



83rd
**KOŠICE PEACE
MARATHON**
KOŠICE, SLOVAKIA
OCTOBER 1, 2006



**MARATHON
VIEWS
2006**

WHAT WAS THIS YEAR'S MARATHON LIKE?

Colourful, many-faceted and dramatic.

These are the epithets which can be applied to the latest, **the 83rd in the series of Košice Peace Marathons**. Only a few weeks have passed since the moment when 70-year-old Henryk Skaldin from Sweden crosses the finishing line as the last classified runner. We are still full of impressions, calculations and considerations about the progress of the event, which way its development should be headed, and what needs to be done with that in mind in the near future.

If we map out the facts connected with this, surely **one of the biggest events of its kind in Slovakia**, we have to point out that it has never before proved possible to mobilize such a large number of top athletes, amateur runners, disabled sportspeople, families with children and in-line skaters as for this year's event in particular. **On Sunday, 1st October 2006, the best part of 3000 participants filled the streets of Košice**, a number well matched by the spectators, densely lining the streets steeped in sporting atmosphere, and impatiently waiting for their own favourite or hero.

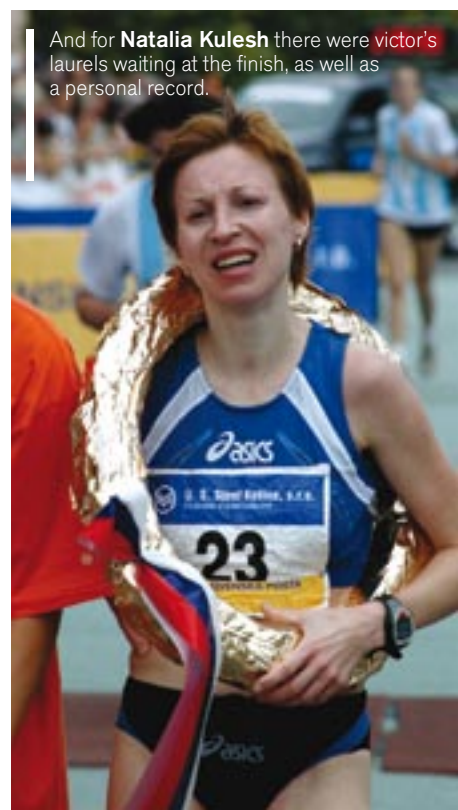
This year's Marathon was itself dedicated to one of those heroes from the past. **The Zabala Memorial Run** opened up the historical annals with memories of **the Olympic victor of 1932, the Argentinian Juan Carlos Zabala**, who just a year before his triumph in Los Angeles stunned Košice with his brilliant performance. 75 years on, a relay of junior runners ran the marathon course in his honour, trying out for themselves the pace with which this slight, just 20-year-old champion won in 1931.

But it was not just the 42 195-metre race which **excited the grandly decorated city**. People's attention was also attracted to the **Herbalife mini-marathon**, favoured with extraordinary interest, as well as **the varied programme of accompanying music**, and the official opening of some **exhibitions with sporting themes**. One particular feast for the eyes were **the brides all dressed in white, running their own, slightly irreverent race along the Main Street**.

All of this formed the backdrop for **this year's Košice Marathon**, and enhanced the pleasant atmosphere which enabled everyone to feel like winners.



The dominance of the Africans in the leading group was evident.



And for Natalia Kulesh there were victor's laurels waiting at the finish, as well as a personal record.

The Košice course was run by a record 2877 runners.

