, with four runners who have already shown they can run fast.**

It looks like the race will be a grand showdown of Ethiopian long-distance runners. The fastest in the field is Herpasa Negasa Kitesa, with a personal best of 2:03:40 from 2019, and an excellent time from Seoul 2022 of 2:04:49. Having had some time out since then with injury, Prague will be the place for his big comeback.

Lemi Berhanu Hayle will prove to be a strong contender for the win with his recent performance of 2:07:32 from Mumbai and a personal best from Dubai of 2:04:33. Abebe Negewo Degefa with a time of 2:04:51 and Abayneh Degu Tsehay with 2:04:53 will also aim for a place on the podium, with Kenyans Kipkemboi Kiprono (2:06:45) and Joshua Kogo (2:08:39) also be battling it out for a top placing. If the weather is good, The Prague Marathon has the chance to see its first sub 2:05 performance.

The women's field is also dominated by the Africans. Dorcas Jepchirchir Tuitoek from Kenya has raced in Prague before. She tested the local course in 2018 during the 10km Birell Grand Prix. She won the Hamburg Marathon in 2:20:09 and ran even better in Amsterdam with a 2:20:02—both last year. In Prague 2024, she wants to break the 2:20 mark.

She is joined by Ethiopian runner Buzunesh Getachew Gudeta, who has herself already run under 2:20, winning in Frankfurt last year with a time of 2:19:27. At the last Tokyo Marathon, she overestimated her strength and having run the race at a pace of 2:14 for a long time, she dropped out exhausted at 35 km. Their rivalry could bring a new record in the women's category, and break the 2:20 barrier, achieved only by one runner in Prague, Lonah S. Salpeter from Israel, in 2019, when she set the current race record at 2:19:46.



## Note for editors

- Each of the five races are certified by AIMS, have been awarded a 5 Star Road Race standard by European Athletics or have hosted the IAAF (World Athletics) Half Marathon Championships.
- RunCzech races are awarded the quality mark by World Athletic and the Prague International Marathon, Prague Half Marathon and Birell 10k Race received the World Athletics Elite Label Road Race award.
- SuperHalves races have played host to World Record performances (2 in Lisbon, 2 in Prague, 1 in Copenhagen and 3 in Valencia).
- RunCzech organizes running events in cities across the Czech Republic and in Italy, with Napoli Running, and in Japan and China supported by local entities.
- Prague International Marathon spol. s.r.o. ("PIM")/RunCzech was established in 1995 by Carlo Capalbo, President of the Organizing Committee, with the aim of staging a world-class international marathon in Prague.
- Nearly 1.2 million runners have participated in RunCzech events since its inception. In 2019, we welcomed over 120 000 finishers from 101 different countries.
- ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL is our way of welcoming everyone to the world of running.
- Initiatives like RunCzech Running League and SuperHalves were created to motivate casual runners. To support elite European athletes, we created the EuroHeroes Challenge.
- RunCzech Racing is dedicated to the development of young athletes, community ties, and sporting excellence. Eight World records so far and over 150 podium finishes for our team!
- In 2021, RunCzech introduced the unique running invention called The Battle of the Teams. "Professional marathoners competing in teams, strategically drafted based on their collective personal bests, giving each team a serious chance to win gold".
- We host other events such as our Bambini Runs, Family Runs and Junior Marathon Championship to encourage youth participation.
- Our FreeRun courses form a network of running trails across the Czech Republic.
- Our Running Mall serves as the epicenter of the running world in Prague.
- All accompanying information regarding RunCzech can be found at this link:

[Notes for editors](#)



## Contact

For more information, please get in touch with:

- reach the office at [pr@pim.cz](mailto:pr@pim.cz)

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/runczech>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/runczech/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/RunCzech>

Uvidí Praha další rekordní zápis?

První květnová neděle bude patřit Pražskému maratonu.

Rekordy závodu visí hodně vysoko. V kategorii mužů, kde se loni přepisoval rekordní zápis na současných 2:05:09 se na startu sejde skvělá konkurence. Hned čtyři běžci již dokázali běžet rychleji. Vypadá to na velký souboj etiopských vytrvalců. Jedničkou závodu bude Herpasa Negasa Kitesa s osobním výkonem 2:03:40 z roku 2019 a skvělým časem ze Soulu 2022 - 2:04:49'. Pak přišlo zranění a Praha by měla být místem jeho velkého návratu. Určitě mu ale bude skvěle sekundovat Lemi Berhanu Hayle - letošní vítěz maratonu v Mumbai s osobákem z Dubaie 2:04:32, či Abebe Negewo Degefa s výkonem 2:04:51 a Abayneh Degu Tsehay -2:04:53. Do umístění na stupních vítězů ale budou chtít zasáhnout i Keňané Kipkemboi Kiperono (2:06:45) či Joshua Kogo (2:08:39). Bude-li nakloněno počasí má Praha poprvé šanci vidět závod pod hranicí 2:05.

I mezi ženami by měly vládnout africké závodnice. Na jedné straně – Dorcas Jepchirchir Tuitoek z Keni, která v Praze nestartuje poprvé. Zdejší trať si vyzkoučela v roce 2018 při závodě na 10km Birell Grand Prix. Je vítězkou maratonu v Hamburku 2:20:09 a ještě lépe běžela v Amsterdamu 2:20:02, oba maratony absolvovala v loňském roce. V Praze by rozhodně chtěla prolomit hranici 2:20. Etiopská závodnice – Buzunesh Getachew Gudeta , již dokázala zaběhnout pod 2:20 , když ve Frankfurtu loni zvítězila v čase 2:19:27. Nyní nedokončila maraton v Tokyu, když přecenila své síly a závod dlouho běžela v tempu na čas 2:14, aby na 35 km závod zcela vyčerpaná vzdala. Jejich



# RUNCZECH

ALL RUNNERS  
ARE BEAUTIFUL

vzájemný souboj by mohl přinést nový rekordní zápis i v ženské kategorii a prolomení hranice 2:20, což se zatím v Praze podařilo jen jediné závodnici a sice Lonah.S.Salpeter z Izraele v roce 2019, kdy přepsala rekord závodu na současných 2:19:46.



Františka Křížka 11, 170 00 Praha 7, Czech Republic  
Email: [info@runczech.com](mailto:info@runczech.com)

Tel: +420 224 919 209  
Fax: +420 224 923 355

[www.runningmall.cz](http://www.runningmall.cz)  
[www.runczech.com](http://www.runczech.com)