



# COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE PRESS RELEASE

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## **34<sup>th</sup> Paris International Marathon: A double for Ethiopia and a French record for Christelle Daunay**

The young and talented Ethiopian Tadesse Tola, in his second marathon, won the men's race out on his own after 2:06.41. In the women's race, favourite Atsede Baysa, also Ethiopian and already a winner last year, easily triumphed over the rest of the field, pulverising the record for the event with a time of 2:22.04. She was followed home by Christelle Daunay, who improved on her French record by more than a minute, finishing after 2:24.22.

31,566 competitors took starter's orders for the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of the Paris International Marathon on the Champs-Élysées in an ambiance that was as cheerful as usual. As the last participants crossed the starting line, the leaders were already in the Bois de Vincennes park...

All along the route, from La Bastille to the quays of the River Seine via the Bois de Boulogne park, almost 250,000 spectators were present to encourage the competitors and enjoy the 80 live music concerts or shows dotted around the streets of the French capital.

In the men's race, the imposingly-sized leading group held firm right until the 34<sup>th</sup> kilometre, where the best eight runners started to break away. By the time the 36-kilometre marker was reached, there were only five men left out in front. One kilometre afterwards, Kenyan Alfred Kering strode majestically away from the rest and was only followed by Ethiopian runner Tadesse Tola. Several hundred metres later, the young Ethiopian took matters into his own hands, running away to a victory that shaved more than 9 minutes of his personal best. His time of 2:06.41 is the third best in the world this year. Kering managed to hang on to his second place, finishing after 2:07.11, two seconds ahead of his countryman Kipsang.

As for the women's race, the major favourite, Ethiopia's Atsede Baysa, won by a distance from the rest of the field with an impressive time of 2:22.04, putting her way out ahead in the year's best performances. A little way behind her, with a finishing time of 2:24.22, Frenchwoman Christelle Daunay pulled off another achievement after her French record last year. With a well-controlled race from start to finish, she again showed that she has what it takes when it comes to the crunch.

In the disabled athletes' race, Switzerland's Heinz Frei, already a winner several times, triumphed in a sprint finish after 1:33.54, ahead of Frenchman Denis Lemeunier.

***For all the information on the Paris International Marathon, visit the official site:***

[www.parismarathon.com](http://www.parismarathon.com)

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