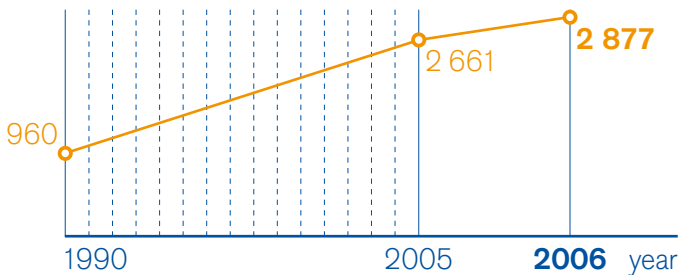


THE MARATHON WAS SOLD OUT

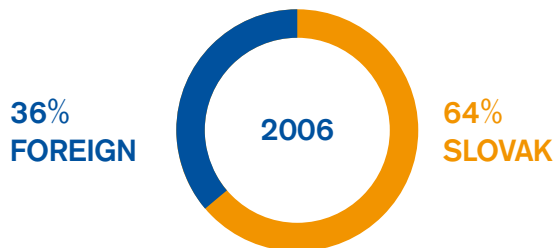
The increased interest in the event caused the organizers some unusual headaches. Every available starting number and participant's T-shirt and every possible finishing medal was prepared, **so that everybody could be satisfied.**

As many as **35 countries** were represented in Košice this year, which is another of the new records achieved. **The growth trend is interesting – but will it be confirmed in a year's time?**

INCREASED NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS IN ALL CATEGORIES



PROPORTION OF FOREIGN COMPETITORS IN THE MAIN CATEGORIES (FOREIGN, SLOVAK)



MARATHON 2006 – COUNTRIES TAKING PART

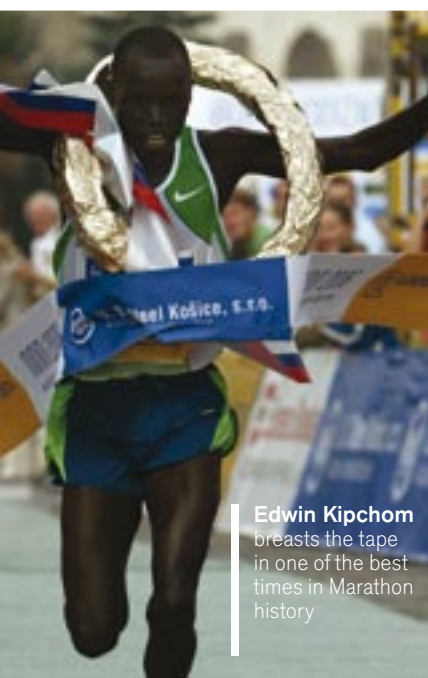
	Australia	AUS
	Belgium	BEL
	Belarus	BLR
	Czech Republic	CZE
	Denmark	DEN
	Estonia	EST
	Finland	FIN
	France	FRA
	Netherlands	NED
	Ireland	IRL
	Israel	ISR
	Japan	JPN
	South Africa	RSA
	Canada	CAN
	Kenya	KEN
	Latvia	LAT
	Luxembourg	LUX
	Hungary	HUN
	Mexico	MEX
	Moldova	MDA
	Germany	GER
	Norway	NOR
	Poland	POL
	Austria	AUT
	Romania	ROM
	Russia	RUS
	Slovakia	SVK
	Serbia	SER
	Spain	ESP
	Switzerland	SUI
	Sweden	SWE
	Italy	ITA
	Ukraine	UKR
	USA	USA
	Great Britain	GBR

PERSONAL BESTS FOR THE WINNERS

Twenty top athletes travelled to Košice with the ambition of competing for overall first place in Europe's oldest marathon. Only two names, however, could appear on the pedestal below the Marathoner statue.

The youngest of the favourites, the Kenyan **Edwin Kipchom**, produced sufficient courage for an unheard-of 23-kilometre solo run, and **his reward, apart from the well-deserved victory, was a new personal best time.** The same was achieved by the likeable Natalia Kulesh from Belarus.

Both performances **rank among the best in the whole history of the Košice Peace Marathon.**



Edwin Kipchom breaks the tape in one of the best times in Marathon history

BEST TIMES: MEN

DOBZYNSKI Adam	2:12:35	2004
KARIUKI David	2:12:40	2002
KIPCHOM Edwin	2:12:53	2006
ANDREJEV Georgij	2:13:24	2003
KARIUKI David	2:13:27	2001
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HALLA Karol	3:01:35	1924
KISS József	3:02:27	1942

WOMEN

PETERKOVÁ Alena	2:31:28	1989
TABASHI Rika	2:33:55	2004
SADREIDINA Raisa	2:34:41	1983
KULESH Natalia	2:36:47	2006
ZHULYEVA Galina	2:36:55	2001
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JEDINÁKOVÁ Katarína	2:55:39	1999

The following charts show how **Košice performed in 2006 in some interesting comparisons with more than a hundred European marathons associated in AIMS** (based on results available on 5th November 2006).



