

PRAGUE 21.1 KM

READY FOR THE RESTART

20

20

MEDIA GUIDE

RUNCZECH

ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL



VÍT ŠIMRAL

Councilor for Education, Sports, Science and Business Support

Dear fans of running and a healthy lifestyle,

On behalf of the capital city of Prague, I would very much like to welcome you to the race Prague 21.1 km - Ready for the restart, and at the same time, I would like to wish all participating runners the best possible sports performances. The organizers of the race set ambitious performance goals with breaking the world record, and I firmly believe that it will succeed here, in Prague 7 in Letná Park.

Our municipal coalition supports the development of sports in Prague with all its might, not only by helping to organize today's race. I am very pleased that so many dedicated enthusiasts have found a particular run in Prague, and that we see so many female and male runners of all ages in our streets, parks and forests, who are often not discouraged by bad weather. Let's keep our fists, so that their numbers continue to rise and Prague will be firmly inscribed on world maps as a city friendly to professional and leisure sports.





Carlo Capalbo

President of the RunCzech Organizing Committee

Dear Friends,
If there's one thing we know about runners, it's this: Runners run!

They will run in rain and snow and cold and heat. They may run to lose weight, to clear their heads or to win a championship. They may crave a quiet jog on a forest trail or the adrenalin rush of participating in a 20,000-person marathon. But when they feel the need to run, nothing stops them. Nothing. Including a global pandemic.

That's why, when COVID-19 hit, and our internationally acclaimed Prague events were cancelled, we didn't stop working. We started thinking. We looked for creative ways of staging new events that would allow runners to do what they love. But to do it in ways that comported to strict government-mandated safety guidelines.

We will host events in our beautiful regional capitals with smaller crowds and more distance between participants. We staged runs at airports in Prague, České Budějovice and Karlovy Vary. We even hosted a run on the grounds of the brewery in Pilsen. And on September 5th and 6th, we will be running again in Letna and Stromovka Parks in Prague as part of our Česko běží dál (Czech Republic keeps on running) Grand Finales.

Keeping that running spirit alive for athletes of all ages and abilities required every ounce of our organizational expertise, learned over 25 years of staging huge internationally acclaimed events. It took the enthusiastic cooperation of government on both a national and local level. It took the technical support of our generous and longstanding partner, adidas. Plus, the elite athletes, of course, and their sports agencies.

All of which has led us to this amazing weekend. An exclusive half marathon, 21.1km, hosted in Prague. A showdown featuring some of the greatest running talent in the world today, all determined to smash world records as a way of proclaiming that we're READY FOR THE RESTART. To restart the economy, society and sports.

Like everyone in the world today, we look forward to getting back to normal. To seeing the streets of Prague, České Budějovice, Ústí nad Labem, Karlovy Vary, Olomouc, Napoli and Sorrento filled with runners again. To see runners wending their way through the wooded hills of Liberec. And through local parks. And it will happen. In the meantime, you keep running. And we'll keep thinking.

As with all great athletes, adversity has made us smarter and stronger. The dream is alive here. And the Czech Republic is open for business.

ČESKO BĚŽÍ DÁL (CZECH REPUBLIC KEEPS ON RUNNING) GRAND FINÁLE

When COVID-19 hit, and races all over the world were either cancelled or postponed, event organizers worldwide looked for ways of keeping their running fans engaged and active.

We at RunCzech felt it was our civic duty to provide a program for our loyal runners and came up with a bit of a different approach. The challenge “Česko běží dál” – Czech Republic keeps on running – a unique way of getting runners all across the country to compete at various distances from 5K through 125K, not virtually but on real courses – a new kind of mixed reality.

The foundation of this project was laid a few years ago when RunCzech created the FreeRun program – a community service project that aims to make running more accessible and more fun for more people. Over 90 running courses, each 5K long and certified by the Czech Athletic Federation were created to crisscross the entire country.

