



Run Hou

2023 MEDIA GUIDE



WORLD ATHLETICS

World Athletics is the governing body for the sport of athletics including track and field, cross country running, road running, racewalking, mountain running and ultrarunning. The World Athletics Label Road Races program gathers the world's leading road races.

A World Athletics Label denotes a full application of the competition and technical rules in, at a minimum, the elite component of the competition. Labels also denote superior standards in event organization, safety, runner experience, and support from public authorities to the event as well as financial commitment to anti-doping.

"Elite," "Gold" and "Platinum" Labels indicate the existence of a world-class elite competition.

The Houston Marathon Committee (HMC) is the only race organizer in the United States to hold Gold Label status. The World Athletics Label has only assigned two races the Gold Label accreditation in the United States. Those two races are The Chevron Houston Marathon and The Aramco Houston Half Marathon, both held on the same day every winter here in Houston, Texas. Furthermore, HMC is the only race organizer globally to host Gold Label marathon and Gold Label half marathon on the same day.









AIMS

**Association of International
Marathons and Distance Races**

2023 CHEVRON HOUSTON MARATHON

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WELCOME TO HOUSTON



CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311
www.houstontx.gov

January 15, 2023

Greetings,

As Mayor of Houston, it is my pleasure to welcome the participants and supporters of the 2023 Chevron Houston Marathon, Aramco Houston Half Marathon and We Are Houston 5K presented by Aramco and Chevron.

The three-day weekend of events showcases Houston's cityscapes, culture and camaraderie. It also brings together more than 300,000 spectators, runners and volunteers to produce Houston's largest single-day sporting event on race-day Sunday. Once again, this year the race will feature 33,000 participants including a renowned field of some of the world's most talented professional runners set for record breaking performances.

As Houstonians, we believe that civic celebration is vital to the spirit of Houston and it is that belief, over the past 51 years, that has made the Houston Marathon a cherished tradition for us all. Annually, thousands of Houstonians volunteer their time, businesses offer their support and organizers work diligently to create an event that serves as a symbol of achievement for elite athletes and everyday runners alike.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of these generous sponsors and volunteers who unite annually to create this time-honored event and invite each of you as participants to do the same as you navigate your way through the bustle of the weekend.

The race is full of motivation and inspiration as the local community continues to display an overwhelming feeling of camaraderie in its rebuilding efforts. I encourage you to take in the enthusiasm the city has for each of you as runners, contribute to the positive energy of the events and truly be a part of the Houston spirit!

On behalf of the citizens of Houston, good luck and best wishes for a successful and memorable race.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvester Turner".

Sylvester Turner
Mayor



Council Members: Amy Peck Tarsha Jackson Abbie Kamin Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Dave Martin Tiffany D. Thomas Mary Nan Huffman Karla Cisneros
Robert Gallegos Edward Pollard Martha Castex-Tatum Mike Knox David W. Robinson Michael Kubosh Letitia Plummer Sallie Alcorn
Controller: Chris Brown

WELCOME TO HOUSTON



WADE MOREHEAD

*Executive Director,
Houston Marathon Committee, Inc.*

On behalf of the Houston Marathon Committee (HMC), it is an honor to welcome you to our world-class weekend of events for the 51st annual Chevron Houston Marathon, the Aramco Houston Half Marathon, and the We Are Houston 5K presented by Aramco and Chevron.

Whether you are an elite athlete or a new runner, our committee is dedicated to hosting your individual pursuits with the utmost care and respect for your extraordinary efforts over the past several months to toe the start line in downtown Houston on Sunday morning.

After setting two new American Records and two course records in the women's marathon and half marathon last year for our 50th anniversary weekend, we look excitedly to the start of our next 50 years in 2023. More than 40% of our field ran sub 4 hours on our marathon course in 2022 and we are seeing more runners across the globe travel to Houston every year with the intention of setting national or personal records on our flat, fast, and fun courses.

The Chevron Houston Marathon and the Aramco Houston Half Marathon are the only World Athletics labeled events hosted simultaneously and is the largest single-day sporting event hosted in Houston. This hallmark event generates over \$51 million in annual economic impact for the 4th largest city in the United States and showcases the most diverse city in the nation to thousands of national and international runners annually.

One of the greatest honors for the HMC is to serve as a primary fundraising platform for over 60 local philanthropies each year. The Run for a Reason (RFAR) charity program was launched in 1995 by the Houston Marathon Committee and in 2023 the total dollars raised by our amazing participants over the past 29 years will exceed the \$35 million plateau. This milestone could not have been achieved without the selfless efforts of every runner and program administrator whose collective efforts have contributed to the success of the RFAR program benefiting thousands in our community year-round.

One of the 185 charities that have participated in the RFAR program over the years is the Houston Marathon Foundation (HMF), which was created in 2008 as the philanthropic arm of the HMC and is celebrating its 15th anniversary of promoting the health and wellness benefits of long-distance running in the community. The HMF has supported numerous causes over the years including parks and trail development, hands-only CPR awareness, and American elite runner development, to name a few. Over the past 10 years, the HMF has provided training support, equipment, transportation, and race entries to 3,869 local at-risk students as a part of the We Run Houston after-school running program and has awarded \$240,000 in scholarships to local cross-country runners furthering their education at Texas colleges. Thank you to all who have contributed to these efforts and the positive impact in the Greater Houston Region.

We also thank our esteemed title sponsors, Chevron and Aramco, for decades of partnership in bolstering positive economic and philanthropic impact to fuel this diverse city and our annual event weekend. This event would not be possible without the investment from race partners, civic stakeholders, public safety agencies, volunteers, spectators, and dedicated runners. We thank all of you for the camaraderie built over the decades through the life-changing power of long-distance running.

We look forward to creating more memories together, today, and all year long. Have fun, be safe, RunHou!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wade Morehead". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



HOUSTON MARATHON COMMITTEE STAFF



WADE MOREHEAD

Executive Director



CARLY CAULFIELD

Race Director
& General Manager



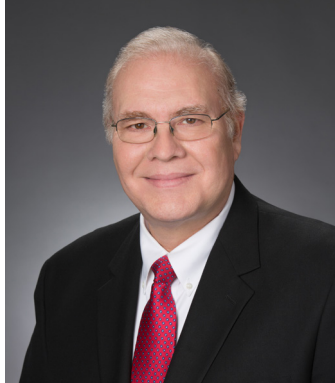
AMANDA SANDOVAL

Senior Director,
Participant Services



STEVE SCHNELL

Director, Marketing, Business
Development & HMF Programs



MIKE ROOT

Senior Manager, Course
Director



NATHAN SCHAFER

Senior Manager,
Event Production



LAUREN SMITH

Senior Manager, Participant
& Volunteer Services



COREY BROADWAY

Manager, Event Operations



CORA LINDSAY

Manager, Marketing &
Media Relations

HOUSTON MARATHON COMMITTEE STAFF



GREG HARRIS

Manager, Business Development & HMF Programs



NICHOLAS NORDMANN

Manager, Venue Operations



DOMINIQUE HERNANDEZ

Manager, Participant Services



KIM WARREN

Manager, Office Administration

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brant Kotch
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Charlie Bass
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MEDIA INFORMATION