Many well-known marathons lag behind Košice in the statistics

COMBINED WINNING TIMES IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CATEGORIES

1.	LONDON	4:26:15
2.	BERLIN	4:27:30
3.	HAMBURG	4:31:27
4.	VIENNA	
5.	ROME	
6.	ROTTERDAM	
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18.	KOŠICE	4:49:40
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	BARCELONA	
	ZÜRICH	
	EINDHOVEN	
	LISBON	
	ENSCHDEDE	
	ATHENS	
	LAUSANNE	
	VALENCIA	
	WARSAW...	

QUALITY OF STARTING FIELD (TIME OF 9TH MAN AT FINISH)

1.	LONDON	2:09:05
2.	PARÍIS	2:10:45
3.	ROTTERDAM	2:10:45
4.	HAMBURG	
5.	AMSTERDAM	
6.	FRANKFURT	
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12.	KOŠICE	2:19:28
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	PRAGUE	
	MILAN	
	DUBLIN	
	BARCELONA	
	ZÜRICH	
	ENSCHDEDE	
	TURIN	
	VALENCIA	
	LISBON...	

WE LET OTHERS KNOW ABOUT US

Presentation of the Marathon in the widest sense of the word and **the accompanying publicity campaigns** all now form an inseparable part of each year's staging of the event.

This year too the Košice Marathon featured on the pages of prestigious athletics magazines, and there were on-the-spot presentations at the marathons in Linz, Enschede, Prague and London. **On the home scene** the information flow was maintained with a series press conferences, a multimedia campaign, and an increasingly visited web site.



RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS TO WEB SITE WWW.KOSICEMARATHON.COM

1st October 2006:

3 313 visitors (2152 visitors in 2005)

23 553 pages displayed

1st place for number of visitors among sports web sites in Slovakia

NUMBER OF MEDIA REFERENCES

112 (104 in 2005)

NUMBER OF PRESS CONFERENCES

6 (5 in 2005)

NUMBER OF ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS

68 (60 in 2005)



CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE CENTRE OF THE ACTION

It was not just the “iron men”, but **children and young people** too who were given extra space in the programme of the 83rd edition of the Košice Peace Marathon.

A colourful torrent of children accompanied by their parents, but also enthusiasts just taking up running or sport generally, formed numerous fields of participants in **the Minimarathon. This year saw the 10th edition of this event**, and this time it was sponsored by Herbalife. All **1500** prepared starting numbers found takers.

