

Press release
30 May 2021

INTENSE RACING & UNIQUE TEAM BATTLE ENSURE A GREAT DAY IN PRAGUE

The inaugural edition of The Battle of the Teams in Prague early on Sunday morning, starting in glorious sunshine on the Charles Bridge, lived up to expectations, in every respect. Incorporated into the elite-only Prague Marathon, the competition produced fast racing, a team result in doubt till long after the winners had crossed the line (exactly what was hoped), and delightfully, provided two Czech elite ladies with a platform on which to gain Olympic qualifying times for Tokyo.

The Battle of the Teams concept, dreamed up by RunCzech founder Carlo Capalbo, involved four carefully balanced teams of eight athletes, but eventually there could be only one individual winner in the men's and women's races, and only one team could come out on top.

The Men's race, a tactical and cautious affair, was won by Kenya's Benson Kipruto in 2:10.16, his surge over the final 5km proving the key to defeating several high calibre opponents. The reluctance to push on didn't result in fast times, but did provide a delicately balanced race with a result in doubt till the final stages. Kipruto's winning margin over fellow Kenyan Dickson Chumba, was ten seconds by the time he crossed the finish line in the old City Square.

In contrast, Purity Rionoripo of Kenya, after an already quick first half, applied pressure at the front of the women's race at 25km, breaking loose and building an unassailable lead. As the last of the thirteen 3km laps unfolded, she pulled further and further clear, surging to the line in 2:20.14, with Ethiopia's Guteni Shone taking second in 2:21.46.

In many respects, Rionoripo's win was the performance of the day, though her great run and points contribution to her Volkswagen team, could not stop rival Team Birell, from taking the team title. The scoring format, with six runners per team to count, saw times converted to points, but importantly ensured that the last finishers for each team, could change the team positions dramatically.

Eventually it was the two personal bests by team members, that ensured Team Birell's comfortable winning margin, their squad's times converting to 7,152 points, over Team Volkswagen's 6,887. Team Mattoni were third with 6845, with Team Skupina CEZ on 6765.

From a Czech perspective, it was a special day too, with Eva Vrabcova Nyvltova (6th in 2:27.07) booking her ticket for the Tokyo Olympics. Moira Stewartova (9th in 2:29.28) achieved the Olympic qualifying time, but as fourth ranked Czech, just misses a Tokyo team slot. Eva Vrabcova Nyvltova was ecstatic, saying immediately after the race,

„I'm back, I don't know what to say. I didn't expect this at all, so I'm very happy. I didn't want to believe it was happening until I had finished. The marathon is terribly unpredictable and I was afraid that I would have to go to the toilet, because after giving birth last year, that is what happens sometimes! I have to thank the guys who ran with me, David Vaš and Pavel Šedík for pulling me along.“

Results - Battle of the Teams**men**

1	35	KIPRUTO BENSON	KEN	2:10:16
2	25	CHUMBA DICKSON	KEN	2:10:26
3	45	KIGEN NOBERT	KEN	2:10:27
4	37	KETER KENNETH	KEN	2:10:29
5	13	ANBESA LENCHO	ETH	2:10:50
6	15	ATANAW KINDE	ETH	2:11:00
7	27	ZELALEM MENGISTU	ETH	2:11:48
8	23	ATNAFU YITAYAL	ETH	2:11:58
9	32	CANCHANYA WILY	PER	2:12:33
10	47	IBRAHIM ABDI	BRN	2:12:52

women

1	26	RIONORIPO PURITY	KEN	2:20:14
2	36	SHONE GUTENI	ETH	2:21:46
3	16	AIYABEI VALARY	KEN	2:22:39
4	18	LEMPUS BETTY	KEN	2:24:15
5	14	ABAYECHEW TIGIST	ETH	2:26:12
6	11	VRABCOVÁ NÝVLTOVÁ EVA	CZE	2:27:07
7	48	MULISA ABERU	ETH	2:28:02
8	38	BELETE MESERET	ETH	2:28:31
9	31	STEWARTOVÁ MOIRA	CZE	2:29:28
10	42	IWADE REIA	JPN	2:32:33

Results – Czech championship**men**

1	21	PAVLIŠTA VÍT	CZE	2:18:28
2	41	HOMOLÁČ JIŘÍ	CZE	2:19:08
3	120	KOHUT JAN	CZE	2:21:13
4	124	PECHEK PETR	CZE	2:23:23
5	135	VAŠ DAVID	CZE	2:27:13
6	114	ŠEDÍK PAVEL	CZE	2:27:38
7	127	JANOUŠEK MILAN	CZE	2:28:33
8	102	KUBRIČAN PAVEL	CZE	2:29:20
9	138	SÁDLO DOMINIK	CZE	2:29:27
10	118	NAVRÁTIL TOMÁŠ	CZE	2:29:28

women

1	11	VRABCOVÁ NÝVLTOVÁ EVA	CZE	2:27:07
2	31	STEWARTOVÁ MOIRA	CZE	2:29:28
3	131	HORKÁ MAGDALENA	CZE	2:42:30
4	105	FILIPIOVÁ EVA	CZE	2:48:32
5	113	VIČAROVÁ HANA	CZE	2:51:14
6	133	JÍŠOVÁ BARBORA	CZE	2:53:01
7	108	CHUMLENOVÁ BARBORA	CZE	2:57:30
8	134	NOVÁKOVÁ BARBORA	CZE	3:00:42
9	139	KUBÍČKOVÁ TEREZA	CZE	3:01:59
10	121	KUBÍČKOVÁ VERONIKA	CZE	3:03:01

CONTACT

For more information, please get in touch with:

Michaela Šimeček
PR & Media

mob: +420 737 386 274

e-mail: pr@pim.cz

NOTES FOR EDITORS: ABOUT RUNCZECH

- 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") 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!
- 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.