Half-marathon World Record Holder set to attack the record in the Hervis Prague Half Marathon

With an outstanding time of 58:23 Zersenay Tadese of Eritrea has managed to hold onto the world record in the half-marathon for nearly three years. Can he break the record in the Hervis Prague Half Marathon taking place this April?

Tadese achieved his world record in Lisbon in 2010. He has brought fame to his home country on several occasions. In 2004, at the Olympic Games held in Athens he scooped up his nation’s first ever medal finishing third in the 10 000 meters. Two years later he won the 20 km race at the IAAF World Road Running Championships. Between 2006 and 2009 he triumphed at the World Half Marathon Championships and repeated last year in Kavarna, Bulgaria. He has also excelled in cross country running, a discipline in which he has won one gold, a silver, and two bronze medals at the World Championships over the course of the past seven years.

“We are really pleased to be able to welcome this top athlete and see him take part in the 15th Jubilee year of the Hervis Prague Half Marathon,” stated Carlo Capalbo, Chairman of the Organizing Committee at the Prague International Marathon. “Once again we are going to see records smashed here in Prague!” he added with enthusiasm.

Mr. Alfred Eichblatt, the General Manager of Hervis Sport stated, "We are proud to support the RunCzech project, and especially the Hervis Prague Half Marathon. Our race was the fastest half marathon in the world in 2012, and this year we are hoping to break the world record."

"Zersenay Tadese, who will be celebrating his 31st birthday this February, runs an incredibly limited number of races each year, which he selects carefully. We are truly happy that he chose Prague this year”, added Jana Moberly, Coordinator of Elite Athletes for the Organizing Team.

Among the other runners due to appear on the start line alongside Tadese, will be Philemon Limo from Kenya who ran the first half-marathon under one hour in the Czech Republic in 2011 with a time of 59:30. These two stars will compete with several other sub one hour runners for the honor of breaking the finish line tape in Prague this year.
The Hervis Prague Half Marathon is part of the RunCzech Running League and it is among the prestigious international races which have attained the International Association of Athletics Federations highest accolade, the IAAF Road Race Gold Label. In 2012, thanks to the superb time of 58:47 achieved by the Ethiopian Atsedu Tsegay, the Hervis Prague Half Marathon became the world’s fastest half-marathon of the year. This time also made Tsegay the fourth fastest half-marathon runner of all time.

The race will be held on 6th April 2013 starting from Jan Palach square in Prague at noon. Organizers have increased race capacity to 12 000, but there remain less than 1, 000 entries to be filled. “I’m confident that we’ll be closing registrations once again more than two months before the race.” revealed Václav Skřivánek from the Organizing Team.

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

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Notes for editors:

The RunCzech running league

The RunCzech running league brings together all the prestigious Prague races organised under the Prague International Marathon heading, alongside races in selected regions of the Czech Republic organised by tempo team prague, known as the RunCzech races. This lead to the creation of a running series of races spanning the whole Czech Republic allowing all those involved to combine their passion for running with a love for travel.

During the course of 2012, 64 043 competing runners took part in the RunCzech running league from all over the world. This created a prestigious running ranking system for the 34 346 people participating in competitive runs allowing them to measure their results against other runners split into categories according to sex, age not to mention the completely new grouping of profession.

In 2013 the RunCzech running league includes the following races:

- Hervis Prague Half Marathon (6th April)
- Volkswagen Prague Marathon (12th May)
- Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon (25th May) – a new race in 2013
- Half Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon (8th June)
- Mattoni Olomouc Half Marathon (22nd June)
- Prague Grand Prix (7th September)
- Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon (15th September)
- Host race Košice International Peace Marathon (6th October)
An eighth race will be added to the RunCzech running league in 2014, at which point capacity is expected to reach 81,000 runners, making the project complete.

Boasting a total of four IAAF Road Race Label awards, organisers of the RunCzech running league have picked up more accolades than anywhere else in the world, all of which attest to the first-rate standard of the organisation. These include:

- The IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Hervis Prague Half Marathon
- The IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Volkswagen Prague Marathon
- The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the 10 km Run featuring as part of the Prague Grand Prix
- The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the Olomouc Half Marathon – new in 2013

**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 RunCzech running league.

The Volkswagen Prague Marathon ranks among the top 10 world marathons taking place in one of the most beautiful locations around. The 2012 race attracted 9,057 competing runners from all over the world. As of 1999, we have also been organising the Prague half-marathon along with races over shorter courses, the Grand Prix. In 2012 the Hervis Prague Half Marathon became the fastest half-marathon in the world! The Ethiopian runner, Zersenay Tadese completed it in the record time of 58:23.

Races organised by PIM are sponsored by some of the largest companies 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 (the likes of Haile Gebrselassie, Stefano Baldini, Paul Tergat, Moses Tanui, Antonio Pinto and [Patrick Makau]), not to mention thousands of visitors.

In addition to the above, PIM also organises the Junior Marathon for high school students. Relay race (comprising 10 members per team) runners firstly participate in regional rounds, the winners of which subsequently proceed to the final as part of the Volkswagen Prague Marathon, scheduled for Sunday 12th May 2013.

**tempo team prague s.r.o.**

Tempo is dedicated to developing marathon races along with other running events held in Europe. It was set up in 2000 by a group of experts and sporting enthusiasts. The term “tempo” is derived from the name of the organisation “The European Marathon Promotion Organization”.

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 RunCzech Running series.

Tempo team is the name of the main organiser of races taking place in various regions under the RunCzech running league heading comprising the České Budějovice Half Marathon, the Olomouc Half Marathon, the Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon and most recently the Karlovy Vary Half Marathon.