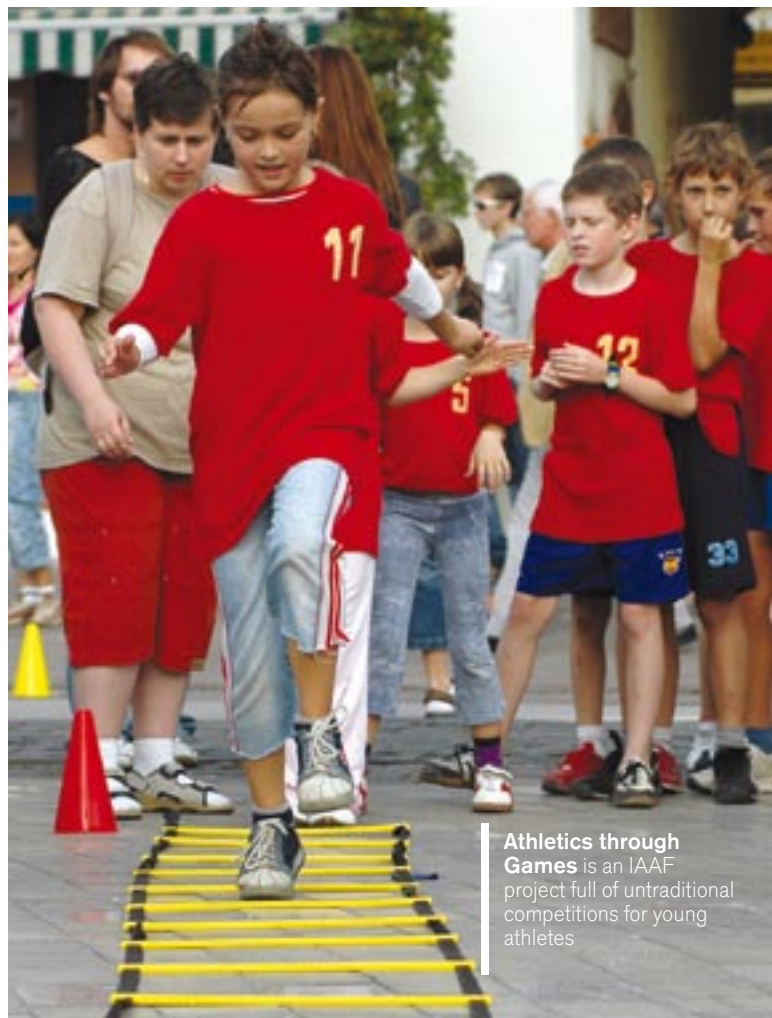
The juniors' relay also attracted great attention, run in **tribute to Juan Carlos Zabala**, and the participants were able to experience for themselves, 75 years on, the performance in Košice of this Argentinian Olympic marathon winner.



Participants in the **junior relay** exhausted their energy reserves in the bunch finish



In the Herbalife **Minimarathon** age was definitely no handicap



Athletics through Games is an IAAF project full of untraditional competitions for young athletes

CELEBRATING THE RACE

There was entertainment at the Marathon too. The Marathon Festival, spiced up with unusual attractions, drew many people to the centre of Košice – not only traditional race spectators, but also numerous tourists as well as a great many fun-seeking enthusiasts.

The musical genre of the weekend became **dixieland**. Supported by spontaneous spectators along the course, participants and onlookers together created and spread the general good mood.

There was a sight for sore eyes in the group of brides, all in white, tripping along the Main Street in their high heels, chasing the vision of victory in **the Brides' Race**.

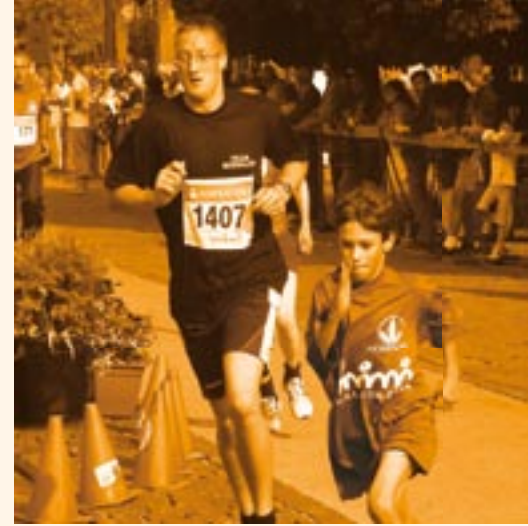
With her high-adrenalin fitness programme, world champion **Marietta Žigalová** made sure all the runners were warmed up, and then together with all her family she completed the popular Minimarathon.

There was no economizing with words or smiles by popular presenter **Lenka Hriadelová**, who devoted herself for a full three days to all the Marathon activities.





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GENERAL PARTNER



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SGS



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INTERSPORT



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 SLOVENSKÁ TELEVÍZIA

SME
 DENÍK

KORZÁR

PROGRESS
 PROMOTION



MARATHON VIEWS 2006

PREPARED BY: KOŠICE MARATHON CLUB
 AND PROGRESS PROMOTION KOŠICE

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PRE-PRESS:
 PROGRESS PROMOTION KOŠICE

PHOTOGRAPHY: FRANTIŠEK IVÁN, ANTON
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