

Kenyan, Kiplagat, Finally Got His Czech Win at the Mattoni Prague Grand Prix

Following three second place finishes from this year's half marathon RunCzech.com running circuit, the young Kenyan runner, Henry Kiplagat finally won. During the Mattoni Prague Grand Prix, he got away from all pursuers in the Metro 10kK Race, including the world record holder in the marathon, Patrick Makau and crossed the finish line with a very good time of 27:51. Tadelech Bekele from Ethiopia won the adidas Women's Race 5km with a time of 15:48.

Although no records were broken in the race, tens of thousands of spectators created a thrilling atmosphere along the track leading up to the lit up night Prague center. "A great race, I enjoyed it", said not only the 19 year old winner, Kiplagat. "I had no strategy, I just ran, ran fast and this is how it turned out. Finally I was alone in the front", he said.

At about the half way mark of the race, he shook off the second runner, Adugnu Tekele, from Ethiopia. In the end, Kiprop Limo, the younger brother of the record holder of the race from last year, then passed Tekele also. The record holder of last year's race couldn't arrive because he was nominated for the Kenyan world championship in the half marathon.

Yet, Patrick Makau was not smiling, he finished tenth. From the beginning you could see that the pace was too fast for him. "I felt tired and also the cobblestones were not good for me. I was careful at every step, I didn't want to get injured," he admitted. "However, it was very good speed training for the Frankfurt Marathon in October. And the atmosphere? Was unique," he thanked the organizers.

The three-some of Czech favorites still had to run the team Czech championships in Tábor in the morning. The youngest of them, 22 year old Jiří Homoláč, dealt with this difficult double battle the best. "I am a long distance runner, the longer, the better," he smiled. "It was a good run, although the time isn't all that great. This pace from the training is good for me, I value the win." The Olympian, Jan Kreisinger, finished 21 seconds behind him. The Czech champion for the 10km run, Milan Kocourek, finished another 20 seconds behind.

Tadelech Bekele from Ethiopia, a traditional participant of the RunCzech.com running circuit won the women's race. "Although I usually run longer races, I am happy that I was able to do it, even though I wasn't the favorite to win." The fourth place finisher Polish Olympian, Karolina Jarzynská, was the best European.

Petra Kamínková, a veteran, won the never ending battle of the best Czech women long distance runners, eight seconds ahead of the Olympian, Sekyrová. "We are friends, but competitors on the track. I am happy that it turned out this way for me. The start was slower, but then I kept an eye out for it," she said.

A list of well known faces appeared among the six thousand runners. The fifth beach volleyball duo from the Olympic Games in London, Kristýna Kolocová and Markéta Sluková, finished one right after the other. "My legs hurt," Kolocová said. "We are not used to such distances," added Sluková with a smile. The badminton player, Petr Koukal also ran, as well as the Judo fighter, Jaromír Ježek, former politicians, Jaromír Schling,

Vladimír Dlouhý and Kateřina Jacques, the well known physician, Jan Pirk, the priest, Pavel Čáp and others. The starter was the Olympic pentathlon winner, David Svoboda.

Results: Mattoni Prague Grand Prix 2012

Metro 10K Race: 1st Kiplagat 27:51, 2nd Kiprop Limo (both from Kenya) 28:19, 3rd Tekele (Ethiopia) 28:19, 4th Tuemay (Eritrea) 28:50, 5th Kibet (Uganda) 29:07, 6th Kirui (Kenya) 29:36, 7th Kozłowski (Poland) 29:50, 8th Oda (Japan) 29:59, 9th Ndiwa 30:04, 10th Makau (both from Kenya) 30:30, 11th Homoláč 30:38,... 13th Kreisinger 30:59, 14th Kocourek (all from the Czech Republic) 31:19.

adidas Women's Race 5 km: 1st Bekele (Ethiopia) 15:48, 2nd Lisoreng (Kenya) 15:50, 3rd Nyakisi (Uganda) 16:01, 4th Jarzynska (Poland) 16:07, 5th Wooton (Great Britain) 16:25, 6th Ciolek (Poland) 16:33, 7th Kamínková 16:59, 8th Sekyrová (both from the Czech Republic) 17:07.

Hilton Cloud 9 sky bar and Lounge Barmen's Race: 1st Café Louvre 2:24:25

More information on www.praguemarathon.com

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.

The company Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. ("PIM") was established by its President, Carlo Capalbo, in 1995, in order to organise the first ever international marathon to take place on the streets of Prague. This first marathon saw 958 runners taking part and, since then, PIM has developed its activities into a series of running events that, together, are known as the PIM Running Circuit. In 2010 the PIM Running Circuit attracted more than 50,000 runners from all over the world, from which 8,000 took part in the marathon.

The Volkswagen Prague Marathon was recently voted as one of the top 10 marathons in the world, taking place in one of the most beautiful locations and, in 2010, it became the seventh fastest marathon in the world (Eliud Kiptanui's time of 2:05:39). Since 1999 PIM has also been the organiser of the annual Prague half marathon, as well as the annual Grand Prix group of short track races.

In the years since its first incorporation, the PIM races have been sponsored by some of the biggest investors in the Czech Republic, including Volkswagen, adidas, Hervis and Mattoni. The overall organisation and the general atmosphere of the races have attracted many of the world's leading athletes (Haile Gebrselassie, Stefano Baldini, Paul Tergat, Moses Tanui and Antonio Pinto) and brought thousands of visitors to the Czech Republic.

PIM is one of the few race organizers throughout the world to hold the collection of three IAAF Road Race Labels: IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the METRO 10k 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 series. For the purpose of holding the Volkswagen Olomouc Half Marathon, tempo put together a special team of experts furnished with over fifteen year 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 and in 2012 the Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon taking place in June.

