



Salzburg Marathon

Lauffestspiele in der Mozartstadt

6. Mai 2018

Wesley Kemboi and Teresiah Omosa win 15th Salzburg Marathon

- Austrian national titles for Isaac Kosgei and Karin Freitag
- 6,854 registered runners from 80 countries at the "Running Festival in Mozart's Hometown"

Kenyan Wesley Kemboi in 2:19:26 and Teresiah Omosa in a personal best of 2:43:24 are the winners of the 15th edition of Salzburg Marathon in Austria. Rising temperatures of well over 20°C took their toll on the runners especially in the second half of the race. Isaac Toroitich Kosgei finished at second place in a personal best of 2:20:59 and triumphed at the Austrian national marathon championships which were incorporated into the event. Kosgei is a Kenyan living in Austria and therefore eligible for competing in national championships. Austrian Christian Kresnik completed the podium with a huge personal best of 2:28:36.

Karin Freitag was a strong runner-up in the women's race in 2:45:26 and celebrated her fifth national marathon title. Elisabeth Smolle came third and took silver in the championships division in 2:53:28, a PB by almost 20 minutes.

6,854 runners from 80 nations have registered for one of the races at the "Running Festival in Mozart's Hometown". More than 1,100 took part in the full marathon.

First marathon victory for Wesley Kemboi

Winning times of sub-2:14 and sub-2:40 still seemed to be on the cards at halfway. Conditions were close to ideal at the beginning, but together with the morning clouds the hope for faster times disappeared. Temperatures rose quickly to well over 20°C in the second part of the race. "It was too hot for a better time, but I'm happy", said winner Wesley Kemboi who celebrated his first marathon victory. He set his personal best of 2:16:32 at the Treviso Marathon in March 2017.

Isaac Kosgei new Austrian champion

Temperatures, however, didn't bother Isaac Toroitich Kosgei. "It was fine. I don't have problems with the heat", said the new Austrian marathon champion. He, too, had to slow down in sunny conditions, but with a split of 1:12:01 he clocked the fastest second half of the entire field. "I didn't expect to win the title. I thought others would run faster, but God helped me", said Kosgei whose previous personal best was 2:24:19 (Bregenz 2017). Pre-race favourite Edwin Kemboi, who represented Austria at the World Championships marathon in Beijing 2015, suffered from a cold and dropped out at 36 km. So Christian Kresnik seized the moment. He produced a surprising per-

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formance of 2:28:36 that earned him third place overall and a silver medal at the national championships. "I expected to run 2:35 at the best. It's unbelievable for me to clock a time like this. I only trained 100 km per week", said Kresnik, who works full-time as a technician in the automotive industry.

Omosa triumphs with a personal best

The fastest female runners, Teresiah Omosa and Karin Freitag, handled the heat relatively well. Both ran the second half just about three minutes slower than the first. Freitag was looking stronger at the end and closed down on Omosa who led from the beginning on. But Omosa never came into sight for Freitag. The Kenyan was a clear winner in 2:43:24 and bettered her personal best from Mombasa 2017 by 2:58 minutes.

Karin Freitag wins fifth national marathon title

38-year-old Freitag showed a well-judged performance and was welcomed with huge applause at the finish. In a time of 2:45:26 she finished at second place and won her fifth gold medal at national marathon championships – a record figure in the Austrian scene of women's marathon running. "Each year national championships are a highlight for me. To have won it five times is really something special. I felt good throughout the race", she said.

International winners at half marathon

Parallel to the marathon race the Sparkasse Half Marathon and the Hervis 10K Salzburg CityRun took place. Radim Picek from the Czech Republic in a personal best of 1:12:21 and Renate Wyss from Switzerland in 1:26:37 were the half marathon winners. Picek triumphed 16 seconds ahead of Austrian Lukas Maukner and 31 seconds ahead of German Josef Diensthuber. "I didn't expect to win here. After dropping out at Rotterdam Marathon four weeks ago I looked for another race. It was a very good decision to come to Salzburg", he said.

Renate Wyss, who took part at the World Championships marathon in Moscow 2015, clearly beat Abbey McGhee from Scotland and her Swiss compatriot Sandrine Abgottsson. Wyss came to Salzburg together with 25 runners from her athletics club in Basel and still enjoys running at a good level.

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Dramatic finish and personal bests at Hervis 10K

Fans saw a dramatic finish at the 10k run. German Stefan Knopf prevailed in 32:57 minutes over Austrian triathlete Andreas Giglmayr in 33:02. Austrian Katharina Zipser won the women's race in a personal best of 37:48 minutes. Just two weeks ago she has set a personal best of 2:44:41 at the Vienna City Marathon.

For more information please visit www.salzburg-marathon.at/en/ or contact Thomas Kofler (Press Officer) presse@salzburg-marathon.at

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