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MEDIA INFORMATION

MEDIA CENTER CONTACTS

Media Center Contacts
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Cora Lindsay
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Houston Marathon Committee
(832) 526-2100

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@HoustonMarathon



facebook.com/houstonmarathon



[chevronhoustonmarathon](https://chevronhoustonmarathon.com)

RACE WEEK MEDIA CENTER

Hilton Americas
Ballroom of the Americas, Hall D,
Second Floor
1600 Lamar Street
Houston, TX 77010

Phone: 832.526.2100

Email: media@houstonmarathon.com

Media Center – Ballroom of the Americas,
Hall D, Second Floor
Media Accreditation – Ballroom of the
Americas, Hall D, Second Floor

HOURS OF OPERATION & PRESS CONFERENCES

Friday, January 13

Media Center Hours	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Media Accreditation	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Chevron and Aramco Charity Check Presentation	10 a.m.
Press Conference City Officials Update	10:30 a.m.
Elite Athlete Press Conference	11 a.m.

Saturday, January 14

Media Center Hours	7 a.m. – 2 p.m.
We Are Houston 5K presented by Aramco & Chevron	8 a.m.
Media Accreditation	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Sunday, January 15

Media Center Hours	5 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Wheelchair and Handcycle Start	6:50 a.m.
Open Start including Elite Athletes	7:01 a.m.
Champions Press Conference	10 a.m. (approx.)
Media Availability with HMC	Following
Finish Line Officially Closes	2 p.m. (approx.)

MEDIA INFORMATION

MEDIA CENTER PRESS SERVICES

Event media representatives and race information will be available in the Media Center throughout race weekend. The Media Center will be open to credentialed members of the working media during the listed hours of operation.

INTERVIEWS

Roundtable interviews will not be available. Interviews with elite athletes not attending the press conference must be requested in advance. Please email Cora Lindsay, clindsay@houstonmarathon.com.

RACE DAY SERVICES

- The ABC 13 broadcast will air live in the Media Center on race day from 7 - 10 a.m.
- Direct feeds of the men's and women's races will accompany the live broadcast in the Media Center to provide coverage of both races.
- A web link will be provided to track the leaders during the race. The tracking web site will include a race leader board, as well as 5K split times for the race leaders.
- Official race results will be available shortly after the completion of the race.
- The top finishers in both the men's and women's races will address the media in the Media Center following the completion of the race.
- Additional interviews with athletes will be available upon request. Please submit those requests to a member of the media relations team before the finish of the race.

RACES

Race	Distance	Participant Cap	Official Time Limit	Minimum Age
Marathon	26.2m/42.195km	13,500	Six hours	12
Half Marathon	13.1m/21.01km	13,500	Four hours	7
5K	3.1m/5.0km	6,000	90 minutes	7

START TIMES

Race	Date	Time
We Are Houston 5K presented by Aramco and Chevron	Jan. 14	8 a.m.
Wheelchair and Handcycle Start: Marathon, Half Marathon	Jan. 15	6:50 a.m.
Open: Marathon, Half Marathon	Jan. 15	7:01 a.m.

RACE RECORDS

Race	Gender	Time	Name	Country	Date
Marathon	Male	2:06:51	Tariku Jafur	Ethiopia	Jan. 15, 2012
	Female	2:19:12	Keira D'Amato	USA	Jan. 16, 2022
Half Marathon	Male	59:22	Feyisa Lilesa	Ethiopia	Jan. 15, 2012
	Female	1:05:03	Vicoty Chepngeno	Kenya	Jan. 16, 2022

AMERICAN RECORDS SET IN HOUSTON

Half Marathon - Ryan Hall, 59:43 in the 2007 Aramco Houston Half Marathon
Half Marathon - Molly Huddle, 1:07:25 in the 2018 Aramco Houston Half Marathon
Marathon - Keira D'Amato, 2:19:12 in the 2022 Chevron Houston Marathon
Half Marathon - Sara Hall, 1:07:15 in the 2022 Aramco Houston Half Marathon

MEDIA INFORMATION

2022 CHAMPIONS

Race	Gender	Time	Name	Country
Marathon	Male	2:11:03	James Ngandu	Kenya
	Female	2:19:12	Keira D'Amato	USA
Half Marathon	Male	1:00:24	Milkesa Tolosa	Ethiopia
	Female	1:05:03	Vicoty Chepngeno	Kenya

RUN FOR A REASON CHARITY PROGRAM

Connecting 35,000 runners with 63 nonprofit organizations, the Run for a Reason Charity Program provides an avenue for local nonprofits to raise awareness and funds through the event. This year the total funds raised exceeded \$35 million in charitable donations since the program's inception in 1995. Visit RunforaReasonHouston.org for additional information.

HOUSTON MARATHON HEALTH & FITNESS EXPO PRESENTED BY HOUSTON METHODIST

A free, two-day exposition open to the public, the EXPO annually attracts more than 50,000 runners and fitness enthusiasts. Attractions include seminars and demonstrations from hundreds of exhibitors as well as health and fitness information and tips, product samples and merchandise. The EXPO is also the location of packet pick-up for all races.

LOCATION

Hilton Americas
1600 Lamar St | Ballroom of Americas D, Second Floor
Houston, TX 77010

BROADCAST AND INTERNET STREAMING

KTRK-TV (ABC 13) will provide live coverage on race day from 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. and a same-day race recap special at 10:35 p.m. Races will be streamed live at www.abc13.com and www.ESPN3.com.

WEATHER

Average start time temperature: 45° F

Average finish time temperature: 60° F

TITLE SPONSORS

Chevron Marathon and 5K
Aramco Half Marathon and 5K

ABOUT THE HOUSTON MARATHON COMMITTEE, INC.

Houston Marathon Committee, Inc. (HMC), founded in 1972, is a founding member of Running USA. (HMC) organizes the nation's premier winter marathon, half marathon and 5K hosting over 300,000 participants, volunteers, and spectators on race day. Recognized by World Athletics, the Gold Label Chevron Houston Marathon has been the race site for three U.S. Olympic Trials Marathons. The Gold Label Aramco Houston Half Marathon has held 16 U.S. Half Marathon Championships. We are the only race organization to host two races on the same day with Gold Certification from the Council for Responsible Sport. These same races were awarded the 2015 AIMS Green Award for industry leading sustainability initiatives. Race weekend generates over \$50 million in economic impact for the region annually. The committee has raised \$35 million through the Run for a Reason Charity Program since its inception. The event received national and international syndication in 2016. Our races are aired on ABC 13 and ESPN3. For more information, visit www.chevronhoustonmarathon.com.

