

Top athletes in Košice!

Top athletes has arrived to Košice and just finished their first training in local city park.

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Increased participation, attack on course records KOSICE (SVK): Increase in overall participation is the best sign of growing interest into running at the oldest marathon in Europe. The 87th edition of International Peace Marathon of Kosice (eastern Slovakia) closed the registration at 5448 figure for all races. Last year this number was 5074. For marathon itself 1000 runners are expected, for half-marathon nearly 1500. First record is there in terms of participation, but organisers are hoping for attacks at the course records. Last year Ukrainian Olena Burkovska in her marathon debut improved the women event best after 20 years to 2:30:50. This Sunday (October 3) it will be 30 years since women were competing here for first time, as special guest invited for this is German Christa Vahlensieck who won in Kosice record number five times in the eighties.

Anyway, 24 years old Ethiopian Gishu Mindaye is having 2:28:30 life-time best from winning in Rotterdam in 2006 and should be the main contender for the goal to attack 2:30. She won in spring the ING Marathon in Luxembourg (2:39:58). Other three Ethiopians will fight for the win and overall prize 6000 E for the winner. That amount will be increased for 10 000 if breaking the course record and to 15 000 if going sub 2:26.

Haftu Tesema (2:30:55), Letay Negash (2:31:13) and Alemu Bacha (2:33:20) are having similar level. Russian Kamila Khanipova has so far two marathons on her credit, fastest 2:41:32 as 9th at national championships in May in Moscow. Slovak olympian and 2:17 runner Marcel Matanin should be helpful with women pacing. In the men's race 6 Kenyans will run against 4 Ethiopians for top honours. Two of the Kenyans are having sub 2:10 bests (Peter Chebet 2:08:43 and Solomon Bushendich 2:08:52), but Jacob Chesire is returning as title defender (2:10:59 PB last year in Kosice) and Gilbert Chepkwony has the fastest 2010 time

2:10:45 from winning Padova in April. Also running from Kenya Jonathan Kibet (second here in 2008), Augustus Kavutu and debuting Kipkoech Ruto with 1:02:34 half best. Course record from 2007 by Kenyan William Biama is 2:09:53 so far the only sub 2:10 in the history of this race. Best from Ethiopian quartett is Debele Lema with 2:10:48 best and this year

2:11:25 from Barcelona. Other three names are Berhanu Girma (2:12:51), Fekadu Lema (2:14:39) and Tihuanu Woldemariam (2:14:20). Men's winner will get 10 000 E, if running course record it will be 15 000 and if

2:07 it will go to 20 000 E. Favorite for Slovak national title is local runner and title defender Imrich Pastor who hopes for his first sub 2:20 (2:21:59 so far). Former Slovak prime minister and current minister of foreign affairs Mikulas Dzurinda should compete in his 26th marathon after running 3:39:01 last weekend in Budapest. In total now 273 sub 2:20 men times and 175 sub 3:00 women times are registered in the history of the race. The weather forecast for Sunday is 12-13 degrees and sunny, with winds.

Top all-time results of International Peace Marathon in Kosice

Men

2:09:53 William Biama, KEN, 2007

2:10:51 Dejene Yirdawe, ETH, 2008  
2:10:59 Jacob Chesire, KEN, 2009  
2:11:36 Shume Legese, ETH, 2009  
2:11:39 Kedir Kassa, ETH, 2009  
2:12:01 Simon Bor, KEN, 2007  
2:12:23 Jonathan Kibet, KEN, 2008  
2:12:25 Josepht Mutiso, KEN, 2008  
2:12:31 Sammy Rotich, KEN, 2008  
2:12:35 Adam Dobrzynski, POL, 2004  
2:12:40 David Kariuki, KEN, 2002  
2:12:51 Yusuf Songoka, KEN, 2009  
2:12:53 Adam Dobrzynski, 2002  
2:12:54 Edwin Kipchom, KEN 2006  
2:13:24 Georgiy Andreyev, RUS, 2003  
2:13:27 David Kariuki, 2001  
2:13:28 Ketema Tadesse, ETH, 2009  
2:13:34.6 Go Chun-Son, PRK, 1978  
2:13:35 Myhalo Iveruk, UKR, 2003  
2:13:57 Marnix Goegebeur, BEL, 1995  
2:14:10 Robert Stefko, SVK, 1999  
2:14:11 Wieslaw Palczynski, POL, 1993

#### Women

2:30:50 Olena Burkovska, UKR, 2009  
2:31:28 Alena Peterkova, TCH, 1989  
2:33:52 Rika Tabashi, JPN, 2004  
2:34:23 Selina Chelimo, KEN, 2008

2:34:41 Raisa Sadretdinova, URS, 1983  
2:34:50 Natalya Kulesh, BLR, 2007  
2:35:00 Radiya Adlo, ETH, 2009  
2:35:33 Valentina Ustinova, URS, 1983  
2:36:01 Florene Chepkurui, KEN, 2009  
2:36:47 Natalya Kulesh, 2006  
2:36:49 Tadelech Birra, ETH, 2002  
2:36:55 Galina Zhulieva, UKR, 2001  
2:36:58 Edyta Lewandowska, POL, 2007  
2:37:00 Sue Harrison, GBR, 2004  
2:37:19 Christa Vahlensieck, FRG, 1984  
2:37:34 Firehiwot Dado, ETH, 2008  
2:37:46 Christa Vahlensieck, 1981  
2:37:48 Edyta Lewandowska, 2005  
2:37:48 Amelwork Fikadu, ETH, 2009