

Kamworor beats all except the weather in České Budejovice

A warm sunny day in the Czech Republic proved very pleasant for the spectators at the 2014 Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon - the fourth race in the RunCzech Running League awarded the IAAF Silver Label. For most of the total 4,600 participants in this southern Czech City it was also a warm but pleasant run through a beautiful city on Saturday, June 7. But the conditions were not so forgiving for the elite runners. Despite a strong field including the 2014 World Champion Geoffrey Kamworor (who won the race in 1:00:09) and a total of three men with personal bests under one hour that magical, number remained elusive.

With a temperature of 26 celsius and rising humidity at the 7:00 p.m. start of the race a group of eleven Kenyans including Geoffrey Kamworor and his personal pace makers started off at a pace that would bring them home in a course record 59:40, but the group broke up very early. By 3.5k four men had fallen off the back of the group and by 7k Kamworor was leading with Henry Kiplagat, a few yards behind, but the rest of the field was already out of sight. The World Champion continued at a pace that would have brought him home under the existing course record of 59:48 through 14k, but the pace slowed noticeably from there to the finish which he reached in 1:00:09. Kamworor revealed that for him it was very hot which slowed him significantly in the latter stages of the race. Kiplagat slowed even more, but was still able to finish second in 1:02:46 over two and one half minutes later. Henry stated that he felt it was the humidity that really slowed all of the runners.

In the women's race a group of five, three Kenyans and two Ethiopians, ran together until 5k but by 10k the group had dwindled to the three podium finishers. By 14k the women's leader Betelhem Moges had broken free from Lucy Liavoga and she was able to continue to victory in 1:12:31. Liavoga finished second in 1:14:13 with another Kenyan, Vicoty Chepkemoui third in 1:15:03, and South African Makmanya Mapaseka fourth in 1:15:52 after arriving from Johannesburg via Paris only hours before the race.

A total of 4,600 runners were passing through České Budějovice, with 2,800 half marathoners and other 1,800 participants of dm family run.

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