PRIZE PURSES

The 2023 Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon prize purses are as follows:

Marathon Prize Money (equal for men and women)

Place	Prize Purse
1st	\$30,000
2nd.....	\$15,000
3rd	\$10,000
4th.....	\$5,000
5th.....	\$4,000
6th.....	\$3,000
7th.....	\$2,000
8th.....	\$1,000

Half Marathon Prize Money (equal for men and women)

Place	Prize Purse
1st	\$10,000
2nd.....	\$5,000
3rd	\$4,000
4th.....	\$3,000
5th.....	\$2,000

Record Incentives

Masters

1st	\$1,500
2nd.....	\$1,000
3rd	\$500

Half Marathon Course Record.....	\$15,000
Half Marathon American Record.....	\$10,000
World Record.....	\$50,000

Record Incentives

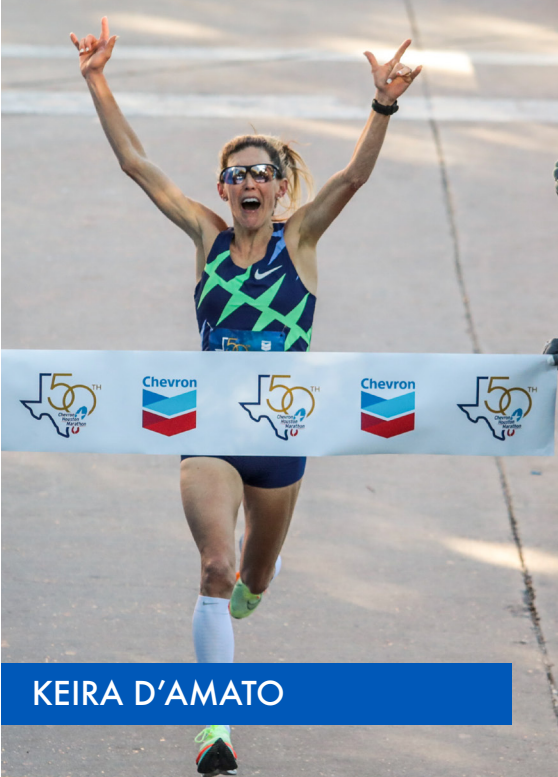
Marathon Course Record.....	\$35,000
Marathon American Record.....	\$25,000
World Record.....	\$100,000

PRIZE PURSE DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Place and prize money are determined by official gun time. All bonuses are noncumulative – including the race record and world record bonus. If more than one athlete breaks the race record, the world record, or both, the bonus shall only be awarded to the athlete with the fastest time. Runners may win prize money in the Open or Masters categories.

Prize money is subject to U.S. Federal Tax Laws. Monies are not paid until receipt of all drug testing results.

