



**PRESS RELEASE
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PAVEL NEDVĚD RUNS THE HERVIS PRAGUE HALF MARATHON

Prague/ The race of records will be lit up further still by the presence of a first-class sporting star on a global scale. Former footballer, Pavel Nedvěd, who among other accolades, picked up the Golden ball award for the best European footballer in 2003, is set to run the Hervis Prague Half Marathon after taking a break of two years.

Nedvěd, now 39 years of age, ran for the first time here back in 2009 together with his recent team players from Sparta and the national team, Lokvenc and Votava. *"After two years break, I am really looking forward to taking on the Prague half-marathon course. To the beautiful race atmosphere and Prague itself because running through the city without cars isn't something you can bank on every day. Once again I'll be taking part with my friends, Tomáš Votava a Tomáš Pěček. We see the half-marathon as a tough test in preparation for the May Prague marathon. Depending on our shape, we'll take the decision about whether to try the whole one"*, he told of his expectations.

Back then Nedvěd ran it in 1:49:44 and felt fine. *"I am really pleased even though the time isn't exactly world class. For my first shot, I think it's good, given the weather and the hard tarmac surface plus the cobblestones...It was our aim to run it in under two hours, not to destroy ourselves"* he said commenting on his performance.

Last year in September he took part in the 10 km Mattoni Grand Prix evening race finishing up 511th out of 3299 participants with a time of 46:26. Even back then he said *"I would love to complete the full marathon one day. I'm going to try to make it happen next year already. And in Prague"*. Nedvěd at least started off the marathon in 2011.

He has the utmost respect for this almost sacred running course. *"I tried running thirty km alone as part of my training programme. In that sense it was more difficult. My legs went all wobbly, it was really tough. But most importantly they said that running those last ten kilometres is even worse, as if the first thirty don't count for anything. If I go for it, it's going to be brutal, that's for sure"* he said. *"Prague is home soil for me, it would be nice not to have to play away. I also need to feel relaxed in order to concentrate and for there not to be too much commotion going on around me. To allow me to also enjoy myself"*, he added.

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The Hervis Prague Half Marathon will become a race of records on 31st March. Already 53 days in advance of the race, the recently stretched capacity of 11 000 start numbers had sold out. Following on from this, organisers from Prague International Marathon announced an assault on the world record title. Leonard Komon from Kenya, world record-holder in the 10 km and the 15 km has selected Prague for his half-marathon debut, in which he also has designs on beating the best performance of all time. Meanwhile this title is held by Zersenay Tadese from Eritrea in 58:23.

The Hervis Prague Half Marathon has been taking place since 1999 and prides itself on the Gold Label from the International Athletics Association, the IAAF. This attests to meeting the highest level of quality. Prague is the only organiser in the world to boast the Gold Label for both the marathon and half-marathon races.

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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 Prague half-marathon along with races over shorter courses, the 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 Men's 10 km METRO Run as well as the IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Hervis 1/2Marathon Prague and the Volkswagen Marathon Prague.

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 series. For the purpose of holding the Volkswagen Olomouc 1/2Marathon, 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 1/2Marathon 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 1/2Marathon taking place last September.

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