

Thrilling Volkswagen Prague Marathon sees second best time in race history as well as premiere for footballer, Nedvěd.

Prague/ A mixture of victory and failure for the top favourites, celebrities and ordinary folk alike seeing their dreams come to life, record participation with more than nine thousand runners, all set against the breathtaking backdrop of Prague's Old Town. You could experience all this and more at this year's 18th ever Volkswagen Prague Marathon.

Emerging as the all-out winner, was Ethiopian Deressa Chimsa scooping up the second best race time ever for Prague at 2:06:25. *"I believed in myself. I knew that I'd done enough training, that I could deliver a quality performance. I helped to push away from the pace maker in the leading group and then just went all out to win. I'm pleased"*, he said.

In stark contrast to this, Elite runner, Lydia Cheromei dropped out at the 38th km. She set herself a riveting pace at the start and for a while was running ahead all alone. However when fellow Kenyan runner, Agnes Kiprop caught her up, she realised she couldn't keep her pace and had to drop out. *"She just told me, try it alone, I'm having problems, try it"*, commented the winner. She passed the finish line with a time of 2:25:41.

When it came to the men, there was no shortage of Kenyan runners in the list of top results - Stephen Tum was satisfied finishing up second in his second ever marathon race. The same could be said for Philemon Limo, completing his first ever marathon third place *"I knew that running a marathon isn't easy. I've learnt a lot. I need to carry on training more and more"*.

Kenyan runner Julius Arile Lomerinyang came out sixth, an impressive result for a runner who only six years ago swapped hi AK47 machine gun and a place in the military guerrilla for a pair of running shoes and training camp in America. Film-makers have also been busy shooting him for a documentary while he's been in Prague.

The second woman to cross the finish line was Flomena Chepchirchir from Kenyan who was followed by Ethiopian wonder, Meseret Debele.

When it came to the enthusiasm of Czech spectators keen to witness Czech Championship success, as well as see which Czechs would be heading to the London Games, Jan Kreisinger emerged as a success. At thirteenth place in 2:16:26, he's managed to qualify with just three seconds to spare! *"Amazing, amazing, amazing"*, he rejoiced at the finish line.

39-year old former football superstar, Pavel Nedvěd completed his first ever marathon in 3:50:02. *"In the final five kilometres, I was able to accelerate even more, I didn't experience any kind of crisis throughout, I enjoyed myself"*, he said while showing off blisters dripping with blood.

Straight after the race he took off on a plane back to Turin to celebrate the Championships for his team, Juventus where he's currently working as a consultant to the Club President.

Volkswagen Prague Marathon 2012: Men: 1. Chimsa (Ethiopia) 2:06:25, 2. Tum 2:07:16, 3. P. Limo 2:09:25, 4. Bowen 2:10:05, 5. Kinyanjui, 6. Lomeriny (all from Kenya) 2:12:12,... 13. Kreisinger (Czech Republic) 2:16:26. Women: 1. Kiprop 2:25:41, 2. Chepchirchir (both from Kenya) 2:26:50, 3. Debele (Ethiopia) 2:27:15,... 9. Pastorová (Czech Republic) 2:39:42.

To view the full results, go to 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.