

Atsedu Tsegay and Philemon Limo will race each other in Ústí nad Labem

Two world-class runners at the half marathon distance will clash at the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon in the Czech Republic near the border with Germany on September 14: Ethiopia's Atsedu Tsegay and Philemon Limo of Kenya. The latter is the defending champion and course record holder for this event, and Tsegay is the fourth fastest half marathoner in history.

The Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon is one of the four events in the RunCzech Running League which take place outside of Prague. Each one has developed greatly in terms of both elite and mass participation and the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon has been awarded the distinction of an IAAF Road Race Silver Label.

A record 4,200 runners entered the race last year with the course record also being broken: Philemon Limo ran 60:38 and his Kenyan compatriot Josephine Chepkoech won the women's title in 69:08. "We hope for another exciting and fast race on September 14," said Jana Moberly, the Elite Athletes Coordinator for RunCzech.

The Kenyan Limo has just celebrated his 29th birthday and is a regular competitor at RunCzech events. In 2011 he created a slice of RunCzech history when he ran 59:30 in Prague to become the first runner to break the hour for a half marathon anywhere in the Czech Republic. He followed that by winning the prestigious 10km race in the capital in 27:34.

Philemon Limo won't find the title defence an easy matter and whoever wins the men's race may well have to break the hour barrier once again. That looks more than likely since one of the fastest men of all time at the distance will be lining up on September 14: Atsedu Tsegay is the Ethiopian record holder with a time of 58:47 run in Prague in 2012 and taking the national record from none other than Haile Gebrselassie. That time remains the fastest half marathon in the world in the past two plus years and is also a Czech all comers' record.

Tsegay will have extra incentive to live up to that pedigree since his form this year has fallen short of expectations. The 22-year-old's extraordinary run in 2012 also broke the course record which Limo had set the previous year which should add to the spice of their duel in Ústí nad Labem.



For further information about the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon visit: www.runczech.com

Please Note: the attached photo, which shows Philemon Limo, can only be used online in conjunction with this press release and with the following caption: Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon

Prague International Marathon, spol. s r.o. / Tempo Team Prague s.r.o.

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