

Press Release
Prague, April 1, 2023

Kenyan Konga dominated the sold out Prague Half Marathon

The Kenyan Roncer Kipkorir Konga is the winner of this year's Prague Half Marathon, with time of 59:42. Uganda's Maxwell Kortek Rotich finished second, followed by the third Geoffrey Kimutai Koech of Kenya. The fastest woman is the presumed favourite, Irine Jepchumba Kimais, who crossed the line in 1:06:00. The best Czech performance was recorded by Patrik Vebr, who made his debut on the track with a time of 1:05:42 and finished 11th. Jiri Homolac finished one second behind him. Moira Stewart was the fastest Czech female pro athlete at the popular race. Almost 12,000 runners took part in the Prague Half Marathon. The Prague International Marathon will follow in early May.

Prior to the start, the organizers and pro athletes were worried about the cold and rainy weather. Finally, it didn't rain then and the temperature was definitely higher than last year. However, a headwind bothered the runners towards the end of the race. In spite of that, the pro athletes put up very good times - the best being recorded by Roncer Kipkorir Konga who finished in less than an hour. *"It's definitely a great result for me, I felt good on the course. I'm very happy for a time under an hour,"* said the Kenyan, whose personal best time for the half marathon is 59:38. He also attacked this time on [Saturday](#), only took a wrong turn just in front of the finish straight, losing a few seconds.

"Yes, it slowed me down, I could have run faster, maybe some five seconds. The wind was also a problem and slowed me down a little bit," said Konga, having made an important move for the win at the 14th kilometre, where he broke away from a group of six and built a nine-second lead. *"I wanted to run faster than the others. I knew I would finish alone. There is definitely a track in Prague where it is possible to break the world record,"* added the Kenyan, who finished 23 seconds ahead of the second-placed Rotich of Uganda. He was the only one to have reached a time under one hour in Prague. On the other hand, the main favourite and two-time winner Benard Kimeli did not do that well, having finished at the sixth place.



Patrik Vebr was the best Czech runner at the finish line, with a time of 1:05:42. Moira Stewart was the best among Czech women. She had planned to break 72 minutes before the start, which she did not manage. She finished in 1:12:43.

The running public expected a lot from Kenyan Irine Jepchumb Kimais, who has been performing well in the recent seasons and belongs to great stars in the world of running. After all, she ran in Barcelona this year in one hour and four minutes. In Prague, she was more than a minute and a half behind her half marathon best. She collapsed after having reached the finish line and had to be taken care of by the emergency. *"It was not a bad race and the course was good. There were just some places I had to struggle with. Together with my pacemakers, we were fighting for the victory, and I am happy for this time,"* Kimais said.

The race was started by the Mayor of Prague Bohuslav Svoboda, for whom sporting events like this are very important. *"I am convinced that such things belongs here. The example shown by the athletes is extremely important, as is the fact that many people and tourists will come to the capital. So it's also very interesting economically - whole families accompany the runners because to cheer them up,"* Mayor Svoboda mentioned at the start. On the other hand, Miloš Vystrčil, the President of the Senate, actively participated in the Prague Half Marathon. *"I have been running regularly for a while, my colleague from the Senate, Jan Pirk, encouraged me to take part in the Prague Half Marathon, so I had to start the training,"* Miloš Vystrčil smiled.

The race, of which the main charity partner is Světluška, the Foundation of the Czech Radio, is available to watch on runczech.com, YouTube or Pulse.TV.

[Official results](#)



Note for editors

- Each of the five races are certified by AIMS, have been awarded a 5 Star Road Race standard by European Athletics or have hosted the IAAF (World Athletics) Half Marathon Championships.
- RunCzech races are awarded the quality mark by World Athletic and the Prague International Marathon, Prague Half Marathon and Birell 10k Race received the World Athletics Elite Label Road Race award.
- SuperHalves races have played host to World Record performances (2 in Lisbon, 2 in Prague, 1 in Copenhagen and 3 in Valencia).
- RunCzech organizes running events in cities across the Czech Republic and in Italy, with Napoli Running, and in Japan and China supported by local entities.
- Prague International Marathon spol. s.r.o. ("PIM")/RunCzech was established in 1995 by Carlo Capalbo, President of the Organizing Committee, with the aim of staging a world-class international marathon in Prague.
- Nearly 1.2 million runners have participated in RunCzech events since its inception. In 2019, we welcomed over 120 000 finishers from 101 different countries.
- ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL is our way of welcoming everyone to the world of running.
- Initiatives like RunCzech Running League and SuperHalves were created to motivate casual runners. To support elite European athletes, we created the EuroHeroes Challenge.
- RunCzech Racing is dedicated to the development of young athletes, community ties, and sporting excellence. Eight World records so far and over 150 podium finishes for our team!
- In 2021, RunCzech introduced the unique running invention called The Battle of the Teams. "Professional marathoners competing in teams, strategically drafted based on their collective personal bests, giving each team a serious chance to win gold".
- We host other events such as our Bambini Runs, Family Runs and Junior Marathon Championship to encourage youth participation.
- Our FreeRun courses form a network of running trails across the Czech Republic.
- Our Running Mall serves as the epicenter of the running world in Prague.
- All accompanying information regarding RunCzech can be found at this link: [Notes for editors](#)



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