

Golden Ball Nedvěd was much more nervous at Volkswagen Marathon Prague 2012 than before penalty kicks-off at the silver Euro semifinal 1996 against France

Prague/ Today was a special day for Pavel Nedved – his first marathon race ever. Before the start the priest Pavel Cap, who also ran (4:02), gave him blessing in Czech and Italy language. And heaven answered. Nedved finished at the wonderful time 3:50:02 (real time 3:49:51). It was like five football half-times consecutive. "I feel good, I enjoyed it. Last five kilometres is just about your will and mind. And all that I had," he said with satisfaction.

Did it hurt?

Around the 21st kilometre I felt some blisters on my foot. I was saying to myself it would be horrible to make it to the finish. I had to see it. However, I stand the pain till the end.

The crisis then did not come?

Well, around the 40th km... I could almost see the finish line so I little bit slowed down, but I had to keep the pace. Finally, there was no bigger crisis for me. I could compare it to the sprint across whole football pitch in last seconds of match. You have to concentrate.

Crew in PN marathon team T-shirts did not help you during the race?

We sticked together, then I lost them a little, they are faster. I finished together with Tomas Votava (former sweeper of Sparta and national team), although he had some cramps in the end, but managed to reach me.

Have you been in a hurry to Turin to the last league match with Bergamo which is supposed to start at 3 p. m. and after there will huge champions celebrations?

Not so much. Rather I took it easy; I did not know what the marathon would do with me after all. I tried to finish, the time is fine. The pace was balanced. Last five kilometres we quickened, so I suppose it was right. The president wished me luck and the time under 3 hours (in order to come in time) the day before the race, but I really could not make it.

Which of the two successes are you going to celebrate more?

The one with Juventus for sure. After all it was huge comeback. We proved our strengths and it was enough. I am going to celebrate it altogether, but two beers for me are enough.

What was more difficult: to finish your football career or to decide to run a marathon?

These are two different things, but I was more nervous before the marathon than I was during the Euro championship semi-final against France (1996) where I was supposed to kick the penalty. No one knows what to expect. I feel comfortable on the pitch and I knew it.

Will you repeat it in one year?

Guys will prepare something, maybe we will take off somewhere. I would like to. We will see.

More on www.pim.cz

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.

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.