

STORIES OF NINE DECADES  
WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARATHON IN  
KOŠICE 80 YEARS AGO



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***The war years of sports, and so not even the marathon was very welcome***

*In 1942, statisticians recorded a total of only 152 performances in the marathon worldwide on regular courses, 33 of which occurred in Košice, where, despite all the circumstances, they managed to organize the marathon race in this period, as well.*

*The results in Boston in particular remained sub-standard. Although a total of 42 runners reached the finish line there in 1942, they did so on a course that was shorter than the prescribed 42 km and 195 m.*

*But let's go back to Košice. The marathon was run early, on 13 September, which meant, of course, that the runners had to reckon with the still warm, almost summery weather. This has been clearly confirmed. Preserved meteorological records show a noon-time temperature of 26 °C, which certainly contributed to the fact that none of the runners reached the finish line in under 3 hours, although several would otherwise have been capable of doing so. This can best be demonstrated by the winning time (3:02:27) of **József Kiss**. He started in Košice 16 times in his career and was unable to break the three-hour limit only three times. He matured like a fine wine, however. His best performance on the route from Košice to Seňa and back, specifically 2:36:05, was reached at the age of 45 in 1954.*

*Antal Lovas started in Košice that year for the 11th time. He was the last to finish, but given his age – then 58 – the performance was noticeable for that time.*

**RESULTS****Košice Marathon, October 2, 1942****Men**

1.	József Kiss	HUN	3:02:27
2.	Ludovic Gáll	HUN	3:06:25
3.	Sándor Liptai	HUN	3:07:54