

Prague
May 8, 2022

The Kenyan Kigen „The King“ of the Volkswagen Marathon Prague, Homoláč as the best Czech

The most eagerly awaited event in the Czech running calendar has celebrated its winners today, with Kenyan Nobert Kigen becoming „The New King“ of the Volkswagen Prague Marathon, with a time of 2:07:54, and the Ethiopian Bekelech Borecha triumphant among the women, in 2:2:56. Jiří Homoláč garnered a third Czech title, saying *“Reaching the thirtieth kilometer, I started to feel a cramp in my foot, so I was afraid I would not finish, but I made it,”* he rejoiced. Marcela Joglova was the best Czech woman. *“The sunny weather was not conducive to fast times, but more importantly, it certainly contributed to a beautiful race and a great atmosphere,”* RunCzech Organising Committee President Carlo Capalbo, whose race boasts the World Athletics Elite Label Race, stated.

Over eight thousand competitors set off from the Old Town Square to overcome the 42,195 metres of the course leading past the beautiful Prague monuments and scenery. Due to the clear sky and sun, the already warm 15C at the start, soon went up to 23 °C. *“Today was my day. I won, it's something incredible. I was a bit concerned that I might not have enough power left for the finish. I'm glad I did it this way. I like Prague very much, I will definitely come again,”* Kigen, who finished third in Prague last year, said. Two other Ethiopian pro-athletes also made it to the winners' podium. Kelkile Woldaregay finished second, followed by Yitayal Zerihun.

The Czech Jiri Homoláč (2:18:44) lost less than eleven minutes to the winner. *“It was tough, the sharp sun sucked us dry. But the spectators around the course were literally driving us. I think it was the best atmosphere I've experienced here,”* Jiří Homoláč said. The new Czech women's champion Marcela Joglova also enjoyed the atmosphere. *“I am very satisfied. I haven't been running much lately and I had health problems. The people around the course helped me a lot, they were almost everywhere and cheered incredibly,”* Joglová, who crossed the finish line in 2:39:23, described.



Ethiopian Bekelech Borecha was the first of the women home. She covered the course in 2:22:56, improving her personal best by almost two minutes! *"I worked very hard, I wanted an even better time. But I am still very happy and I'm delighted to take the victory,"* said the new Prague champion.

However, the Volkswagen Prague Marathon was not only about winning among the individuals but also celebrating the new team concept of the Battle of the Teams, which brought excitement until the very last moment. Each of the six teams (Volkswagen, Mattoni, ČEZ Group, Birell, adidas Runners and Generali Česká pojišť'ovna) had four scoring professional athletes in the starting field, the fifth scorer being the combined efforts of the hobby runners.

RunCzech has been organizing marathons in Prague for more than a quarter of a century. Due to this fact, the Czech capital has become one of the world's top 10 cities in terms of race quality and popularity among the people. The economic, social and environmental benefits of the race for the city are priceless. According to an independent study, RunCzech races bring 28 million Euro in direct economic benefits to Prague, much needed after two difficult years for the city.



Note for editors

- All five events hold World Athletics Elite Road Race Labels.
- 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.
- 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: <https://bit.ly/2X83DLD>



RUNCZECH

ALL RUNNERS
ARE BEAUTIFUL

Contact

For more information, please get in touch with:

- Saso Belovski (belovski@runczech.com, or +420 777 746 807)
- Soňa Barabášová (barabasova@runczech.com, +420 603 455 830)

Or reach the office at pr@runczech.com or +420 224 919 209