2022 WINNERS



KEIRA D'AMATO



JAMES NGANDU



VICOTY CHEPNGENO



MILKESA TOLOSA

METRIC PACE CHART

1K	5K	10K	15K	20K	½ Mara	25K	30K	35K	40K	Mara
2:54	14:30	29:00	43:30	58:00	1:01:11	1:12:30	1:27:00	1:41:30	1:56:00	2:02:22
2:55	14:35	29:10	43:45	58:20	1:01:32	1:12:55	1:27:30	1:42:05	1:56:40	2:03:04
2:56	14:40	29:20	44:00	58:40	1:01:53	1:13:20	1:28:00	1:42:40	1:57:20	2:03:46
2:57	14:45	29:30	44:15	59:00	1:02:14	1:13:45	1:28:30	1:43:15	1:58:00	2:04:29
2:58	14:50	29:40	44:30	59:20	1:02:35	1:14:10	1:29:00	1:43:50	1:58:40	2:05:11
2:59	14:55	29:50	44:45	59:40	1:02:56	1:14:35	1:29:30	1:44:25	1:59:20	2:05:53
3:00	15:00	30:00	45:00	1:00:00	1:03:18	1:15:00	1:30:00	1:45:00	2:00:00	2:06:35
3:01	15:05	30:10	45:15	1:00:20	1:03:39	1:15:25	1:30:30	1:45:35	2:00:40	2:07:17
3:02	15:10	30:20	45:30	1:00:40	1:04:00	1:15:50	1:31:00	1:46:10	2:01:20	2:07:59
3:03	15:15	30:30	45:45	1:01:00	1:04:21	1:16:15	1:31:30	1:46:45	2:02:00	2:08:42
3:04	15:20	30:40	46:00	1:01:20	1:04:42	1:16:40	1:32:00	1:47:20	2:02:40	2:09:24
3:05	15:25	30:50	46:15	1:01:40	1:05:03	1:17:05	1:32:30	1:47:55	2:03:20	2:10:06
3:06	15:30	31:00	46:30	1:02:00	1:05:24	1:17:30	1:33:00	1:48:30	2:04:00	2:10:48
3:07	15:35	31:10	46:45	1:02:20	1:05:45	1:17:55	1:33:30	1:49:05	2:04:40	2:11:30
3:08	15:40	31:20	47:00	1:02:40	1:06:06	1:18:20	1:34:00	1:49:40	2:05:20	2:12:13
3:09	15:45	31:30	47:15	1:03:00	1:06:27	1:18:45	1:34:30	1:50:15	2:06:00	2:12:55
3:10	15:50	31:40	47:30	1:03:20	1:06:49	1:19:10	1:35:00	1:50:50	2:06:40	2:13:37
3:11	15:55	31:50	47:45	1:03:40	1:07:10	1:19:35	1:35:30	1:51:25	2:07:20	2:14:19
3:12	16:00	32:00	48:00	1:04:00	1:07:31	1:20:00	1:36:00	1:52:00	2:08:00	2:15:01
3:13	16:05	32:10	48:15	1:04:20	1:07:52	1:20:25	1:36:30	1:52:35	2:08:40	2:15:44
3:14	16:10	32:20	48:30	1:04:40	1:08:13	1:20:50	1:37:00	1:53:10	2:09:20	2:16:26
3:15	16:15	32:30	48:45	1:05:00	1:08:34	1:21:15	1:37:30	1:53:45	2:10:00	2:17:08
3:16	16:20	32:40	49:00	1:05:20	1:08:55	1:21:40	1:38:00	1:54:20	2:10:40	2:17:50
3:17	16:25	32:50	49:15	1:05:40	1:09:16	1:22:05	1:38:30	1:54:55	2:11:20	2:18:32
3:18	16:30	33:00	49:30	1:06:00	1:09:37	1:22:30	1:39:00	1:55:30	2:12:00	2:19:15
3:19	16:35	33:10	49:45	1:06:20	1:09:58	1:22:55	1:39:30	1:56:05	2:12:40	2:19:57
3:20	16:40	33:20	50:00	1:06:40	1:10:19	1:23:20	1:40:00	1:56:40	2:13:20	2:20:39
3:21	16:45	33:30	50:15	1:07:00	1:10:41	1:23:45	1:40:30	1:57:15	2:14:00	2:21:21
3:22	16:50	33:40	50:30	1:07:20	1:11:02	1:24:10	1:41:00	1:57:50	2:14:40	2:22:03
3:23	16:55	33:50	50:45	1:07:40	1:11:23	1:24:35	1:41:30	1:58:25	2:15:20	2:22:46
3:24	17:00	34:00	51:00	1:08:00	1:11:44	1:25:00	1:42:00	1:59:00	2:16:00	2:23:28
3:25	17:05	34:10	51:15	1:08:20	1:12:05	1:25:25	1:42:30	1:59:35	2:16:40	2:24:10
3:26	17:10	34:20	51:30	1:08:40	1:12:26	1:25:50	1:43:00	2:00:10	2:17:20	2:24:52
3:27	17:15	34:30	51:45	1:09:00	1:12:47	1:26:15	1:43:30	2:00:45	2:18:00	2:25:34
3:28	17:20	34:40	52:00	1:09:20	1:13:08	1:26:40	1:44:00	2:01:20	2:18:40	2:26:17
3:29	17:25	34:50	52:15	1:09:40	1:13:29	1:27:05	1:44:30	2:01:55	2:19:20	2:26:59
3:30	17:30	35:00	52:30	1:10:00	1:13:50	1:27:30	1:45:00	2:02:30	2:20:00	2:27:41
3:31	17:35	35:10	52:45	1:10:20	1:14:12	1:27:55	1:45:30	2:03:05	2:20:40	2:28:23
3:32	17:40	35:20	53:00	1:10:40	1:14:33	1:28:20	1:46:00	2:03:40	2:21:20	2:29:05
3:33	17:45	35:30	53:15	1:11:00	1:14:54	1:28:45	1:46:30	2:04:15	2:22:00	2:29:48
3:34	17:50	35:40	53:30	1:11:20	1:15:15	1:29:10	1:47:00	2:04:50	2:22:40	2:30:30
3:35	17:55	35:50	53:45	1:11:40	1:15:36	1:29:35	1:47:30	2:05:25	2:23:20	2:31:12
3:36	18:00	36:00	54:00	1:12:00	1:15:57	1:30:00	1:48:00	2:06:00	2:24:00	2:31:54
3:37	18:05	36:10	54:15	1:12:20	1:16:18	1:30:25	1:48:30	2:06:35	2:24:40	2:32:36
3:38	18:10	36:20	54:30	1:12:40	1:16:39	1:30:50	1:49:00	2:07:10	2:25:20	2:33:19
3:39	18:15	36:30	54:45	1:13:00	1:17:00	1:31:15	1:49:30	2:07:45	2:26:00	2:34:01
3:40	18:20	36:40	55:00	1:13:20	1:17:21	1:31:40	1:50:00	2:08:20	2:26:40	2:34:43
3:41	18:25	36:50	55:15	1:13:40	1:17:43	1:32:05	1:50:30	2:08:55	2:27:20	2:35:25
3:42	18:30	37:00	55:30	1:14:00	1:18:04	1:32:30	1:51:00	2:09:30	2:28:00	2:36:07
3:43	18:35	37:10	55:45	1:14:20	1:18:25	1:32:55	1:51:30	2:10:05	2:28:40	2:36:49
3:44	18:40	37:20	56:00	1:14:40	1:18:46	1:33:20	1:52:00	2:10:40	2:29:20	2:37:32
3:45	18:45	37:30	56:15	1:15:00	1:19:07	1:33:45	1:52:30	2:11:15	2:30:00	2:38:14
3:46	18:50	37:40	56:30	1:15:20	1:19:28	1:34:10	1:53:00	2:11:50	2:30:40	2:38:56
3:47	18:55	37:50	56:45	1:15:40	1:19:49	1:34:35	1:53:30	2:12:25	2:31:20	2:39:38
3:48	19:00	38:00	57:00	1:16:00	1:20:10	1:35:00	1:54:00	2:13:00	2:32:00	2:40:20
3:49	19:05	38:10	57:15	1:16:20	1:20:31	1:35:25	1:54:30	2:13:35	2:32:40	2:41:03
3:50	19:10	38:20	57:30	1:16:40	1:20:52	1:35:50	1:55:00	2:14:10	2:33:20	2:41:45

MILE PACE CHART

Mile Pace	5 Miles	10 Miles	Half 13.1	15 Miles	20 Miles	Marathon 26.2
4:45	23:45	47:30	1:02:16	1:11:15	1:35:00	2:04:33
4:50	24:10	48:20	1:03:52	1:12:30	1:36:40	2:07:44
5:00	25:00	50:00	1:05:33	1:15:00	1:40:00	2:11:06
5:10	25:50	51:40	1:07:44	1:17:30	1:43:20	2:15:28
5:15	26:15	52:30	1:08:50	1:18:45	1:45:00	2:17:40
5:20	26:40	53:20	1:09:55	1:20:00	1:46:50	2:19:50
5:30	27:30	55:00	1:12:08	1:22:30	1:50:00	2:24:12
5:40	28:20	56:40	1:14:10	1:25:00	1:53:20	2:28:20
5:45	28:45	57:30	1:15:23	1:26:15	1:55:00	2:30:46
5:50	29:10	58:20	1:16:28	1:27:30	1:56:40	2:32:56
6:00	30:00	1:00:00	1:18:39	1:30:00	2:00:00	2:37:19
6:10	30:50	1:01:40	1:20:50	1:32:30	2:03:20	2:41:41
6:15	31:15	1:02:30	1:21:56	1:33:45	2:05:00	2:43:53
6:20	31:40	1:03:20	1:23:01	1:35:00	2:06:40	2:46:03
6:30	32:30	1:05:00	1:25:13	1:37:30	2:10:00	2:50:25
6:40	33:20	1:06:40	1:27:23	1:40:00	2:13:20	2:54:47
6:45	33:45	1:07:30	1:28:29	1:41:15	2:15:00	2:56:59
6:50	34:10	1:08:20	1:29:34	1:42:30	2:16:40	2:59:09
7:00	35:00	1:10:00	1:31:46	1:45:00	2:20:00	3:03:33
7:10	35:50	1:11:40	1:33:57	1:47:30	2:23:20	3:07:55
7:15	36:15	1:12:30	1:35:03	1:48:45	2:25:00	3:10:06
7:20	36:40	1:13:20	1:36:08	1:50:00	2:26:40	3:12:17
7:30	37:30	1:15:00	1:38:19	1:52:30	2:30:00	3:16:39
7:40	38:20	1:16:40	1:40:30	1:55:00	2:33:20	3:21:01
7:45	38:45	1:17:30	1:41:36	1:56:15	2:35:00	3:23:13
7:50	39:10	1:18:20	1:42:41	1:57:30	2:36:40	3:25:23
8:00	40:00	1:20:00	1:44:53	2:00:00	2:40:00	3:29:45
8:10	40:50	1:21:40	1:47:03	2:02:30	2:43:20	3:34:07
8:15	41:15	1:22:30	1:48:10	2:03:45	2:45:00	3:36:20
8:20	41:40	1:23:20	1:49:14	2:05:00	2:46:40	3:38:29
8:30	42:30	1:25:00	1:51:26	2:07:30	2:50:00	3:42:51
8:40	43:20	1:26:40	1:53:06	2:10:00	2:53:20	3:47:13
8:45	43:45	1:27:30	1:54:43	2:11:15	2:55:00	3:49:26
8:50	44:10	1:28:20	1:55:17	2:12:30	2:56:40	3:51:35
9:00	45:00	1:30:00	1:57:59	2:15:00	3:00:00	3:56:00
9:10	45:50	1:31:40	2:00:11	2:17:30	3:03:20	4:00:22
9:15	46:15	1:32:30	2:01:16	2:18:45	3:05:00	4:02:32
9:20	46:40	1:33:20	2:02:22	2:20:00	3:06:40	4:04:44
9:30	47:30	1:35:00	2:04:33	2:22:30	3:10:00	4:09:06
9:40	48:20	1:36:40	2:06:44	2:25:00	3:13:20	4:13:28
9:45	48:45	1:37:30	2:07:49	2:26:15	3:15:00	4:15:33
9:50	49:10	1:38:20	2:08:55	2:27:30	3:16:40	4:17:50
10:00	50:00	1:40:00	2:11:06	2:30:00	3:20:00	4:22:13

