

World marathon record holder Patrick Makau returns to take on the Metro 10K Race as part of the Mattoni Grand Prix Prague

Prague/As we can see, he kept his word. World marathon record holder, Patrick Makau is coming back to the Czech Republic. We can look forward to seeing him at the start line of the Metro 10K Race being held as part of the Mattoni Grand Prix Prague next Saturday, 8 September.

“As you know, I was truly delighted to be invited to Prague last year in autumn. I’ve made some friends there so I am really looking forward to coming back. I’d still like to spend more time in Prague and, during the course of the next few years, take part also in other races of the RunCzech.com running series, while also getting to know your country better. “I consider the Metro 10K Race as a part of my preparation for the Frankfurt Marathon in autumn” the 27 year old Kenyan runner revealed.

“Although he is a world record holder in marathon running, his personal best in the 10 km (*five years ago with a time of 27:27 in Berlin, editor’s note*) is faster than the course record. So we’re expecting to see him go for this time, even though his preparations are set on the marathon,” Manager of Elite Athletes, Jana Moberly commented.

After backing out of the London Marathon, held in spring, Patrick Makau surprisingly didn’t make it into the Olympic Kenyan team. “The thing that held me back wasn’t a muscle injury but rather an irritation to my sciatic nerve. I was able to resume training after taking a week-long break. I underwent a few more days of treatment just to ensure that everything was OK.”

But Patrick hasn’t lost faith in his Olympic dream. “You mustn’t forget that a few weeks after breaking the world record in Berlin, the President of the Kenyan Athletics Federation made a public announcement for me to be included in the Olympic team. I wasn’t in the slightest bit worried that things wouldn’t work out.”

He was also caught unawares by a number of wrangles taking place behind the scenes. “I was disappointed. But it’s something that even the best athletes have to overcome at certain points during their career. Unfortunately I lost the chance to represent my country at the Olympic Games as a world record holder. But then again, the year still hasn’t come to an end and I’m hopeful that I can look back and tick it off as having been a success,” he says, confidently.

Patrick Makau can expect a jam-packed schedule here in the Czech Republic. Firstly he’ll be running alongside amateur runners in Prague’s Stromovka Park, followed by a visit to Ústí nad Labem, the venue for another RunCzech.com series event. He is also down to meet Bohuslav Svoboda to pick up the AIMS Fastest Time Award as well as to pop in on the

legendary Dana Zátopková to congratulate her on her ninetieth birthday. Then in the evening, he'll be heading straight from the finish line to the pontoon stage on the Vltava river to greet 'Sen letni noci' festival stars: - Black and White World: Dejan Pejović, Lenka Dusilová, Szidi Tobias.

Aside from boasting a champion such as Makau, his compatriots Boniface Kirui Henry Kiplagat, 2010 winner Mourad Marofit from Morocco and Yoshinori Oda from Japan will also perform their best. All of them are capable of pushing past the 28 minute barrier. In terms of the ladies, the strengths of Ethiopian favourite, Tadelech Bekele will certainly be put to the test by Polish Olympian, Karolina Jarzynská and British representative, Katrin Wooton.

Czech Elite long-distance runners, fresh from their Olympic Glory in London – Jan Kreisinger and Ivana Sekyrová or Petra Kamínková will also be taking part. We can also look forward to watching the participation of the two promising seventeen year old twins Anežka and Eliška Drahotová. (project Czech Marathon Hopes)

The best runners will secure themselves 8 000 EUR in the bank (*around 200 000 CZK – editor's note*) plus 3 000 EUR for breaking the race record. Another 40 000 CZK is up for grabs for the best Czech runner. And as for the rest of the runners taking part, they can look forward to benefiting from first-rate service and facilities. For instance, Hansgrohe mobile shower trucks which were also used by the German Olympic team in London. The Mattoni Grand Prix Prague is the only Czech 10 km race to be awarded with IAAF Road Race Silver Label.

As has been the case for other races, capacity for start numbers in Mattoni Grand Prix Prague, attracting six thousand runners, was reached in August. This is what Presidential candidate Vladimír Dlouhý had to say: "I'm running a lot at the moment as part of my Long Run campaign. I should be able to manage completing the race in under an hour without any worries"

Volleyball beach beauties, Kristýna Kolocová and Markéta Sluková will also be adding a touch of glamour to the scene. "It's going to be tough, I'm expecting around half an hour as long as I don't get lost," says Kolocová. "And I'm looking forward to treating myself to one small beer at the finish line to cool off and recover," Sluková adds.

We may expect even faster performances than these from Olympic flag bearer and badminton player, Petr Koukal, the eminent cardiologist Jan Pirk who is a regular participant, while you may also bump into the dentist we all know from the media, Roman Šmucler as well as the renowned bare-footed runner, Julius Pataki and maybe even the Japanese runner bearing the appealing writers name, Kazutaka Murakami.

Programme for the Mattoni Grand Prix 8. 9. 2012



19.00 adidas Women's Race 5km
19.40 Hilton Cloud 9 Barmen's Race
20.30 Metro 10K Race (women may also take part)

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 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 year 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 and in 2012 the Mattoni Budějovice 1/2Marathon taking place in June.