

Paris,  
11<sup>th</sup> of March 2007

**2007 PARIS INTERNATIONAL HALF-MARATHON :**

**NEW EVENT RECORD**

**1:00:22 For Kenyan Joseph MAREGU**

Best Time Ever for Half-Marathon on the French Soil

The Esplanade of the Château de Vincennes was overcrowded for the start of the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the Paris Half-Marathon. At 10:00, on the Daumesnil Avenue, Miss Michèle Blumenthal, mayor of the 12<sup>th</sup> district of Paris and event director Joël Lainé launched this new edition. Almost 19,000 runners (23,000 registered) took the start of this 21.097-km race through Paris. The sun was shining and the weather was ideal for those who were striving for a great achievement.

The elite runners seemed decided to perform, taking off at a fast pace. The leading group including three athletes (Mubarak Shami of Qatar, followed by two Kenyans: Joseph Maregu and Denis N'Diso) continued at a decent rhythm making it to the 3km mark in 8 minutes 29 seconds. Then, Mubarak Shami failed to keep up with the African duo.

At the 8km mark, Joseph Maregu attacked and became the undisputed leader of the 15<sup>th</sup> Paris Half-Marathon. Running at a constant but high pace, he clinched the race, establishing a new event record: 1:00:22 (Km5 - 13:58 / Km10 – 28:02 / Km15 – 42:38 / Km20 – 57:13).

At the rear, the chasing group (Shami Mubarak, Raji Assefa, Shadrack Kiplagat and Abdellah Falil) couldn't catch up with the leader. In the last kilometre, Shadrack Kiplagat captured second spot in 1:00:35, followed by the Ethiopian Raji Assefa (1:00:43). The best French runner; Brahim Lahlafi, finished sixth, completing the course in 1:01:00.

Concerning the women's race, Caroline Kwambai also managed a fine performance with a final time of 1:10:26. Finishing just behind was Ethiopia's Ayelech Worku (1:11:02), who had fallen at the 14km mark. Third spot on the podium went to France's Fatiha Klilech Fauvel (1:11:20).

The first Half-Marathon in France when it comes to the number of participants, this race proved to be a perfect preparation before the big date of the 15<sup>th</sup> of April when the runners will find themselves on the Champs-Élysées to celebrate the 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the Paris Marathon.

Find all the standings on [www.parismarathon.com](http://www.parismarathon.com)

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