

## O2 Prague Grand Prix announces a stellar women's field for the 10K

For the first time in its 19 year history the Prague Grand Prix will feature an elite women's field competing alongside the always strong men's field. Through the years the race has featured many of the great names of men's running including Paul Tergat, Haile Gebresilasse, and Stefano Baldini. Soon women will be able to add their names to the honor roll of winners.

With the addition of equal prize money for both sexes Jana Moberly, the elite athlete coordinator for all of the RunCzech events, has been able to put together a very competitive and very international group of women who will vie for the podium on September 7th in the IAAF Silver Label Road Race. In addition to the always strong East Africans there will be three Brits, two Poles, a rising young Czech star, and a Croatian. Many of these women are now returning home after competing in the IAAF World Championships in Moscow which concluded on Sunday.

One athlete who did not compete in Moscow, but was active on the U.S. road racing scene recently is Gemma Steel from Great Britain who finished third in the 2013 Oakley New York Mini 10-K in New York City's Central Park in June. She also notched an impressive second place in 31:35.3 in Maine at the Beach to Beacon 10K on August 3rd, and another 2nd place finish at the historic Falmouth Road Race (7 miles) in 37:06 a week later. Steel's British compatriot, Susan Partridge, will be coming to Prague after a very credible 10th place finish in the World Championship Marathon in Moscow. Starting conservatively in the mid-afternoon heat of Moscow Partridge worked her way up from 43rd place at five kilometers to make the top ten. Also qualified for the Marathon in Moscow was the Croatian/American Lisa Stublic, but she opted to pass on the Championships in order to concentrate on her training for the ING New York City Marathon in November. Although she was born in the U.S. she has lived in Croatia for the past five years and now competes for her father's country.

The Poles will be represented by Karolina Jarzynska, 15th in the final of the 10,000 meters in Moscow, and Dominika Nowakowska who also made it to a final finishing 14th in the 5,000 meters. One of the biggest surprises in Moscow was the 7th place finish of the young Czech Anezka Drahotova in the 20 Kilometer walk. The 18 year old Drahotova had won the European Junior Championships 10 Kilometer walk, and qualified for the final of the 3000 meter steeplechase on the same day just four weeks earlier. Anezka will be challenged by a masters runner the perennial Czech Champion, 40 year old Petra Kaminkova.



The top African women in the field include Afera Godfay of Ethiopia, the fastest in the field at 31:08. The Kenyans are led by Esther Chemtai (31:27), and Lucy Njeri Macharia with a 32:12 PR. Also joining the hunt for an inaugural Prague victory will be the national record holder for 10,000 meters of Uganda, Juliet Chekwel, who ran 32:39 in Moscow, and Zakia Mohamed Mrisho of Tanzania (32:12).

The men's field figures to be a duel between Daniel Chebii of Kenya and Mosinet Geremew of Ethiopia. Both of them have PRs of 27:36 on the roads. Chebii was the winner in the Ceske Budejovice Half Marathon last year in the world class time of 59:49. They will be challenged by the 20 year old Kenyan, Kiprop Limo (27:40) the winner of the Stramilano half marathon this year and also a sub one hour half marathoner last year in Rome-Ostia.

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