FINISHERS BY YEAR & GENDER

Marathon

Year	Male	Female	Total
2022	3,951	2,337	6,288
2021	991	674	1,665
2020	4,310	2,613	6,923
2019	4,093	2,628	6,721
2018	4,340	2,691	7,031
2017	4,331	2,823	7,154
2016	4,776	3,026	7,802
2015	4,284	2,720	7,004
2014	4,359	2,586	6,945
2013	4,031	2,499	6,530
2012	4,819	2,795	7,614
2011	4,315	2,537	6,852
2010	3,911	2,376	6,287
2009	3,480	1,869	5,349
2008	3,469	2,050	5,519
2007	3,294	2,009	5,303
2006	3,423	1,991	5,414
2005	3,706	2,012	5,718
2004	3,533	1,820	5,353
2003	3,127	1,586	4,713
2002	2,835	1,409	4,244
2001	2,732	1,212	3,944
2000	2,975	1,429	4,404
1999	3,013	1,356	4,369
1998	3,108	1,351	4,459
1997	3,040	1,250	4,290
1996	3,205	1,156	4,361
1995	3,401	1,009	4,410
1994	3,102	819	3,921
1993	2,791	733	3,524
1992	3,054	735	3,789
1991	3,130	668	3,798
1990	2,633	604	3,237
1989	2,657	538	3,195
1988	2,557	516	3,073
1987	2,405	444	2,849
1986	2,228	392	2,620
1985	1,593	297	1,890
1984	1,817	276	2,093
1983	1,820	240	2,060
1982	1,632	229	1,861
1981	2,137	271	2,408
1980	1,318	148	1,466
1979	1,105	68	1,173
1978	546	27	573
1977	278	18	296
1976	136	9	145
1975	71	4	75
1973	56	2	58
1972	72	1	73

Half Marathon

Year	Male	Female	Total
2022	5,160	6,098	11,258
2021	1,936	1,432	3,368
2020	5,997	7,452	13,449
2019	5,571	7,043	12,614
2018	4,889	6,199	11,088
2017	4,986	6,430	11,416
2016	4,751	6,328	11,079
2015	5,047	6,617	11,664
2014	4,476	6,024	10,500
2013	4,460	5,605	10,065
2012	4,161	5,213	9,374
2011	4,081	5,232	9,313
2010	4,186	5,732	9,918
2009	3,546	4,788	8,334
2008	3,379	4,847	8,226
2007	2,882	3,975	6,857
2006	3,288	4,063	7,351
2005	3,106	3,626	6,732
2004	2,658	2,549	5,207
2003	1,920	2,070	3,990
2002	1,386	1,289	2,675

RACE DAY TEMPERATURES

Year	Date	Low	High
2022	Jan. 16	35	59
2021	Jan. 17	41	66
2020	Jan. 19	46	61
2019	Jan. 20	33	52
2018	Jan. 14	33	53
2017	Jan. 15	63	75
2016	Jan. 17	36	57
2015	Jan. 18	46	66
2014	Jan. 19	47	70
2013	Jan. 13	44	48
2012	Jan. 15	40	68
2011	Jan. 30	59	74
2010	Jan. 17	44	62
2009	Jan. 18	56	72
2008	Jan. 13	45	65
2007	Jan. 14	47	74
2006	Jan. 15	47	72
2005	Jan. 16	36	57
2004	Jan. 18	48	58
2003	Jan. 19	31	64
2002	Jan. 20	33	55
2001	Jan. 14	49	70
2000	Jan. 16	51	79
1999	Jan. 17	63	78
1998	Jan. 18	52	76
1997	Jan. 12	30	38
1996	Jan. 21	51	57
1995	Jan. 15	36	67
1994	Jan. 16	47	68
1993	Jan. 24	35	62
1992	Jan. 26	52	61
1991	Jan. 20	40	64
1990	Jan. 14	60	73
1989	Jan. 15	31	64
1988	Jan. 17	59	75
1987	Jan. 18	38	54
1986	Jan. 19	73**	86**
1985	Jan. 6	30	60
1984	Jan. 15	37	42
1983	Jan. 16	34	54
1982	Jan. 24	35	66
1981	Jan. 10	41	64
1980	Jan. 19	56	67
1979	Jan. 20	53	65
1978	Jan. 21	25*	31*
1977	Jan. 22	33	51
1976	Jan. 17	30	61
1975	Jan. 18	58	73
1973	Dec. 29	67	78
1972	Dec. 30	55	72

