



PRESS RELEASE
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CZECH MARATHON HOPES HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Prague/ The Czech Marathon Hopes project is coming together nicely. After a successful start in September with the 5 km run as part of the Mattoni Grand Prix, preparations for the selected female trio are well underway for the Hervis Half Marathon Prague. But only if they manage to meet the limits at the Junior World Championships beforehand.

Very recently the team came one step closer on their quest to turning dreams into reality with a new contract signing from a reputable sports company *"I am pleased to see this take place in the Adi Dassler conference room named after the man who set up the company in 1925. We support top Czech runners such as Dan Orálek, Petra Kamínková and Ivana Sekyrová. We are also very keen to help young talent"* said Marketing Manager for Adidas CR, David Horák.

"We have been organising first-class races for a long time now. The number of runners is growing however the quality of Czech top runners is deteriorating", says Jana Moberly, one of its authors together with Carlo Capalbo speaking of how the idea came to life. She is a former athlete and current manager for foreign runners at Prague International Marathon. A while ago she was browsing through the running league tables which only confirmed the dire situation on the domestic endurance running scene. If we take a look at the men's ten Km, of the top twenty best Czech times, aside from Pešava (1998), the remaining nineteen top times date back to the 1980s at the earliest. When it comes to women, there have only been four from this millennium.

"We however didn't want to bring in young people and start pushing them straight away to achieving better times. We are more interested in finding true talent, paving the way for them, allowing them the possibility to choose" says Carlo Capalbo, Chairman of the Organisational Committee for Prague International Marathon. The objective, therefore, is not to try to find an Olympic medallist straightaway. But to provide young talent with the chance of discovering their own way to run in the world and supplying them with quality material. The choice went to Ivo Piták's training group who is currently working at the Jilemnice sporting grammar school.

The three girls entrusted in his care, 17 year old **Linda Vítová** and 16 year old twins **Anežka and Eliška Drahotova** are truly good all-round endurance runners – they have been scooping up great results not just on the athletics oval but also in walking and



cycling events as well as triathlons. "No specialisation is required. Weaker links become apparent over time and these ones fall behind", says the trainer who brought Barbora Dibelková, later to become his wife, to fifth position in walking at the world championships in Helsinki in 2005.

Already back in October the young girls ran in Prague with Marathon Champion, Patrick Makau, They were able to talk to him plus pick up a few exercises from his warm-up routine. They are currently planning a trip to the training camp for top Kenyan female runners spearheaded by renowned manager, Zane Branson.

And what do they enjoy most of all? **Anežka Drahotová**, who has just received a Silver at the Czech Indoor Championships among women in the 1500 metres is causing her trainer some distress by expressing the desire to combine the 1500 m with the walking 10 k distance at the Junior Championships in Barcelona. *"When it comes to walking I've already set certain expectations for myself. I'd like to try running at this top level because as I get older the competition is going to get much tougher"* she says.

Meanwhile **Eliška Drahotová** is clear about her goals *"I'm not so fast and so am focusing on walking. Later on I'd like to give cycle racing a go"* says the girl who finished up in fourth place at last year's European championship in walking. Piták's team already has an offer to take part in the prestigious international stage race, Gracia in Orlová. *"It's a waste of time for me to bother going home. Instead our parents sometimes come for the weekend to see us at the boarding school"* says the girl from the North Bohemian town of Rumburk of the demanding programme.

"I am now working towards the Junior European Championship for the triathlon in Israel" the former synchronized swimmer, Linda Vítová reveals. She left her family and a prestigious school in Prague behind to pursue a top sporting preparation programme having decided to head off to Jilemnice, located in the foothills of the Krkonose mountain range. *"I don't waste any time here travelling around the city with all those coughing people on trams. The school, athletics track, swimming pool and gym are all within 5 minutes of each other"*, she boasts.

"They do everything, are good all-rounders. And they can develop at their own natural pace, without any restrictions placed on them", their coach claims.

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Notes for editors:

Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o.

Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. ("PIM") was set up in 1995 by Carlo Capalbo, President of the Company with the aim of organising a large-scale international marathon on the streets of Prague. A total of 958 runners made it to the start line of that first race. Since then PIM's activities have burgeoned into a whole series of running events referred to as the PIM Running series. In 2011 over 60 000 competing runners from all over the world participated in races as part of the PIM Running Series. The Volkswagen Marathon ranks among the top 10 marathons in the world held in one of the most beautiful settings and becoming the 7th fastest in the world in 2010 (with Eliud Kiptanui completing it in 2:05:39). As of 1999, PIM also organises the Hervis Prague Half Marathon along with races over shorter courses, the Mattoni Prague Grand Prix.

Races organised by PIM are sponsored by some of the largest investors in the Czech Republic, Volkswagen, adidas, Hervis and Mattoni. The whole organisation and atmosphere of the races has drawn a crowd of resounding names in the athlete world to the Czech Republic (Haile Gebrselassie, Stefano Baldini, Paul Tergat, Moses Tanui and Antonio Pinto) not to mention thousands of visitors.

PIM also stands as one of the few race organisers in the world to hold a collection of 3 IAAF awards: the IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the METRO 10km Race as well as the IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Hervis Prague Half Marathon and the Volkswagen Prague Marathon.

tempo team prague s.r.o.

The term "tempo" is an acronym for "The European Marathon Promotion Organization", which focuses on developing marathon races along with other running events in Europe. The tempo team company was set up in 2000 by a group of experts and sporting enthusiasts.

tempo team's activities entail concept creation, brand building, marketing as well as the actual organisation of sporting events. Right from the start, tempo team has played a key role in organising the Prague Marathon as well as developing the PIM Running Circuit. For the purpose of holding the Volkswagen Olomouc Half Marathon, tempo put together a special team of experts furnished with fifteen years experience in the area of organising running events. The first ever Volkswagen Olomouc Half Marathon was held in 2010 and signified the first race the tempo team organised outside of Prague. In 2011 a further race was added to the series, the Volkswagen Ustí Half Marathon taking place last September.