

— Mutai Destroys NYC Marathon Course Record —

by Rich Sands

New York, New York; November 6—The men's and women's races at the 42nd New York City Marathon unfolded in drastically different ways, both putting a thrilling end to a year of mayhem in the 26.2-mile event, complete with aggressive running and mind-boggling time drops.

The women's competition featured a daring frontrunning effort that evolved into a riveting cat and mouse chase, while the star-studded men's race became a 6-mile time trial, culminating with a colossal course record.

Under ideal conditions in the upper 40s with light winds, the women went off first and Mary Keitany, this year's London champ, immediately surged to the front.

Running in just her third 26-miler, she hit 5K in 16:04 and 10K in a mind-boggling 31:54, well ahead of World Record pace on a course that is not known for fast times (the NYC record remains 2:22:31, set by Margaret Okayo in '02).

The 29-year-old Kenyan tore through the half in 67:56 and local TV announcer Al Trautwig wondered, "Is Mary Keitany out of her mind or out this world?" By 15 miles it looked like the former, with her margin over the pack at 2:23.

But then the wheels began to fall off, her pace drifting into the 5:40s. Two Ethiopians, Firehiwot Dado and Buzunesh Deba, made a breakaway in the 20th mile and by

the time Keitany took an agonizing 6:20 to complete No. 24 they had pulled even.

But Keitany, who lowered the half marathon WR to 65:50 back in February, came back to life and briefly gapped the challengers.

Bronx and frequently trains in Central Park, was 4 seconds behind for the second-closest finish in race history.

Said Dado of Keitany, who held on for 3rd at 2:23:38, "Because she'd been running so fast from the very beginning, I didn't

imagine that we'd catch her. But when we did get closer and we saw her, I was very surprised and very happy."

Molly Pritz, making her marathon debut after winning the USATF 25K title in May, was the top American, 12th in 2:31:52.

After hitting the half-way in 1:14:56, fellow debutante Lauren Fleshman faded badly and placed 16th in 2:37:23.

"You get a little sneak peek of Hell," she said of hitting the wall.

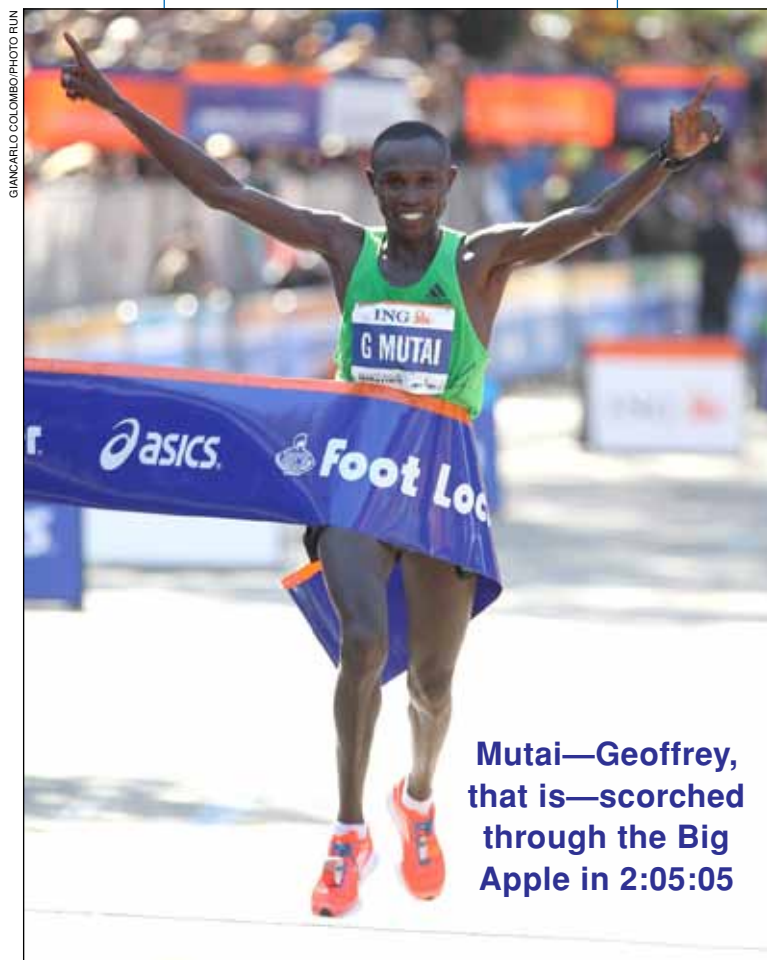
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A loaded men's field of set off at a comfortable early pace—the first four 5K segments were 15:34, 14:49, 14:49 and 14:52—and 10 were still together at halfway (63:17).

