



PRESS RELEASE

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A record-breaking edition | A great celebration and wonderful performances in Lausanne

A beautiful atmosphere, colours, and superb performances in all the races of the 24th edition of the Lausanne Marathon. This year's edition had 13,600 runners, almost 600 more than the record set in 2015. It was a beautiful celebration all along, between Parc de Milan, La Tour-de-Peilz, and the lower part of the Olympic Park. **Youssef Sbaai (MOR)** and **Alemitu Bekele-Clerc (BEL)** won the main event; **Qaasim Shumbii (ETH)** and **Laura Hrebec (CS 13 Étoiles)**, the half-marathon; **Bernard Matheka (KEN)** and **Delia Sclabas (Gerbersport)**, the 10 km race. The weather conditions were perfect for running: sun and 13 °C.

Marathon | Youssef Sbaai and Alemitu Bekele-Clerc know how to win a marathon

Two men were leading the race after the first 30 kilometres: the Moroccan based in Turin (ITA) **Youssef Sbaai** and the Ethiopian based in Winterthur **Fikru Dadi**, holder of the half-marathon record since last year. Then, twelve kilometres from the finishing line, near St Saphorin, Sbaai charged away and stormed to the finishing line, finishing in 2h17'06, 3'39 ahead of Dadi. **Samir Baala (FRA)**, the brother of former Olympic champion Mehdi Baala, finished 3rd in 2h28'45. Local favourite, **Cédric Pache (Puidoux)**, was the best among the Swiss with an excellent 4th place in 2h36'39: "Running here, so close to home, on the route reserved for runners, with my family and all these people here to encourage us, is fantastic. I often train along the route, but on the pavement. That's a totally different story. I loved it," said a delighted Pache at the finish, hardly affected by the effort.

As for the women, the Ethiopian-born and Berne-based Belgian **Alemitu Bekele-Clerc** stormed to a runaway victory in 2h42'41. **Laurence Yerly (Cernier)**, from Neuchâtel, came second in 2h51'46. "What a race! It was really tough. Alemitu was too strong for me today. That's a pity," said the 2015 Swiss Trail champion with her sixth podium in Lausanne. Like last year, **Marija Vrajic (CRO)** came 3rd in 2h53'22.

Half-Marathon | Shumbii and Hrebec Triumph

After the start in La Tour-de-Peilz, four men quickly took the situation into their own hands: Ethiopia's **Qaasim Shumbii** and **Tefera Mekonen**, Eritrea's **Hailmichael Estefanus**, and Switzerland's **François Leboeuf (CABV Martigny)**. After 15 Kilometres, the Ethiopians charged away with ease. Shumbii won in 1h08'28, 5 and 26 seconds ahead of Mekonen and Estefanus, respectively.

After last year's triumph, **Laura Hrebec (CS 13 Étoiles)** had to fight hard to win this year: "The half-marathon season has been very long, especially this winter's city races." She won in 1h16'27, after being head-to-head for most of the race with Germany's **Aude Salord (TV Oerliken)**, who finished 2nd 35 seconds behind. Switzerland's **Rachel Berchtold** completed the podium in 1h23'16.

10 km race | Matheka and Sclabas break all the records

The hardest fought race of the 2016 Lausanne Marathon was undoubtedly the men's 10 km. Almost every specialist from the region was at the start. Last year's winner (with a course record of 28'49), **Bernard Matheka (KEN/Reconvilier)**, was off to a flying start and left no chance to his opponents. He crossed the finishing line in 28'18, more than 20 seconds faster than 2015: a brilliant time on an international level. "I've never run the 10 km so fast.



It's unbelievable. My legs were on fire today. If I hadn't been all alone, I might have finished in under 28 minutes!" said the Swiss-based Kenyan.

Geneva-based Portuguese **Sergio Dias** (POR/Bernex) finished second 57 seconds behind, and **Zouhair Oumoussa** (FRA/Lausanne), came third 1'08 behind. The reigning Swiss 10 km champion, **Julien Lyon** (Stade Genève), finished fourth in 29'31: "It's strange. I'm in good shape, but I didn't have much pace in my legs today," said the European Half-Marathon Team Champion, who had had some hesitation to sign up for this distance. "With 9 runners finishing under 30 minutes, this 10 km race was the fastest and most intense ever in Switzerland," said statistician Antonin Hejda.

On the women's side, the race was fought down to last few metres between Switzerland's 16-year-old **Delia Sclabas** (Gerbersport) and France's **Virginie Lemay**, 18 years her senior. It was only in the last 300 metres that Switzerland's great hope of long and middle distances – winner of two titles at the European Athletics Youth Championships this year – defeated her opponent. Sclabas won in an impressive time of 34'17, the youth record of this distance, faster than the Swiss U20 record (which, however, wasn't broken because of the steepness of the course): "Wow, that was tough! On the last straight line, I was still head-to-head with Virginie. But I gave everything I had and I managed to charge away." Lemay finished in 34'22. The best regional athlete, **Isabelle Buttica** (Vevey), finished 3rd in 37'48.

The Organising Committee

Save the date, 22 October 2017, to celebrate 25 years of Lausanne Marathon.

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