



**PRESS RELEASE
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HERVIS HALF MARATHON PRAGUE WAS THE FASTEST IN THE WORLD THIS YEAR SO FAR

Prague/ The Hervis Half Marathon Prague became a race of records. Despite the windy conditions, Atsedu Tsegay finished with the best time in the world this year, and the fifth best time ever in a half marathon: 58:47! The winner of female category, Joyce Chepkirui, also managed to beat the course record by finishing in 1:07:03.

"It was very fast, very tough", smiled the 20-year-old winner who started to race only three years ago. "We wanted to beat the world record here on this course. He will definitely run the new world record this year", added Tsegay's manager, Welay Amare.

It was a wonderful spectacle. The group at the front kept diminishing until there were only three runners left. Just below the Prague Castle, the pacemaker was also left behind and the race was headed by Limo, Kiplagat and Tsegay. In the final battle just after the refreshment station, the two Kenyan runners were left behind and the Ethiopian runner Tsegay took the lead. Despite the strong wind, he finished in excellent time.

"When I learned that he was going to be here, I knew it would be a very fast race. He is a tough runner, and if it hadn't blown so much, who knows what time we would have seen", commented Philemon Limo, the last year's winner who finished third this year, on the performance of Tsegay. "For me, it was not a good day", he added.

As for the women: *"It was very, very difficult to run against the strong wind, but both Lydia (Cheromei) and Gladys (Chereno) kept pushing me, and in the end I tried my luck", thanked Joyce Chepkirui her competitors and friends from Kenya.*

The best European runner was Jan Kreisinger, a Czech who ran the whole race and finished in 1:05:42. *"It was a good race, I felt alright. But in the end, when I ran against the wind, I lost at least a minute against the estimated time", said Jan. He hopes to run in the Volkswagen Marathon in Prague in May and make the limit for the London Olympics. The same hope was expressed also by the best Czech female runner, a 40-year-old teacher Ivana Sekyrová. "I tested my tempo for the Rotterdam marathon that takes place in two weeks time, and I succeeded. I enjoyed this race". She was pleased about her time of 1:16:50.*

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The race was attended by a record-breaking number of runners with just over 11,000 men and women, including famous names and celebrities. Pavel Nedvěd, recipient of the prestigious Golden Ball for the Best Football Player in Europe in 2003 was among them. *"It was wonderful, the fans were very supportive all along the course, they helped me a lot"*, Nedvěd praising the spectators after he finished with a time of 1:44:25.

A Czech best-selling author, Michal Viewegh, celebrated his 50th birthday on the course. A decathlon Olympic gold medallist, Roman Šebrle, ran the first 5 km of the relay as a preparation for the London Olympics. He ran alongside his wife who decided to run the whole course.

Hervis 1/2Maraton Praha 2012:

Men:

1. Tsegay (Ethiopia) 58:47,
2. H. Kiplagat (Kenya) 1:00:01,
3. Limo (Kenya) 1:00:03,
4. Bett (Kenya) 1:01:01,
5. Merga (Ethiopia) 1:01:02,
6. Kipkemoi (Kenya) 1:01:25.

Women:

1. Chepkirui (Kenya) 1:07:03,
2. Cheromei (Kenya) 1:07:26,
3. Cherono (Kenya) 1:08:18.

Ends

Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. / tempo team prague s.r.o.

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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.

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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 Usti Half Marathon taking place last September.

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