



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**19 February 2014**

## **Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon elite field announced**

*With the strongest field in its history the organizers of the Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon will be looking for records on April 5th. Six men in the field have PRs below one hour and seven women have broken 1:09 with three of them under 1:08.*

Most of the pre-race attention will be focused on Atsedu Tsegay, the course record holder and fastest man in the world in the past two years. Tsegay's 58:47 in Prague in 2012 made him the fourth fastest half-marathoner in history, and the Ethiopian National Record Holder supplanting the great Haile Gebrselassie. After almost eighteen months of battling injuries Tsegay showed he was back with a very big victory in Delhi in December 2013. In that race he defeated ten other sub one hour half marathoners with a fine time of 59:12. Now he will face off with several other Prague favorites including Philemon Limo the first man to run under one hour in the Czech Republic with his 59:30 in 2011 and Henry Kiplagat who just missed the one hour standard with 01:00:01 in 2012. Robert Chemosin, Peter Kirui, Cybrian Kotut, and Gideon Ngatuny, all from Kenya are the other sub one hour athletes in the field.

The men's field will also feature IAAF Gold Label quality athletes from Eritrea, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Russia. The top Czech man will be Jan Kreisinger who has a personal best of 1:03:38.

The women's field will be led by Kenyan Joyce Chepkirui with her best time of 1:07:03, but she will be challenged by Ethiopians Worknesh Debele who also has broken 1:08 and Firehiwot Dado the winner of the 2011 New York City Marathon. Ethiopians Waganesh Mekasha, and Wude Ayalew along with the Kenyan Emily Chebet should be in the hunt for the podium. Also featured will be Susan Partridge from Scotland, Azusa Nojiri of Japan and Natalya Popkova from Russia looking to improve their half marathon records.

The women's race will also feature an interesting note for the Czech onlookers as the veteran champions 41 year old Petra Kaminkova and 42 year old Ivana Sekyrova will be challenged by the 24 year old Lucie Sekanova, making her debut, and the fast rising young star Anezka Drahotova who is still only 18 years old.





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Notes for editors: <http://www.runczech.com/en/for-the-media/notes-for-ditors/index.shtml>



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