

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Daba Shatters Chevron Houston Marathon Course Record

*Countrywoman Daska women's marathon champion at 39th edition;
Eggleston, DeReuck Aramco Houston Half Marathon winners*

HOUSTON (Jan. 30, 2011) – On Sunday morning under the threat of inclement weather, **Bekana Daba** and **Mamitu Daska** continued the Ethiopian dominance at the **Chevron Houston Marathon** with victories in 2 hours, 7 minutes, 4 seconds and 2:26:33 respectively. Daba's time, in his second marathon, was a personal, course and state record, while Daska became the third fastest woman all-time at the event.

In the men's race at the 39th edition, Daba, Kenyan **Wilfred Murgor** and American training partners **Brett Gotcher** and **Nick Arciniaga** were the contenders and the group hit the halfway point in 1:04:17.

As the drizzle turned to light rain around 80 minutes into the race, Daba, 22, began to pull away from the field and between the 25K and 30K he strung together three sub-4:40 miles to seal the win. He continued to push the pace through mile 23 and went unchallenged to the tape to shatter countryman Teshome Gelana's 2010 course record by 33 seconds and also ran the fastest marathon time of the year. Daba, who ran the second half of the race in a fast 1:02:46, was also the third straight Ethiopian men's race champion and the third straight to set a course record.

"I could have run faster with better competition and less rain, but I'm happy," said Daba, who earned \$35,000.

Arciniaga, 27, from Flagstaff, Ariz. was runner-up in an 18-second personal record of 2:11:30, while Gotcher had an off day to finish sixth in 2:19:30.

Most of the women's race was lead by either Daska, **Ashu Kasim** or **Gebre Belainesh** of Ethiopia – who reached the halfway mark in 1:12:16 – before it became a duel between Daska and Kasim around 17 miles. At 25 miles, Daska, 27, made a break with a 5:17 mile that Kasim couldn't follow and Daska hit the finish line alone to become the fifth straight women's race champion from Ethiopia.

Kasim slowed, but kept her number two position in the line (2:27:47), while American **Stephanie Rothstein**, 27, from Flagstaff, Ariz. finished third in 2:29:35, a more than 10-minute personal record.

Three-time race champion **David Cheruiyot**, 40, of Kenya won the Masters marathon in 2:24:07, while **Shelia Casey**, 41, from Park Ridge, N.J. took the women's 40 and over crown in 2:51:44.

There were also seven new 2012 Olympic Trials Marathon qualifiers: **Jesse Davis** and **Kristen Fryburg-Zaitz**, **Emily Harrison**, **Nicole Hagobian**, **Erin Richard**, **Natasha Labeaud** and **Sara Patrick**. Houston will host the 2012 U.S. Men's and Women's Olympic Trials Marathon on January 14.

Jeff Eggleston, 26, Flagstaff, Ariz. and **Colleen DeReuck**, 46, Boulder, Colo. won the **10th Aramco Houston Half Marathon** in 1:08:26 and 1:16:19 respectively. DeReuck also won the 2004 race.

Overall, there were 6,728 marathon starters and 9,114 half-marathon starters at the annual event.

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39th Chevron Houston Marathon

Houston, TX, Sunday, January 30, 2011

MEN

- 1) Bekana Daba (ETH), 2:07:04*, \$35,000
 - 2) Nick Arciniaga (USA / AZ), 2:11:30, \$17,000
 - 3) Wilfred Murgor (KEN), 2:11:41, \$7000
 - 4) Rob Watson (CAN), 2:16:17, \$4000
 - 5) Jesse Davis (USA / IN), 2:18:47, \$2000
 - 6) Brett Gotcher (USA / AZ), 2:19:30
- *course and state record (previous record, 2:07:37, Teshome Gelana (ETH), 2010)

MASTERS MEN (40+)

- 1) David Cheruiyot, 40, KEN, 2:24:07, \$1500

WOMEN

- 1) Mamitu Daska (ETH), 2:26:33, \$35,000
- 2) Ashu Kasim (ETH), 2:27:47, \$17,000
- 3) Stephanie Rothstein (USA / AZ), 2:29:35, \$7000
- 4) Belainesh Gebre (ETH), 2:34:47, \$4000
- 5) Selamie Getnet (ETH), 2:36:34, \$2000

MASTERS WOMEN (40+)

- 1) Shelia Casey, 41, USA / NJ, 2:51:44, \$1500

Full results and more at: www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com

About the Houston Marathon Committee, Inc.

Established in 1972, the Houston Marathon Committee, Inc. (HMC), a Running USA Founding Member, annually organizes the nation's premier winter marathon, half-marathon, 5K and kids' fun run. In 2010, more than 30,000 runners participated in four race weekend events organized by 7,500 volunteers, creating Houston's largest single-day sporting event. In addition to hosting numerous world-renowned road races, including the USA Men's and Women's Half Marathon Championships since 2005 and 2007 respectively, and the 1992 U.S. Women's Olympic Marathon Trials, HMC will host the 2012 U.S. Men's and Women's Olympic Team Trials - Marathon on January 14, 2012.

For more information, visit houstonmarathon.com or call 713.957.3453.

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