

London becomes the fastest marathon in the world

13 April 2008 - If the criterion of the fastest marathon is based on the average of top ten performances on the course, the Flora London Marathon is now the fastest marathon in the world. The London Marathon was already the fastest women's marathon before Sunday, thanks most of all to three sub 2:20 marathons by Paula Radcliffe. The average of top ten performances in London is 2:19:47, whereas the second fastest was the Chicago Marathon with the top ten average of 2:20:25. However, before Sunday, the fastest men's marathon based on the top ten performances was the Berlin Marathon with top ten average of 2:05:48 followed by Chicago Marathon with top ten average of 2:06:15. The London Marathon with top ten average of 2:06:29 was only third fastest men's marathon before Sunday. However, with three sub 2:06 marathons, which is the record number, and two more low 2:06 marathons, the top ten average for the London marathon is now 2:05:57.6, which surpassed the Berlin Marathon with the top ten average of 2:05:57.7. It should be noted that the London Marathon was the first race to record three sub 2:06 marathons as well as six sub 2:07 marathons. The all time list was extensively modified. Martin Lel, Sam Wanjiru and Abderrahim Goumri are now fourth, fifth and sixth fastest marathon runners in history.

The Sunday's race also made a big impact on the "Best-Marks-for-Places" on the men's side. The fastest time for third, fourth, fifth and sixth places were recorded in the London Marathon on Sunday. It should also be noted that the "Best-Marks-for-Places" for places ten through twelve were recorded in the Paris Marathon a week ago.

Ken Nakamura for the IAAF

Average Top 10 Performances

London Marathon - Men (Sunday's performances in bold)

Performance	Time	Name	Nat	Place	Date
1	2:05:15	Martin Lel	KEN	1	13 Apr 2008
2	2:05:24	Samuel Wanjiru	KEN	2	13 Apr 2008
3	2:05:30	Abderrahim Goumri	MAR	3	13 Apr 2008
4	2:05:38	Khalid Khannouchi	USA	1	14 Apr 2002
5	2:05:48	Paul Tergat	KEN	2	14 Apr 2002
6	2:06:15	Emmanuel Mutai	KEN	4	13 Apr 2008
7	2:06:17	Ryan Hall	USA	5	13 Apr 2008
8	2:06:18	Evans Rutto	KEN	1	18 Apr 2004
9	2:06:35	Haile Gebrselassie	ETH	3	14 Apr 2002
10	2:06:36	Antonio Pinto	POR	1	16 Apr 2000
Average	2:05:57.6				

Berlin Marathon – Men

Performance	Time	Name	Nat	Place	Date
1	2:04:26	Haile Gebrselassie	ETH	1	30 Sept 2007
2	2:04:55	Paul Tergat	KEN	1	29 Sept 2003
3	2:04:56	Sammy Korir	KEN	2	29 Sept 2003

4	2:05:56	Haile Gebrselassie		1	24 Sept 2006
5	2:06:05	Ronaldo da Costa	BRA	1	20 Sept 1998
6	2:06:15	Titus Munji	KEN	3	28 Sept 2003
7	2:06:44	Josephat Kiprono	KEN	1	26 Sept 1999
8	2:06:44	Felix Limo	KEN	1	26 Sept 2004
9	2:06:47	Raymond Kipkoech Chemwoio	KEN	1	29 Sept 2002
10	2:06:49	Simon Biwott	KEN	2	29 Sept 2002
Average	2:05:57.7				

London Marathon - Women

Performances	Time	Name	Nat	Place	Date
1	2:15:25	Paula Radcliffe	GBR	1	13 Apr 03
2	2:17:42	Paula Radcliffe		1	17 Apr 05
3	2:18:56	Paula Radcliffe		1	14 Apr 02
4	2:19:36	Deena Kastor	USA	1	23 Apr 06
5	2:19:55	Catherine Ndereba	KEN	2	13 Apr 03
6	2:20:38	Zhou Chunxiu	CHN	1	22 Apr 07
7	2:21:06	Ingrid Kristiansen	NOR	1	21 Apr 85
8	2:21:16	Deena Drossin		3	13 Apr 03
9	2:21:29	Lyudmilla Petrova	RUS	2	23 Apr 06
10	2:21:45	Gete Wami	ETH	2	22 Apr 07
Average	2:19:47				

Best Marks for Places - Men

Place	Time	Name	Nationality	Venue	Date
1	2:04:26	Haile Gebrselassie	ETH	Berlin	30 Sep 2007
2	2:04:56	Sammy Korir	KEN	Berlin	28 Sept 2003
3	2:05:30	Abderrahim Goumri	MAR	London	13 Apr 2008
4	2:06:15	Emmanuel Mutai	KEN	London	13 Apr 2008
5	2:06:17	Ryan Hall	USA	London	13 Apr 2008
6	2:06:38	Deriba Merga	ETH	London	13 Apr 2008
7	2:07:53	Shadrack Kiplagat	KEN	Amsterdam	21 Oct 2007
8	2:08:16	Tsegaye Kebede	ETH	Amsterdam	21 Oct 2007
9	2:08:21	Kamiel Maase	NED	Amsterdam	21 Oct 2007
10	2:09:23	David Kiyeng	KEN	Paris	6 Apr 2008
11	2:09:24	Simon Munyutu	KEN	Paris	6 Apr 2008
12	2:09:56	Philip Manyim	KEN	Paris	6 Apr 2008