

# STORIES OF MARATHON CENTENARY

## WHAT HAPPENED AT THE MARATHON IN KOŠICE 60 YEARS AGO



*In 1963, Buddy Edelen made a really convincing run for the Košice victory laurel wreath.*

*/ Photo: © 1963 Košice Marathon Club – archive.*

### ***The world leader confirmed his qualities.***

American **Leonard "Buddy" Edelen** returned to Košice in 1963, evidently unable to forget his narrow loss in 1962, when he finished second, albeit with some bad luck, behind the victorious Pavel Kantorek. He returned in the role of a clear favourite, however, which resulted from having the best world performance of the year, a time of 2:14:28 achieved in Chiswick, England, on 15 June. Kantorek was out with an injury, so the names of Sergej Popov, Basil Heatley and Václav Chudomel, all competitors from among the top spots in the world rankings, were included in the list of favourites along with Edelen. As always, expectations were high, but the split times run on the early part of the course were mainly affected by an unpleasant headwind. They began to speed up after the turn, to the extent that the well-disposed Edelen began to gradually distance himself from his rivals. He reached the finish line in a time of 2:15:09.6, a new course record that was more than two and a half minutes faster than the old one. The referees then noticed a rare phenomenon with the second place Sergej Popov: He had reached the finish line in the exact same time as his Košice victory in 1959.

The end-of-year world ranking thus looked very flattering. Of the three best times, two belonged to Edelen, and three performances from Košice appeared in the top twenty for that year.

### **RESULTS**

#### ***Košice Marathon, October 13, 1963***

##### ***Men***

1.	Leonard Edelen	USA	2:15:09,6
2.	Sergej Popov	URS/RUS	2:17:45,2
3.	Václav Chudomel	TCH/CZE	2:18:02,6