

Press Release
Prague, September 16, 2023

Czech runners shined bright at the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon. Vích and Hrochová celebrate second place

Czech runners achieved great results at Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon. Damián Vích and Tereza Hrochová finished second overall. The victory was celebrated by Ukrainian Valeriia Zinenko and German Sebastian Hendel. Hendel is also the overall winner of the EuroHeroes 2023 series. Almost 2500 runners took part in the popular race, while both dm family runs were enjoyed by almost 1700 other participants, mainly families. *"I believe that everyone enjoyed the 13th edition of the Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon despite the unusually warm weather. Thank you all for the great atmosphere and I am looking forward to the next time,"* said Carlo Capalbo, President of the RunCzech Organizing Committee.

Saturday's running feast started at 10 am, the programme kicked off with the dm family mile, and at one o'clock the SPOLCHEMIE Czech Cup in paracycling under the auspices of the Czech Cycling Union, in the handbike and tricycle categories. At three o'clock the main event started.

The flat track in Ústí nad Labem promised fast times but the unexpected sunny weather was against it. German runner Sebastian Hendel (1:05:16) coped best with the difficult conditions. *"I was hoping for a much better time, but the conditions were really tough, so I'm happy to be at the finish and to celebrate the win. The great atmosphere around the track helped me to do that,"* said Hendel.

Damián Vích finished his half marathon debut 54 seconds behind Hendel in 1:06:10 to the delight of the Czech fans. *"I was dying a lot in the second half of the race. It was difficult in this heat, from the fourteenth kilometer on it was a fight for life for everyone,"* described the young representative of the RunCzech Racing team. *"But I am extremely satisfied and I am very happy. I beat a lot of great runners, the time was not quite 100%, but I did my best in this weather."*



The third man overall was Latvian Dmitrijs Serjogins (1:06:26). Jiří Homoláč was the second Czech at the finish line (1:09:37), Ondřej Fejfar finished third (1:10:17).

The Ukrainian Valeriia Zinenko dominated women with a time of 1:13:43. *"I am happy that I managed to win. Every step was very hard for me. I fought with myself, I don't even know how I finished,"* said the champion. Tereza Hrochová (1:13:49) was chasing her all the way to the finish line. *"I tried to overtake Valeriia, one moment it looked like she could barely lift her legs, but then she sped up and it was impossible. I'm very happy with my placing,"* said Hrochová. The third woman in the overall ranking was Aleksandra Lisowska from Poland (1:15:18). Tereza Jagošová (1:21:59) completed the Czech podium behind Hrochová, while Silvie Valová (1:23:05) took the bronze.

Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon was the final race of the EuroHeroes 2023, a series which aims to support and develop the talents of European athletics. German Sebastian Hendel became the king of the prestigious running series, which includes the results from the Mattoni Half Marathons in Karlovy Vary, České Budějovice, Olomouc, and Ústí nad Labem, while Tereza Hrochová was the best among women, which is a great success for the versatile Czech runner. Both winners received the award from Marek Vasić, the director of the European Athletics Association, at the awards ceremony held in the Větruše hotel.

[Results men](#)

[Results women](#)



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](#)



RUNCZECH

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