While formulating our plans for “Česko běží dál” we hit upon ideas for even more exciting races such as the RunWay Runs, 5K events hosted at local airports. And the Brewery Run, hosted in historical beer cellars. All of which have attracted runners eager for a new experience to Prague, Karlovy Vary, České Budějovice and Pilsen. Proving that in every cloud there is a silver lining.

With more than 11,000 participants, we have exceeded our expectations for this crazy summer: welcoming thousands of happy runners and sharing their joy at the finish line. And we are honoured to crown this season with the magnificent „Grand Finále“, on 5-6th September. One that we think will make history.

ČESKO BĚŽÍ DÁL GRAND FINÁLE

5 & 10 KM COURSE / 5-6 SEPTEMBER



#světovéČesko

ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL

#ceskobežidál

RUNCZECH



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PRAGUE 21.1 KM

READY FOR THE RESTART



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5 SEPTEMBER

RUNCZECH

ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL

PRAGUE 21.1 KM

Ready for the Restart

Prague is known the world over for our world-class, record-setting competitive races. And when COVID forced us to cancel them, tens of thousands of runners who had hoped to visit this magnificent city, planning to participate were disappointed. And so were we. This is what we live for.

So we set out to create another type of event altogether. A one-of-a-kind race that would signal to the world that the running spirit was alive and well in the Czech Republic. A race that would inspire other organizations to chart new courses for the future of running. And that would be a sign to cities everywhere that even COVID-19 has a finish line.

Our proposal? An exclusive, star-studded half marathon limited to 35 of the most celebrated distance runners in the world today.

Men and women will compete separately, running on a flat, fast oval course through Letna Park in Prague. 16.5 laps. A course and a field designed to wage an all-out assault on current world record. The men will set their sights on breaking 58:30, a time surpassed only twice in history. The women will be looking to shatter the current world record time of 01:06:11 in women-only race.

Start time for the men's event is slated for 6:20. The women will start at 8:00, weather permitting. Czech TV will broadcast the event live via satellite and global streaming.

As a partner and collaborator in this event, adidas has designed what everyone believes will be the company's fastest running shoe ever. The adizero adios Pro adidas worked closely with world-class athletes to develop the technology that they expect will contribute to performances. This event will serve as its global unveiling in high performance setting.

Assembling this field of runners turned out to be a monumental feat. And that was only the start. Ensuring their health and safety posed other challenges. But we have established a set of protocols designed to make sure that no one is compromised.