Among those in contention were Boston champ Geoffrey Mutai and London winner Emmanuel Mutai (no relation), defending champ

Gebre Gebremariam, Beijing silver medalist Tsegaye Kebede, two-time world champ and Olympic silver medalist Jaouad Gharib and Meb Keflezighi, the '09 victor.

Shortly after 20 miles Geoffrey Mutai made the decisive move of the day—in fact it was essentially the only move of the



Mutai—Geoffrey, that is—scorched through the Big Apple in 2:05:05

The 27-year-old Dado, whose previous claim to fame was winning the last three editions of the Rome Marathon, took the lead for good in mile 26 along Central Park South and powered home in 2:23:15, cutting 58 seconds from her PR.

Deba, a 24-year-old who lives in the

day—with a 4:31 mile.

The other Mutai, Gebremariam and Kebede tried to stay in contact but couldn't match the relentless pace of the leader, who split 14:26 from 35K to 40K.

Mutai hit the tape in 2:05:06, lopping a stunning 2:37 seconds off Tese faye Jifar's '01 course record and becoming the first to win the Boston/New York double since Rodgers Rop in '02. Emmanuel Mutai (2:06:28) and Kebede (2:07:14) were well beaten but still way ahead of the old best.

"The race was not easy," said the 30-year-old winner, whose 2:03:02 on Boston's aided course in April stands as the fastest clocking ever, even if not the World Record. "The course here, it was tough, but the weather was so good."

In a true sign of the quantum leap marathoning has taken this year, Gebremariam (2:08:00) was 14 seconds ahead of his winning time from '10 but nearly 3:00 behind the winner. Likewise, Keflezighi (6th in a PR 2:09:13 at age 36) was 2 seconds ahead of his winning time from '09.

Geoffrey M. earned \$200,000 for his victory—\$130,000 for the win plus a \$70,000 time bonus—but Emmanuel M. proved to be the biggest winner, his point total for 2011–11 capturing the overall WMM crown and \$500,000.

A half-mill also went to Russia's Liliya Shobukhova (for the second year in a row), who didn't race here after winning Chicago.

NEW YORK CITY MARATHON

New York City, November 6 (point-to-point)

1. G. Mutai (Ken) 2:05:05 (course record—old cr 2:07:43 Jifar [Eth] '01) (\$200K);
2. E. Mutai (Ken) 2:06:28 (\$500K for 2010–11 WMM title);
3. Kebede (Eth) 2:07:13; 4. Gebremariam (Eth) 2:07:59; 5. Gharib (Mor) 2:08:26; 6. **Keflezighi (Ca) 2:09:13 PR (8, x A)**; 7. Falil (Mor) 2:10:35; 8. Kisorio (Ken) 2:10:58;
9. Sisay (Eth) 2:11:04; 10. Moran (Va) 2:11:46; 11. Röhlin (Swi) 2:12:26; 12. Saji (Mor) 2:13:47; 13. Barrios (Mex) 2:14:10; 14. Deneke (Eth) 2:16:20;
15. Curtis (Pa) 2:16:44 (debut); 16. Dube (Eth) 2:19:24; 17. Atmani (In) 2:19:36; 18. Worku (Eth) 2:20:22; 19. Lemma (Eth) 2:20:41; 20. Dekkers (Hol) 2:22:48.

NYC WOMEN

1. Dado (Eth) 2:23:15 PR (\$170,000); 2. Deba (Eth) 2:23:19 PR; 3. M. Keitany (Ken) 2:23:38; 4. Félix (Por) 2:25:40 PR; 5. Smith (NZ) 2:25:46; 6. Kilel (Ken) 2:25:57; 7. C. Rotich (Ken) 2:27:06; 8. Andersson (Swe) 2:28:29; 9. Pavey (GB) 2:28:42; 10. Bogomolova (Rus) 2:29:03; 11. Demissie (Eth) 2:31:40; 12. Pritz (Pa) 2:31:52 (debut);
13. Kidane (Eth) 2:33:08; 14. Aguilar (Spa) 2:33:08; 15. Abrha (Eth) 2:33:22; 16. Fleshman (Or) 2:37:22 (debut); 17. Aliyu (Eth) 2:38:32; 18. Herron (Ok) 2:40:06;
19. Houck (Mn) 2:41:00; 20. Nukuri-Johnson (Ia) 2:41:21; 21. Crosby-Helms (Ca) 2:42:44; 22. Porter (NC) 2:44:25; ... 25. Stewart (Ca) 2:47:31; 26. Croft (Wa) 2:49:24.

GREAT SOUTH 10-MILE

Portsmouth, England, October 30—

1. Komon (Ken) 46:18; 2. Kirui (Ken) 46:40 PR; 3. Cragg (Ire) 47:14 PR; 4. Thompson (GB) 48:07 PR; 5. Lemoncello (GB) 48:17;
6. Bouramdane (Mor) 48:21 PR; 7. Overall (GB) 48:23; 8. McLeod (GB) 48:33 PR; ... 12. Bailey (US) 49:18 PR.