Temperatures in Fahrenheit

*Coldest

**Warmest



COURSE INFORMATION

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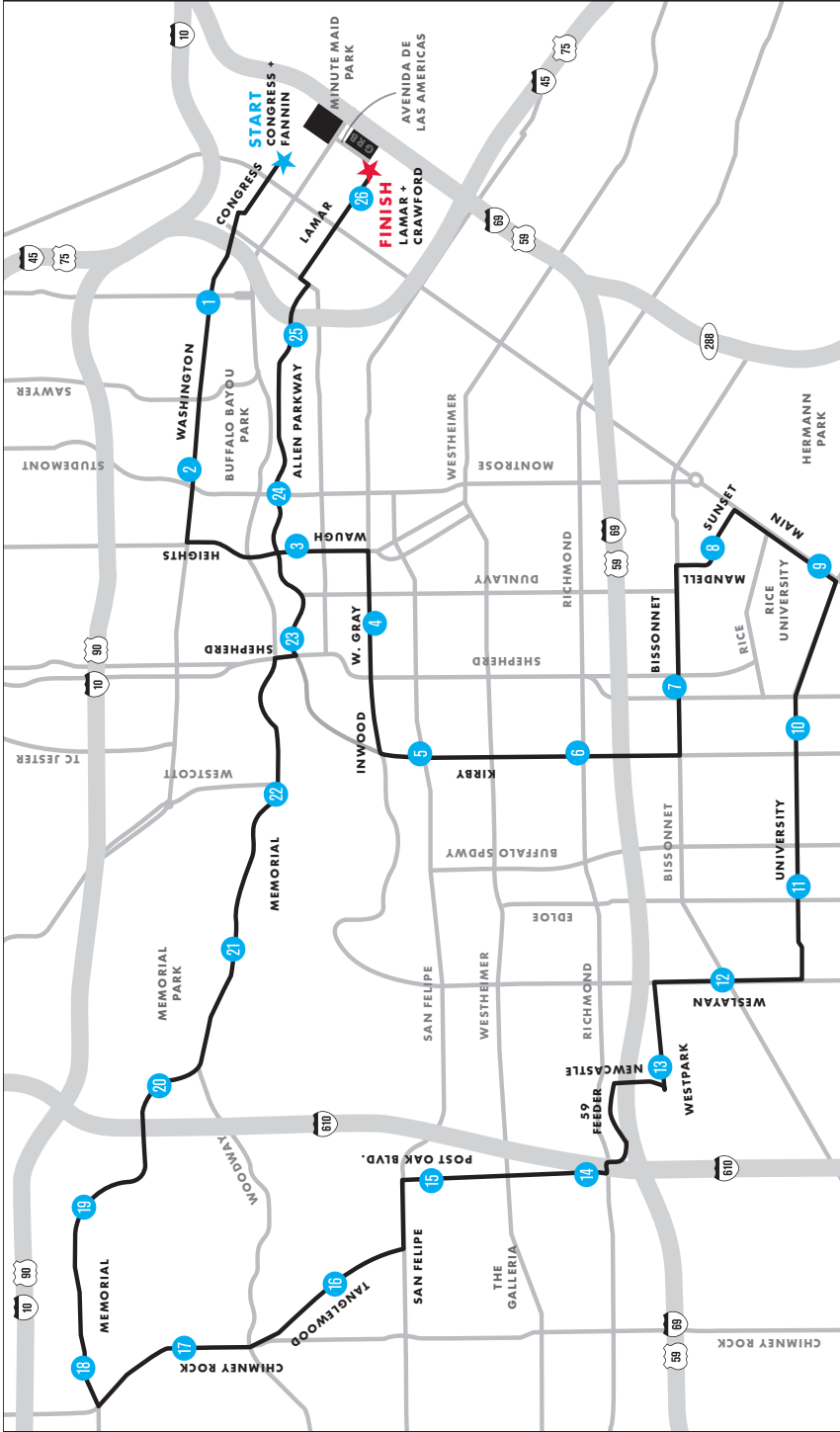
[#HouMarathon](#)

[#HouHalf](#)

[#RunHou](#)

[#Hou5k](#)