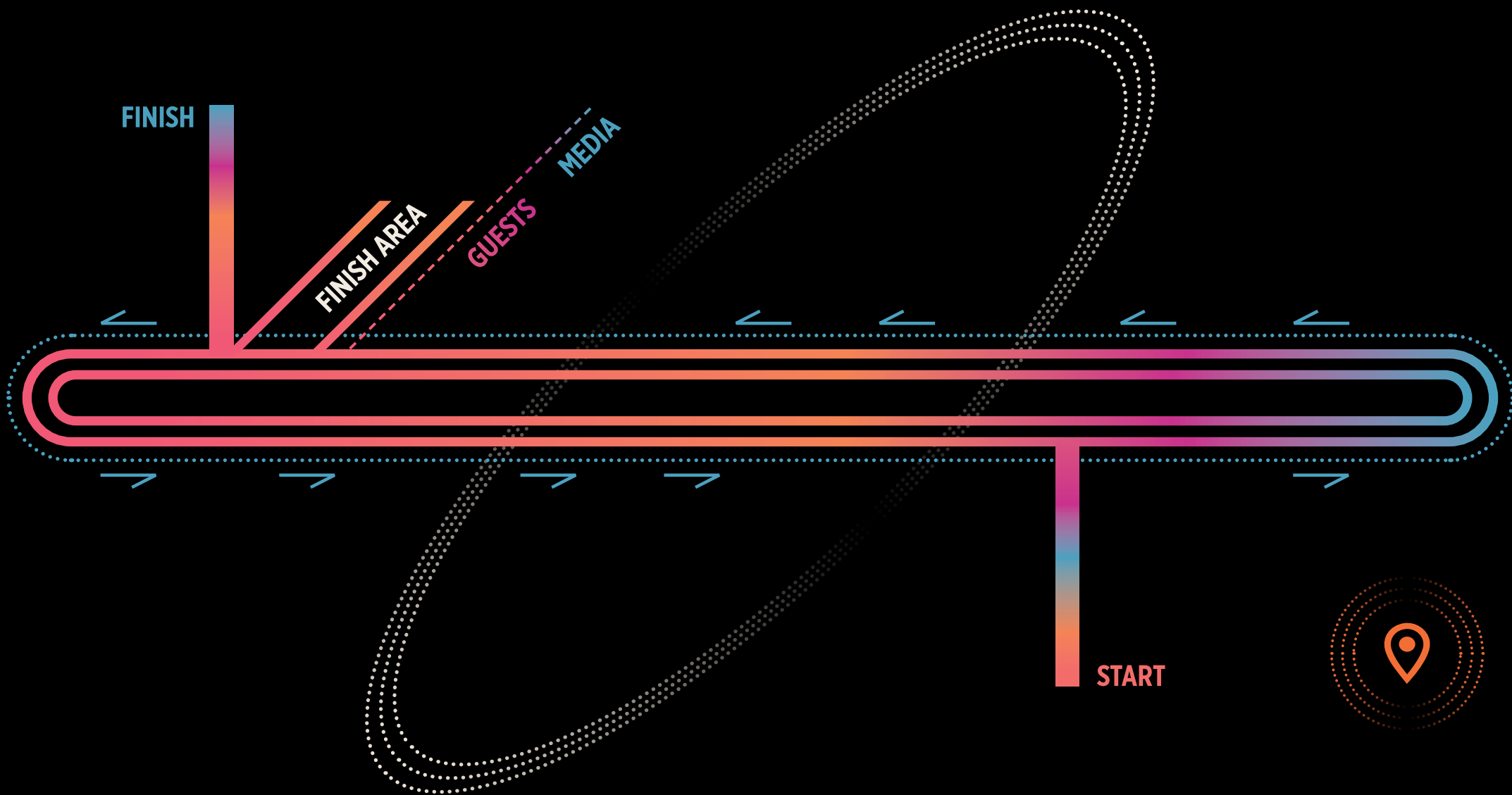
THE OVAL

Letná Park, Prague

PARKING



GENERALI ČESKÁ POJIŠŤOVNA ARENA (LETNA STADIUM)



Lap length 1280 m

16.5 Laps to 21.0975 KM

PROGRAM OF THE RACE WEEK

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Arrival of the elite athletes at Prague Airport

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

17:00 Training session with the elite athletes and media at the Oval

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

11:00 Press conference at Hilton Prague

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Rest day for the elite athletes at Hilton Prague
Running Mall open for Grand Finale start numbers pick up

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

RACE DAY

PRAGUE 21.1 KM

6:10	Live broadcast starts	ČT Sport & RunCzech web
6:20	Start of the elite race – women	Letná park
7:25	Interviews with the finishers	Letná park
8:00	Start of the elite race – men	Letná park
9:10	Interviews with the finishers	Letná park
9:30	Award ceremony (men and women)	Letná park

GRAND FINALE

18:15 Start of the Sunset Run 10 km Stromovka, in front of Exhibition Hall

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:30 Guest zone opens Stromovka, in front of Exhibition Hall
9:00 Start of the Breakfast Run 5 km Stromovka, in front of Exhibition Hall
10:15 Start of the dm Family Run 3 km Stromovka, in front of Exhibition Hall
11:00 Start of Bambini Run 100 m Stromovka, in front of Exhibition Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

17:00 Meet & Greet with elite athletes RunCzech, Running Mall

INFO & CONTACTS

RunCzech strictly adheres to Government policies for crowd safety, as it relates to Covid19 pandemic and public health matters. For more details, please visit the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic: <https://koronavirus.mzcr.cz/en/>

BE WITH US FROM HOME



Watch the race live on ČT Sport.