Women:

1. Mergia (Eth) 52:55 PR; 2. Changelywo (Ken) 53:34 PR; 3. Jerotich (Ken) 53:43 PR; 4. Purdue (GB) 53:45 PR; 5. Barros (Por) 54:14 PR; 6. Incerti (Ita) 54:18; 7. Ciolek (Pol) 54:41 PR; 8. Lewandowska (Pol) 54:42 PR.

ROCK 'N' ROLL LA HALF

Los Angeles, October 30—

1. Serrano (Ca) 64:20; 2. B. Cheruiyot (Ken) 64:25; 3. Cheseret (Co) 65:31 PR; 4. Hesch (Ca) 65:58; 5. Cox (Ca) 66:05.

Women:

1. Kastor (Ca) 71:48; 2. Somers Smith (Ca) 75:18; 3. Foody (Ca) 77:13 PR.

DASH TO THE FINISH 5K

New York City, November 5 (point-to-point, 10m altitude gain)—

1. Thompson (GB) 13:52.11; 2. Braun (adi) 13:52.66; 3. Ritzenhein (Nik) 13:55.38; 4. Bethke (Sauc) 13:58.52; 5. Bumbalough (OTC) 13:59.04; 6. True (Sauc) 14:01.03; 7. Tegenkamp (OTC) 14:01.56; 8. Lomong (OTC) 14:03.81; 9. Olinger (Reeb) 14:05.18; 10. Jager (OTC) 14:11.41;
11. Hesch (NRLA) 14:17.18; 12. Gotcher (adi) 14:20.30; 13. Okuti (Uga) 14:22.64; 14. Bruce (OTC) 14:47.00; 15. Bauhs (adi) 14:47.46.

CROSS COUNTRY SCHEDULE

November

12..... NCAA Div. I Regionals

*Great Lakes—Toledo, Ohio
Mid-Atlantic—Princess Anne, Maryland
Midwest—DeKalb, Illinois
Mountain—Provo, Utah
Northeast—Buffalo, New York
Southeast—Louisville, Kentucky
South Central—Waco, Texas
South—Tuscaloosa, Alabama
West—Stanford, California*

..... NCAA Div. III Regionals (8 sites)

..... JUCO Championships; Hobbs, New Mexico

12..... NXN Northwest Regional; Boise, Idaho

13..... NXN Heartland Regional; Sioux Falls, South Dakota

..... NXN Midwest Regional, Terre Haute, Indiana

19..... IC4A/ECAC; Bronx, New York

..... NAAI Championships; Vancouver, Washington

..... NCAA II Championships; Spokane, Washington

..... NXN South Regional; The Woodlands, Texas

..... NXN Southwest Regional; Tempe, Arizona

20..... NCAA III Championships; Columbus, Ohio

21..... NCAA Championships; Terre Haute, Indiana

26..... NXN NENY Regional; Wappinger Falls, New York

..... NXN Southeast Regional; Cary, North Carolina

..... Foot Locker HS Midwest Reg.; Kenosha, Wisconsin

..... Foot Locker HS Northeast Reg.; Long Island, New York

..... Foot Locker HS Southern Reg.; Charlotte, North Carolina

December

3..... Nike HS XC Nationals (NXN); Portland, Oregon

..... AAU Youth Championships; Orlando, Florida

..... Foot Locker HS West Regional; Walnut, California

10..... Foot Locker HS Championships; San Diego, California

..... USATF Junior Olympics; Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

..... USATF Club Championships; Seattle, Washington

February 2012

11..... USATF Championships; St. Louis, Missouri

(note: beginning with 2012, the World Championships will be staged only in odd-numbered years)

NYC 5K WOMEN

1. Hall (Asics) 15:55.17; 2. Culley (NYAC) 15:59.53; 3. Kipyego (Ken) 16:02.62; 4. Lewy Boulet (Sauc) 16:04.90; 5. Peyton (TMN) 16:05.42; 6. Hastings (Brk) 16:06.53;
7. Rothstein (adi) 16:08.33; 8. Uhl (OTC) 16:12.29; 9. Joy-Petrina (NZ) 16:13.61; 10. Maloy (NBal) 16:14.82; 11. Brown (Can) 16:16.89; 12. Koons (NBal) 16:22.95;
13. Kastor (Asics) 16:23.66; 14. Higginson (unat) 16:26.94; 15. Infeld (NYAC) 16:37.72; 16. Bizzarri (Brk) 16:38.79; ... 21. Pieterse (SA—age 45) 18:17.37.

In the next *eTN*:
NCAA XC Regionals