



Press release  
12 September

**Women's 2016 Half Marathon World Champion, three Top 10 worlds fastest men of 2016 to compete at the Mattoni Usti nad Labem Half Marathon**

***Kenya's Peres Jepchirchir, who won the 2016 World Half Marathon Championship this spring, will look to defend her women's title while four men with sub-60-minute personal bests will face off in the men's race at the Mattoni Usti nad Labem Half Marathon on September 17.***

Jepchirchir, who set the Usti nad Labem race record of 1:07.17 in 2015, improved her personal best to 1:06.39 in February. She will come into the race having run three minutes faster than any of her competitors.

Jepchirchir, after winning her first world title in the spring, has gone on to be unbeatable since. She won the Yangzhou Half Marathon in 1:07:21 in April, followed by two 10K victories in Bengaluru and Ottawa in May. There is a group of talents assembled to challenge Jepchirchir, but after smashing the race record and winning by over three minutes in 2015, she enters the field being the clear favorite.

„We have an ambitious goal to make the Usti nad Labem Half Marathon the fastest race in the RunCzech circuit, and having Peres, we have a good chance this year” - President of the Organizing Committee of RunCzech, Carlo Capalbo, says, „but at the same time, we want our event to help people to discover how beautiful the Usti nad Labem region is.“

The Ethiopian duo of Muliye Dekebo (1:09:45) and Aberu Mekuria (1:12:29 split en route to 2:25 marathon) should be in the mix, as well as Misato Horie of Japan (1:10:26), Ashete Bekere of Ethiopia (1:10:36) and Emmaculate Jebet of Kenya (1:10:39).

Dekebo, with her time of 1:09:45, came from her half marathon victory in Lugano, Switzerland this spring, this makes her unofficially the world junior leader in the half marathon distance this year.

Mekuria ran 2:25 in the full marathon twice in 2015 and most recently finished runner-up in Ottawa with a time of 2:29. She split a 1:12 at the half marathon point setting her PB, so a faster time is expected to be achieved in Usti.

Horie was fourth in this race in 2014 however, she achieved a new PB in the marathon in July when she won the Gold Coast Marathon in Australia with a time of 2:26:40. After finishing 14th in the Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon, Horie returns to the Czech Republic with hopes to stand on the podium.

Bekere won the Mattoni Ceske Budejovice Half Marathon this past June with a time of 1:10:40, just four seconds off her PB. She'll carry that momentum into this race, while Jebet brings her PB of 1:10:39 set in March, a four minute improvement to her time from 2015.





Eva Vrabcova leads the Czech entries with her 1:11:06 best. She set her marathon best (2:30:10) at the Volkswagen Prague Marathon in May and recently finished 26th in the marathon at the Olympic Games.

Four men with PB's under 60 minutes, Barselius Kipyego, Aziz Lahbabi, Adugna Takele and Geoffrey Kusuro, will toe the line in Usti, led by Kipyego and Takele, who clocked personal bests at the Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon in April, where they finished runner-up and third.

This will be Kipyego's fourth half marathon of 2016. He most recently won the Mattoni Ceske Budejovice race in June clocking a time of 1:00:30, which stood as one of the fastest course times to be recorded in the past four years.

His greatest challenger will likely be Ethiopian Takele. Besides eclipsing the 60-minute barrier on April 2 (59:40), Takele possesses the best speed in the field, having just finished fifth in the Ethiopian Olympic Trials 10,000m race in 27:20.65, less than one second off his PB. He won this race in 60:45 in 2014.

The race record of 1:00:38 is certainly in heightened danger when you add Lahbabi, who ran 59:25 in 2014, and Kusuro, whose 59:43 PB was set in 2015. Kenyans Peter Kwemoi (1:00:13) and Emanuel Kipsang (1:00:14) will look to run their first sub 60 minute half.

Kipsang could be a sleeper pick to win. The 25-year-old ran 27:22.99 in the 10,000m on the track this spring. He represented Kenya at the 2015 World Championships in the 5,000m. He is relatively new to the longer distances, as Usti nad Labem will be his third go, but that could make him more dangerous and a challenger for the win.

Milan Kocourek (1:04:23), Jiri Homolac (1:03:50) and Jan Kreisinger (1:03:38) will fight for Czech bragging rights as the top local entrants.



## Elite Field

### Men

Nationality	Name	Surname	Half Marathon PB
KEN	Barselius	KIPYEGO	0:59:30
MAR	Aziz	LAHBABI	0:59:25
UGA	Geofrey	KUSURO	0:59:43
KEN	Peter	KWEMOI	1:00:13
KEN	Emmanuel Kiprono	KIPSANG	1:00:14
KEN	Stephen Omiso	ARITA	1:00:52
KEN	Simon Kiruthi	MUTHONI	1:01:19
KEN	Lani	RUTTO	1:01:32
KEN	Milton	ROTICH	1:00:43
KEN	Evans Kigen	KURUI	1:02:08
BRA	Paulo	PAULA	1:02:30
UKR	Oleksandr	SITKOVSKYY	1:02:49
KEN	Raymond	CHEMUNGOR	1:02:06
TAN	Gabriel Gerald	GEAY	1:02:25
UKR	Dmytro	LASHYN	1:02:52
KEN	Geoffrey	KIPYEGO	1:02:58
CZE	Jiří	HOMOLÁČ	1:03:50
CZE	Milan	KOCOUREK	1:04:23
ETH	Adugna	TAKELE	0:59:40
CZE	Jan	KREISINGER	1:03:38
CZE	Vít	PAVLIŠTA	1:05:09
MAR	Abdelkabir	SAJI	1:02.87
CZE	Petr	PECHEK	1:06:33
KEN	Timothy	KIMELI	
CZE	Martin	KUČERA	1:08:30
CZE	Martin	FRELICH	1:13:09
KEN	Nicolas Kiptoo	KOSGEI	1:04:21
KEN	Wilson	CHERUIYOT	1:04:20



## Women

Nationality	Name	Surname	Half Marathon PB
KEN	Peres	JEPCHIRCHIR	1:06:39
ETH	Aberu	MEKURIA	1:12:29
JPN	Misato	HORIE	1:10:26
ETH	Ashete	BEKERE	1:10:36
KEN	Emmaculate	JEBET	1:10:39
KEN	Lucy	CHERUIYOT	1:11:17
KEN	Ruth	CHEPNGETICH	1:11:33
KEN	Mary Wangari	WANJOHI	1:11:35
JPN	Kikuyo	TSUZAKI	1:11:53
UKR	Olha	KOTOVSKA	1:12:14
ITA	Fatna	MARAOUI	1:10:08
UKR	Olga	SKRYPAK	1:11:57
UKR	Valentyna	ZHUDINA	
CZE	Anežka	DRAHOTOVÁ	1:14:25
CZE	Petra	KAMÍNKOVÁ	1:12:17
CZE	Ivana	SEKYROVÁ	1:14:16
HUN	Andrea	TAKACZ-SZEDERKÉNYI	1:15:46
CZE	Dagmar	RYCHNOVSKÁ	1:20:32
ETH	Afera	GODFAY	1:09:52

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Should you require more information or photographs in print quality please contact:

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

**Tadeáš Mahel**

PR & Media

mob: +420 608 641 603, tel: 233 015 021

Františka Křížka 461/11, 170 00 Praha 7

email: [mahel@pim.cz](mailto:mahel@pim.cz)

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**Note:** The attached photographs can be used only in connection to this press release and mentioning the source: RunCzech.

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