Watch the race live with English commentary on RunCzech YouTube channel.

GET THE FLASH NEWS ONLINE



www.runczech.com

FOLLOW RUNCZECH ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND DON'T FORGET TO TAG US



USE THE OFFICIAL HASHTAG SO THAT WE CAN FIND YOUR PICTURES

#praguerestart

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES AND CONTACTS:

HILTON PRAGUE Pobežní 1, Praha 8

RUNNING MALL Františka Křížka 11, Praha 7

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TO THOSE WHO RUN, AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM FOR IT.

Being among the greatest runners in history and having no race to run is like being the world's greatest actor and having no stage to perform.

Your talents feel wasted. And your life is a little less joyful.

This race, PRAGUE 21.1 KM, is our way of bringing more joy to the lives of athletes who have given so much to us. And who will do so again this weekend, and far in the future.



RunCzech Racing

Since inception in April 2014 until August 2020

RunCzech Racing was established in 2014 with the aim of helping to develop some of the world's most promising runners. As a team, they compete in the most prestigious races in the world, challenging—and often surpassing—existing course and world records. In addition, they serve as ambassadors for the sport of running and for the Czech Republic by visiting schools, conducting workshops, and hosting training sessions.

Currently, more than thirty-five athletes of different nationalities – from France to Kenya, have found home away from home in Prague and at RunCzech's Running Mall.



RUNCZECH
RACING



64

Victories



45

2nd place



42

3rd place



8 World Records



2 World Best



4 World Junior Best



1 World Championship Medal



1 European Championship Medal



1 World Junior Championship Medal

PRAGUE 21.1 KM

READY FOR THE RESTART



JOAN CHELIMO MELLY / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:05:04, Prague 2018

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Joan was born in Waunifor, a high-altitude village in Keiyo, Kenya. She has a daughter named Ariana Kechei (meaning - star), and four younger siblings whom she supports by taking care of their education.

Coming from humble beginnings Joan used to sell charcoal door-to-door to support her running and whenever she competes, her thoughts are about Ariana.

Joan is the winner of the 2018 Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon, she ran twice under 1:06:00 and five times under 1:07:00 in her career. She is a front runner and has no fear when it comes to setting high pace from the opening kilometres.

Her dream is to be an Olympic Champion and she is building her career on the following principle -- Never forget where you are coming from.

NETSANET GUDETA KEBEDE / ETHIOPIA

Half marathon PB: 1:05:45, Ras Al Khaimah 2019

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Netsanet grew up in the town of Bekoji, Ethiopia and she started with athletics while in school. She comes from the same village as the great champion, Tirunesh Dibaba, with Netsanet understanding early in her career that hard work is mandatory for growth and success.

She joined Bekoji Project Athletics Academy in 2012, with her international debut being in Prague in 2013.

Netsanet is a member of Ethiopian National Team, she is the 2018 IAAF World Half Marathon Champion and is Women's only World Half marathon record holder with 1:06:11, Valencia 2018.



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VIBIAN CHEPKIRUI / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:09:28, Santa Pola 2020

RunCzech Racing

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Vibian was born in Ngechek village, a small location inside the Nandi Forest. Her nickname is Stone, because when she was younger she did not want to run with men and was pulling a “stone-face”, not showing any emotions.

At first, she was just running locally to help her family, without hopes or motivation to make it at the International level. In 2018 she had a miscarriage and decided to fight life back by putting all her energy and efforts in running, as our sport became the only thing she had left.

She has three brothers and three sisters, her role model is Mary Keitany and she dreams to run better than her one day. She believes that everything is possible.

PERES JEPCHIRCHIR / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:05:06, Ras Al Khaimah 2017

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Peres was born in Kenya, in a small town called Turbo Village near the border with Uganda. Now she lives with her husband in Kapsabet. Her mother passed away when she was only two years old. As a child, Peres was interested in running, however it was her brother who inspired her to start training professionally. She enjoys singing Gospel songs and attending church gatherings.

