

RunCzech starts its running season with the Napoli City Half Marathon

Again this year RunCzech, the organizer of famous running events in the Czech Republic, starts its running season in Italy. The Napoli City Half Marathon will take place on Sunday, February 24 and will welcome over 7000 runners. The course winds through the most enchanting places of the city, and 14,5 km of it goes along the sea, making it the most 'seafront' half marathon course in Europe.

The Napoli City Half Marathon is included in the IAAF, FIDAL, and AIMS calendars. Besides the half marathon distance it also offers the Relay Twingo (10 km + 11 km) and the non-competitive 2.5 km Family & Friends Run open for all.

The Napoli City Half Marathon becomes a candidate for being one of the fastest half marathons in the world at the beginning of the year. The goal is to beat the course record, but not only. The main goal is to go under the 60 minutes barrier in the men's race and under 1:08 in the women's. As a reminder, 2018's edition was won by Abel Kipchumba with a time of 1:00:12, for a new course record and personal best. The winner's time among women was even more sensational: Eshete Shitaye, Ethiopian born but running under the flag of Bahrain, won in 1:08:38.

MEN - Amongst the top favorites to win the 2019 Napoli City Half Marathon, we find six Kenyans, one Moroccan, one Swede, and two Italians. Stefano La Rosa returns after last year's performance, when he came in 5th with 1:04:25 and, joining him, will be his Italian national teammate, Yassine Rachik, originally from Morocco, the bronze medalist in the marathon at the 2018 European Championships. On paper, the favorite seems to be the Kenyan Josphat Kiprop Kiptis, who has a best in the half marathon of 1:00:21. He could set a new personal best and at the same time go under the one hour mark. Moses Kemei, with a personal record of 1:00:44, and Ishmael Kalale, with 1:00:47, have both had an exceptional 2018 and will certainly go for the win. Finally, but not least, is Gilbert Kipkoech Bii who is certainly not to be underestimated with his 1:01:14 PB.

WOMEN - Three Kenyans, an Ethiopian, two Ukrainians, one Czech and two Italians - the Napoli City Half Marathon is truly international. The Kenyans are undoubtedly the top contenders, amongst which Angela Tanui is the favorite, as her personal record of 1:07:16 achieved at Roma Ostia three years ago or her recent win at the Venice Marathon would indicate. Another Kenyan, Betty Lempus (with bib #2), has a personal best of 1:09:25, but everything is possible in any given race, which is also true for the Ethiopian Mhretu (with bib #3), who boasts a best half-marathon time of 1:10:00. There is a lot of hope and expectations for the two Italians; Giovanna Epis, especially since she started being coached by Giorgio Rondelli, is always a strong contender even though she had to unfortunately miss the 2018 European Championship, whereas the Aosta Valley native, Catherine Bertone, is very popular and can certainly put in a great performance. RunCzech organizers are also happy to welcome



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a young and promising Czech athlete, Kristyna Dvorakova, who will run in Napoli for the first time. It will also be a pleasure to see the Finn, Noora Honkala, who has twice won the Sorrento-Positano Ultramarathon 54 km, another NapoliRunning race. Noora is amongst the best in the world in races of 100km and beyond...

MEN'S RACE

nb	Nat	Name	Surname	BIB name	Born	10km	HM	Marathon
1	KEN	Josphat Kiprop	KIPTIS	JOSPHAT	16/11/1993	28:39.0	01:00:21	
2	KEN	Moses Kipngetih	KEMEI	MOSES	03/09/1993	28:09.0	01:00:44	
3	KEN	Ishmael	KALALE	ISHMAEL	25/03/1995	28:33.0	01:00:47	
4	KEN	Gilbert Kipkoech	BII	GILBERT	10/05/1993	29:56.0	01:01:16	
5	MAR	Abdelali	RAZYN	ABDELALI	01/01/1991	29:25.0	01:02:41	02:21:00
6	SWE	David	NILSSON	DAVID	16/04/1987	29:01.0	01:02:09	02:15:40
7	KEN	Donald Kiprop	MITEI	DONALD	12/04/1996	28:17.0	01:02:11	
8	ITA	Yassine	RACHIK	YASSINE	11/06/1993	28:45.0	01:02:13	02:12:09
9	ITA	Stefano	LA ROSA	STEFANO	28/09/1985	28:30.0	01:02:15	02:11:08
10	KEN	Silas	MWETICH	SILAS	24/05/1997	28:59.0	debut	
11	IRL	Dave	FLYNN	DAVE	07/11/1989	30:20.80	01:04:32	02:19:49
12	ITA	Hajjaj	EL JEBI	HAJJAJ	31/03/1995	29:44.0	01:04:46	
14	ITA	Antonello	LANDI	ANTONELLO	10/09/1975		01:05:49	02:20:12
15	KEN	Bethwel Biwott	YEGON	BETHWEL	05/01/1993		debut	
16	ITA	Giovanni	GRANO	GIOVANNI	24/04/1990	30:44.0	01:06:16	
17	ITA	Francesco	CARRERA	FRANCESCO	26/06/1990	29:57.20	01:06:06	
18	FIN	Arttu	VATTULAINEN	ARTU	03/12/1991	28:48.43	debut	
19	ITA	Diego	AVON	DIEGO	04/05/1985		01:07:52	
20	ITA	Mattia	PICELLO	MATTIA	20/01/1986	31:57.0	01:10:59	
21	ITA	Dario	ROGNONI	DARIO	15/03/1974	31:27.0	01:08:13	02:23:01

WOMEN'S RACE

nb	Nat	Name	Surname	BIB name	Born	10km	HM	Marathon
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F 1	KEN	Angela Jemesunde	TANUI	ANGELA	27/07/1992	31:51:00	01:07:16	02:26:31
F 2	KEN	Betty Wilson	LEMBUS	BETTY	09/07/1991		01:09:25	02:23:40
F 3	ETH	Birhan	MHRETU	BIRHAN	13/03/1999	32:31.00	01:10:00	
F 4	UKR	Olha	KOTOVSKA	OLHA	05/12/1983	32:53:00	01:12:19	02:29:13
F 5	ITA	Giovanna	EPIS	GIOVANNA	11/10/1988	33:16.00	01:12:27	02:29:41
F 6	UKR	Daria	MYKHAILOVA	DARIA	29/04/1989		01:13:13	02:35:55
F 7	ITA	Catherine	BERTONE	CATHERINE	06/05/1972	34:06.00	01:13:42	02:28:34
F 8	KEN	Martha Wanjiku	NJOROGE	MARTHA	08/01/1994	32:57.00	debut	
F 9	CZE	Kristýna	DVOŘÁKOVÁ	KRISTYNA	11/05/1996		01:16:44	
F 10	ITA	Sarah	GIOMI	SARAH	22/01/1985	36:00.00	01:19:16	02:40:22
F 11	ITA	Izabela Leonida	ROMANAS	IZABELA	04/01/1987	37:10.00	01:22:37	
F 12	FIN	Noora	HONKALA	NOORA	01/07/1992			02:55:49
F 14	ITA	Fabiola	DESIDERO	FABIOLA	05/12/1970		01:24:14	02:58:23
F 15	BDI	Elvanie	NIMBONA	ELVANIE	15/03/1998	33:47.00	01:10:32	02:44:24

In case you need more information or further photos please contact:

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

Diana Rybachenko

Marketing & Communication

mob: +420 777 746 801, tel: 233 015 021

Františka Křížka 461/11, 170 00 Praha 7

email: rybachenko@pim.cz

Note: The attached photos may only be used in conjunction with this press release and indicating RunCzech as the source.



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