CHEVRON HOUSTON MARATHON MAP



COURSE MAP CHEVRON HOUSTON MARATHON



★ FINISH
LAMAR + CRAWFORD

★ START
CONGRESS + FANNIN

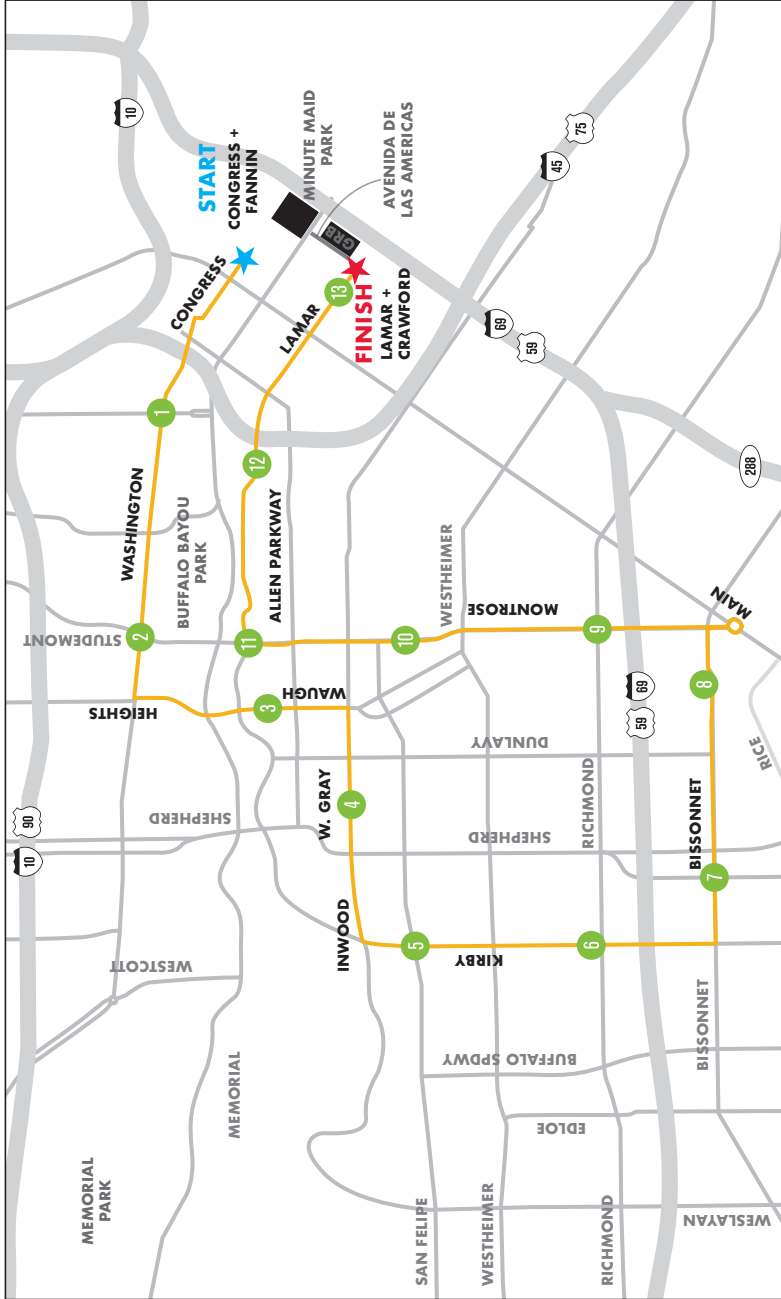
● MILE
MARKER





— CHEVRON HOUSTON
MARATHON

ARAMCO HOUSTON HALF MARATHON MAP



COURSE MAP ARAMCO HOUSTON HALF MARATHON

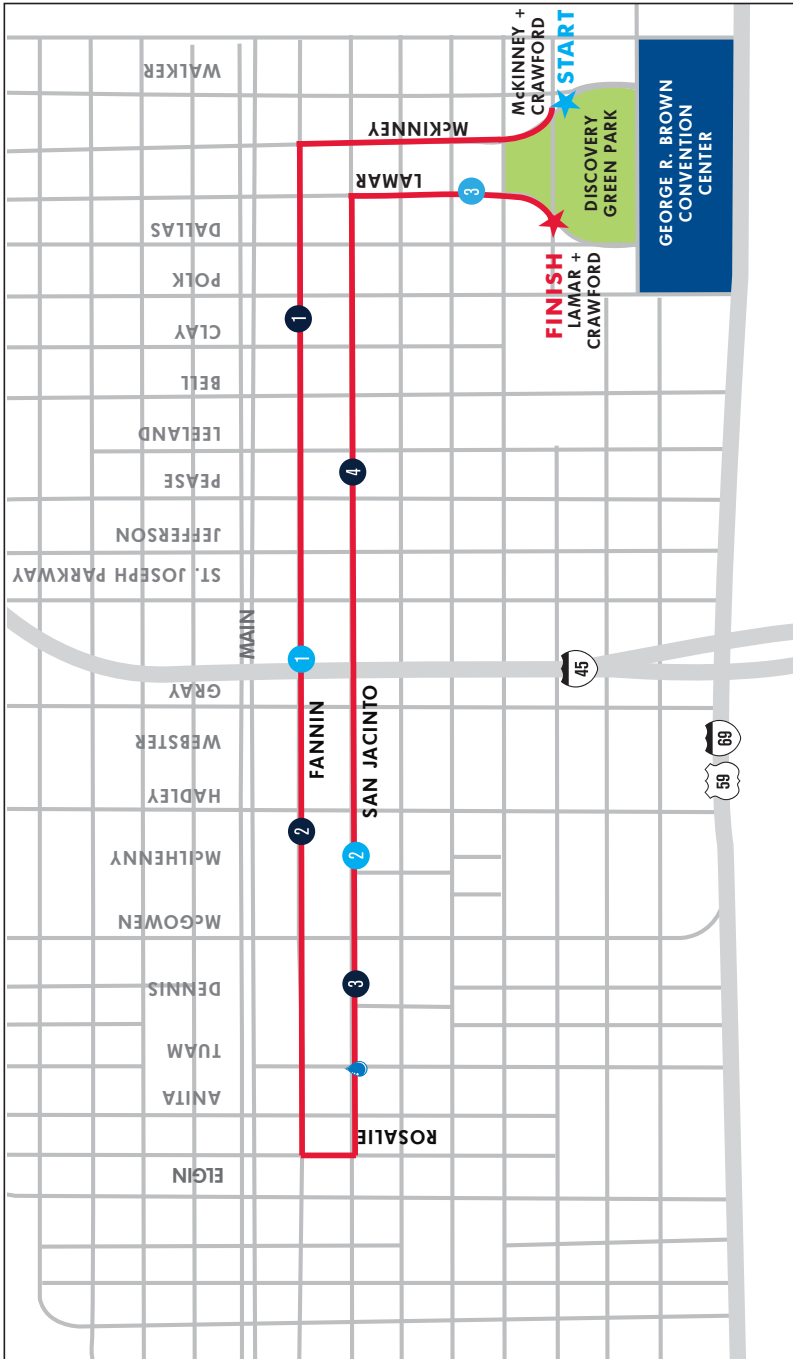




-  ARAMCO HOUSTON HALF MARATHON
-  MILE MARKER
-  START CONGRESS + FANNIN
-  FINISH LAMAR + CRAWFORD

WE ARE HOUSTON 5K PRESENTED BY CHEVRON & ARAMCO

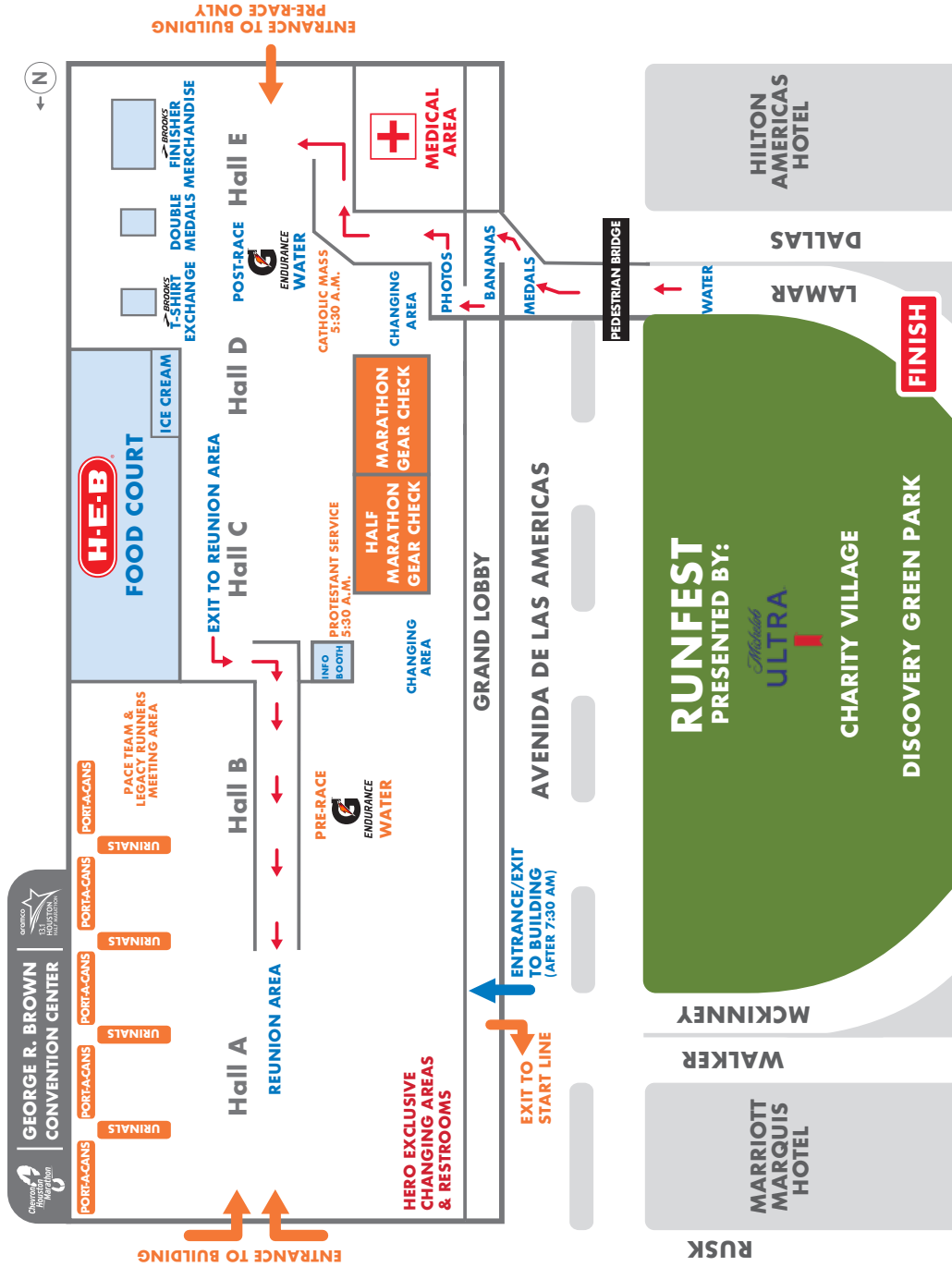


We Are Houston 5K

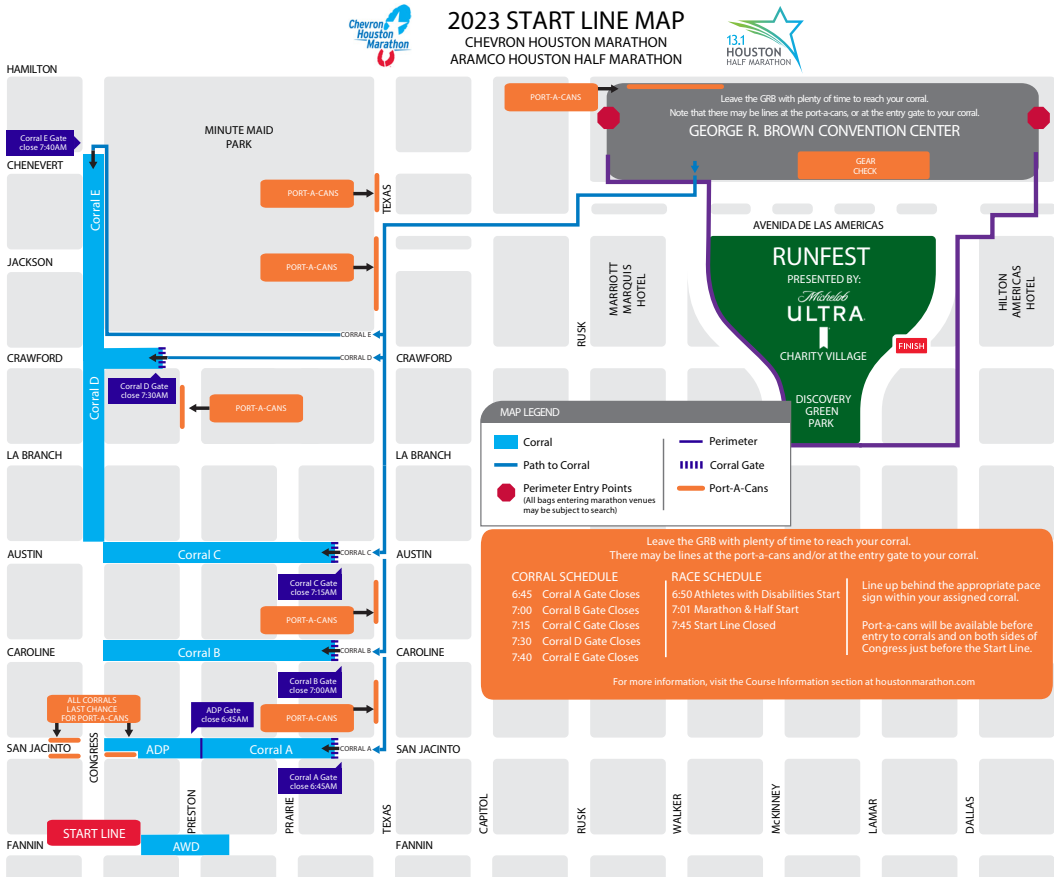


-  FINISH
LAMAR + CRAWFORD
-  START
MCKINNEY + CRAWFORD
-  REFUELING
STATION
-  KILOMETER
MARKER
-  MILE
MARKER

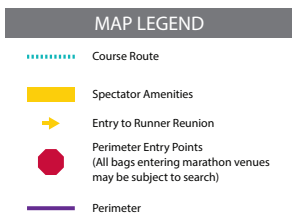
GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER



START & FINISH LINE MAPS



2023 FINISH LINE MAP
CHEVRON HOUSTON MARATHON
ARAMCO HOUSTON HALF MARATHON



Meet your friends and family in Runner Reunion after the race

- Alphabetical signs will be clearly visible
- Plan to meet under the first letter of the runner's last name

For spectators arriving after 7:30 a.m. recommended parking: north of Rusk St.

SCHEDULE

5:00 a.m.	GRB Opens
7:01 a.m.	Race Start
8:00 a.m.	RunFest Presented By Michelob Ultra Opens Charity Village Opens