She is the gold medallist from the 2016 IAAF World Half Marathon Championships and is a former half marathon world record holder with 1:05:06, Ras Al Khaimah 2017.



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SHEILA CHEPKIRUI / KENYA

Half marathon PB: debut

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Sheila was born in Kiprobyonyit village, Bomet County, Kenya. She is the only girl in the family and has three brothers. Her parents are farmers.

She started running in primary school. Nobody coached or mentored her and she used to run 3km to school and 3km back home every day, barefoot. Nowadays, she is the only woman ever to run twice under 30 minutes for 10km (Prague 2019 and Valencia 2020).

Her international career started at the age of 15 with a gold medal over 1500m in the 2005 World Youth Championships in Marrakech.

Sheila is a Corporal in the Kenyan Army. She dreams of being a World record holder one day. Her life motto is -- Never surrender until it is over.

SENBERE TEFERI SORA / ETHIOPIA

Half marathon PB: 1:05:32, Valencia 2019

EDITH CHELIMO / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:05:52, Cardiff 2017

DORCAS JEPCHIRCHIR TUITOEK / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:06:33, Istanbul 2019

DORCAS JEPCHUMBA KIMELI / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:07:10, Barcelona 2020

PACEMAKERS

BRENDA JEPLETING / KENYA

Half marathon PB: debut
RunCzech Racing

LILIAN JEPKORIR CHEBII / KENYA

Half marathon PB: debut
RunCzech Racing

STEPHEN KIPROP / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 58:42, Ras Al Khaimah 2019

RunCzech Racing

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Stephen is a son of small-scale farmers from Kapngeny village in Baringo County, Kenya. He likes to be called Chesang (family name) and he is a father of a baby girl, Lyne Jepkemoi Kiprop. Stephen has a passion for goat farming and has fifty goats – Several years ago, he sold, one by one, each of the three goats he had, while trying to become a professional athlete.

Stephen is fastest adidas half marathoner of all-time and his best friend and training partner is 59:28 half marathoner Philemon Kiplimo. Before making it at the top level, Stephen used to be a pacemaker of Ikaika Sports group in Iten before his breakthrough in early 2018 (59:44 debut and victory in Venlo Half Marathon). Nowadays, he is the elected captain of Ikaika Sports training group and is mentoring young athletes.

Athletically, he is motivated by breaking course records and has set three so far out of seven starts; while running five times under one-hour mark.

Stephen dreams of running well for as long as possible and helping the needy in his community. His motto is “train hard, win easy”.

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KIBIWOTT KANDIE / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 58:58, Ras Al Khaimah 2020

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Kibiwott is from Eldama Ravine, Kenya and is the fourth child among five brothers and three sisters. As a young boy he loved to run, but it was only in 2017 that he started training professionally.

He is the winner of 2020 Ras Al Khaimah Half Marathon and Kenyan National Cross Country Championships. He made his debut over half marathon distance in Lille in August 2019 with a victory in 59:31.

Nowadays he trains in Ngong area near Nairobi and his role models are Paul Tergat and Tegla Loroupe.

Kibiwott is also a soldier in Kenya Defence Forces.

BENARD KIMELI / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 59:07, Prague 2019

RunCzech Racing

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Benard was born in Chelemetio village, Kenya. He is a ranger with Kenya Wildlife Service and before pursuing career as a professional athlete, Benard did his basic training in Tsavo East National Park for six months and is now based in Rimoi National Reserve near his training base in Iten, Kenya.

In Iten, he is one of the leaders of a world-class training group that includes two sub-59 and six sub-60 half marathoners. He holds 5000m stadium record for the famous Chepkoilel track in Eldoret, Kenya.

Benard's nickname is Chamkazi, because when he is assigned any responsibility he perfects it to the last detail. Dorcas Kimeli, one of his sisters, who is also with us in Prague for the Prague 21,1km - Ready for the Restart, is road racing specialist. They are the fastest brother-sister duo ever for the 10K and half marathon distances.

