

STORIES OF NINE DECADES  
WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARATHON IN  
KOŠICE 90 YEARS AGO



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***The third, but not the last.***

*The global sport event of the year in 1932 was undoubtedly the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.*

*The organizers in Košice must have felt genuinely exalted when they heard that the Argentine Juan Carlos Zabala, who had won in Košice the year before after an unbelievable improvement in the course record, had won Olympic gold overseas. They thus silenced once and for all the sceptics who had doubted the achieved results and regularity of the race in Košice.*

*At the end of the summer 1932, the team around Vojtech Bukovský set to work and tried to ensure the strongest possible competition for the ninth year of the marathon. They succeeded in getting Oskar Hekš from Prague, who had finished eighth at the Olympics, as well as Jaroslav Žofka, winner of the Vienna Marathon, and Heinrich Braun the new German champion. But it was the hard to dismiss **József Galambos** who proved to be the strongest of the 42-member starting field in that year, recording his third victory in Košice. It was the third of four, because he added another laurel wreath to his collection a year later, and he still today has the most victories to his credit in the historical overview of this race in the men's event.*

*The organizers gradually introduced more and more new elements to the event. In 1932, for example, this was the complete closing of the marathon course, the announcement of a team competition and giving awards in the category of older runners. Of course, there weren't many of them in those days. The start lists say that the oldest in 1932 was Antal Lovas from Budapest, who was "only" 48-year-old. Surviving sources also say that the great interest in marathon events was*

*also an impetus for a live radio broadcast throughout Slovakia, including in Transcarpathian Ukraine, which was then part of pre-war Czechoslovakia.*

## **RESULTS**

### **Košice Marathon, October 2, 1932**

#### **Men**

1.	József Galambos	HUN	2:43:14
2.	Heinrich Brauch	GER	2:44:15
3.	Josef Bena	TCH	2:47:02