



COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE PRESS RELEASE

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34th Paris International Marathon At 8.45 am, 40,000 devotees will take starter's orders on the Champs-Élysées

Starter's orders for the 34th Paris International Marathon will be given tomorrow at 8.45 am (8.35 for disabled athletes and special operations), on the Champs-Élysées.

In the field of 40,000 participants, 19% are women and there are 106 different nationalities. Almost 14,000 foreigners (35% of all competitors) including more than 5,000 English men and women will be taking starter's orders. The route will lead them from the Champs-Élysées to Avenue Foch via Place de la Concorde, Rue de Rivoli, La Bastille, the Bois de Vincennes park, the quays of the Seine, the Trocadéro and the Bois de Boulogne park.

As for the elite competitors, the Paris International Marathon is now famous for unveiling tomorrow's champions and this year should not be any different! The considerably-sized Kenyan contingent will be attempting to maintain its supremacy against the challenge of the Ethiopians. The expectations will be weighing most heavily on Tadesse Tola (Ethiopia) and Wilson Kipsang (Kenya) to achieve a time better than 2 hrs 6 minutes.

In the women's race, Ethiopia's Atsede, the winner in 2009, is again the major favourite. French runner Christelle Daunay, who pulled off a fine French record last year, could again climb onto the podium and perhaps throw a spanner in the works by winning her first major international marathon.

For the 250,000 spectators expected in the capital's streets, there will be a party atmosphere. Eighty musical and festive events will transform the 42.195 km route into a multicolour, dancing and singing parade.

Among the celebrities present, we might see former cyclist Laurent Jalabert at work (he will be commentating live for TV channel France 3!), his brother Nicolas, but also Jean-Patrick Nazon, Marion Clignet, former women's football star Marinette Pichon and television presenter Samuel Etienne, not forgetting the participation of a former Tour de France winner, Dutchman Joop Zoetlemek.

For all the information on the race, visit the official site:
www.parismarathon.com

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