Benard has won Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon in 2018 and 2019 and Birell 10km Race Prague in 2017. His mentor is former Amsterdam Marathon champion, Fred Kiprof, who also won half marathon in Prague back in 2003.

Benard is also a member of Fujitsu athletics team in Japan and he dreams of building a training camp in Kenya and becoming Olympic Champion over marathon distance. His life philosophy is "the harder the battle, the sweeter the victory".

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PRAGUE 21.1 KM

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ANDAMLAK BELIHU BERTA / ETHIOPIA

Half marathon PB: 59:10, Delhi 2019

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Andamlak was born 200km south from Addis Ababa in Gumer Woreda, Gurage zone. He is a son of farmers and his three brothers are merchants, with Andamlak planning to join them in business in the future, after he retires from professional sport.

He won Airtel Delhi Half Marathon back-to-back in 2018 and 2019, and is a two-time World Athletics Championships finalist over 10,000m - position 10 in London 2017 and 5th in Doha 2019. He broke 60-minute barrier on five occasions (out of eight starts).

Andamlak has been seriously committed to development as an athlete since 2014 and is dedicating himself to training towards Olympic medal as an ultimate goal.

PHILEMON KIPLIMO KIMAIYO / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 59:28, Houston, TX 2020

RunCzech Racing

POINTS OF INTEREST:

Philemon was born in Kasarani village, Trans Nzoia, Kenya; a place where “nothing is flat”. At home, everybody calls him Moh (derived from his given name “Kiplimo” which means - born among the grazing cattle). His best friend is Stephen Kiprop, the fastest adidas half marathoner of all-time and they come from the same area and are training together since their childhood. Philemon was raised in a large family, with four brothers and five sisters and he runs to support his siblings and to motivate the vulnerable athletes from his area to fulfil their dreams.

Before running his personal best of 59:28 in Houston, TX this year, Philemon’s best achievement was a victory, in his inaugural international season, at the prestigious 2019 B.A.A. Half Marathon.

Philemon believes that impossible is possible for true champions and his goal in sport is to cross the finish line first and strong.

PRAGUE 21.1 KM
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ABEL KIPCHUMBA / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 59:29, Valencia 2018
RunCzech Racing

AMOS KURGAT KIBIWOT / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 59:37, Copenhagen 2019
RunCzech Racing

LUCAS KIMELI ROTICH / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 59:44, Hague 2011

ALFRED CHELAL BARKACH / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 59:46, Delhi 2019

HENRY RONO / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:00:04, Napoli 2020
RunCzech Racing

MESHACK KIPROP KOECH / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:00:07, Lille 2017

FELIX KIPKOECH / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:00:12, Boulogne-Billancourt 2019

KENNEDY KIMUTAI / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:00:21, Cardiff 2019

EVANS KIPKORIR CHERUIYOT / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:00:26, Istanbul 2018
RunCzech Racing

BETHWELL BIWOTT YEGON / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:00:57, Venlo 2019
RunCzech Racing

BENSON KIPRUTO / KENYA

Half marathon PB: 1:02:13, Guadalajara 2020

TIMOTHY KIBET KOSGEI / KENYA

Half marathon PB: debut
RunCzech Racing

VICTOR KIPRUTO / KENYA

Half marathon PB: debut
RunCzech Racing

PACEMAKERS**BRAVIN KIPKOGEI KIPTOO / KENYA**

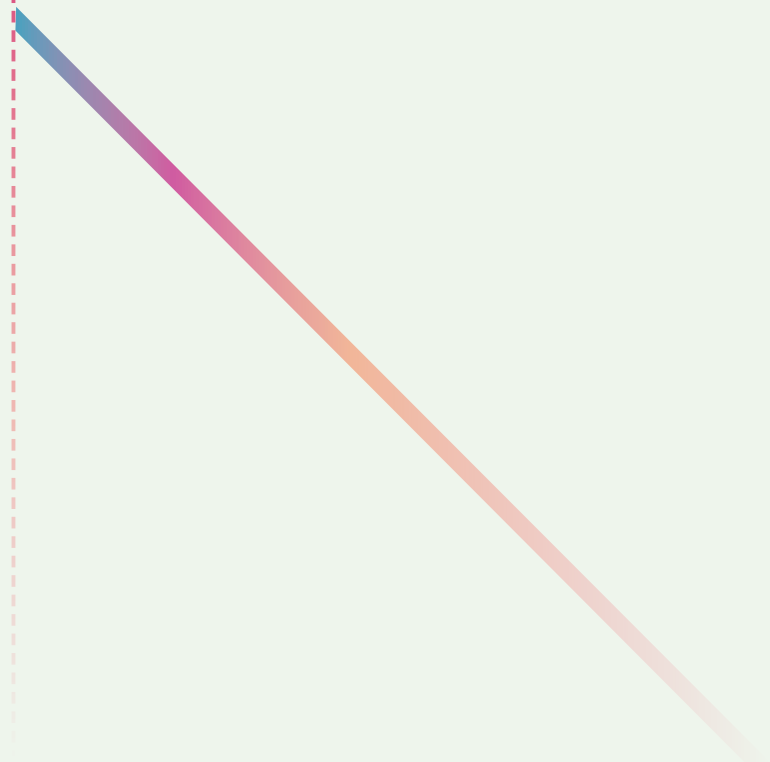
10K PB: 27:12, Prague 2019
RunCzech Racing

CHARLES KATUL LOKIR / KENYA

Half marathon PB: debut
RunCzech Racing

WELDON KIPKIRUI LANGAT / KENYA

Half marathon PB: debut
RunCzech Racing



ADIZERO ADIOS PRO

Adizero adios Pro is the newest member of the award-winning and record breaking adizero family.

The story of the adizero franchise began in Berlin on 28 September, 2008, when Haile Gebrselassie shattered his own marathon world record and became the first person to break the 2:04hr barrier with adizero adios 1. A decade later, the adizero adios Pro was created by a dedicated team with one goal in mind – work with world-class athletes to develop adidas' fastest running shoe. Training across three continents, elite athletes - including Joyciline Jepkosgei and Rhonex Kipruto - gave iterative feedback to develop prototypes and challenge everything previously understood about bending stiffness, energy return, mass reduction and design geometry.

“To create the best, we knew we had to work with the best. Thousands of kilometres, months of testing, and dozens of prototypes, went into something designed to help athletes run faster, for longer but with the same energy, than ever before.”

Robbie Paterson, Footwear Development Manager, adidas Running

In addition to Joyciline Jepkosgei and Rhonex Kipruto, the following RunCzech Racing athletes contributed to product development and validation - half marathoners, Stephen Kiprop and Philemon Kiplimo; marathon runners Abel Kipchumba, Bethwell Yegon; two-time Eindhoven Marathon title holder, Festus Talam; and two-time Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon champion, Benard Kimeli.



OUR 25 BEAUTIFUL YEARS WITH ADIDAS

We are privileged to have adidas as a close partner, friend and collaborator. To be able to find someone who shares your passion and commitment to something, to being the best you can be, is a gift. You feel like the luckiest person alive. You inspire each other. And you feel like you can accomplish anything together. There is nothing else in the world quite like it. And no partner in the world quite like adidas. So adidas, if you're listening, thank you.



ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL

For us, running is not only a great sport, it is a unifying event. It transcends politics and borders and religions. It's accessible to anyone. And it brings glory to everyone who does it. Yes, glory. When we say All Runners Are Beautiful, we celebrate the office worker who just wants to be healthier. We celebrate the senior citizen who has something to prove to himself. We celebrate the record-breakers and the wheel chair athletes. We celebrate everyone willing to pull on a pair of running shoes and strive to make himself or herself a little healthier. A little faster. A little better.

We celebrate running because, despite our many differences, this is something we all can have in common. And that, as any diplomat will tell you, is where peace starts.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



CzechTourism



NÁRODNÍ
SPORTOVNÍ
AGENTURA

ALL RUNNERS ARE BEAUTIFUL