2:00 p.m.	Finish Line Closes
2:30 p.m.	GRB Closes RunFest Presented By Michelob Ultra Closes Charity Village Closes





MARATHON RESULTS & RECORDS

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[#Hou5k](#)

2022 HOUSTON MARATHON TOP 10

Men

Place	Name	Country	Age	Time
1	James Ngandu	KEN	31	2:11:03
2	Abdi Abdo	BHR	24	2:11:11
3	Elisha Barno	KEN	36	2:11:16
4	Kenta Uchida	JPN	25	2:11:19
5	Kelkile Gezahegn	ETH	25	2:11:20
6	Frank Lara	USA	26	2:11:32
7	Luke Caldwell	GBR	30	2:11:33
8	Josh Izewski	USA	31	2:12:45
9	Augustus Maiyo	USA	38	2:13:17
10	Rodgers Ondati Gesabwa	KEN	34	2:14:46

Women

Place	Name	Country	Age	Time
1	Keira D'Amato	USA	37	2:19:12
2	Alice Wright	GBR	27	2:29:08
3	Maggie Montoya	USA	26	2:29:08
4	Roberta Groner	USA	44	2:32:02
5	Atsede Tesema	ETH	34	2:32:38
6	Brittney Feivor	USA	27	2:32:39
7	Kathya Mirell Garcia Barrios	MEX	34	2:32:54
8	Christina Welsh	USA	25	2:33:00
9	Molly Bookmyer	USA	30	2:33:19
10	Andrea Pomaranski	USA	39	2:33:35

ALL-TIME HOUSTON MARATHON MALE WINNERS

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	James Ngandu	Kenya	31	2:11:03
2020	Kelkile Gezahegn	Ethiopia	23	2:08:36
2019	Albert Korir	Kenya	24	2:10:02
2018	Bazu Worku	Ethiopia	27	2:08:30
2017	Dominic Ondoro	Kenya	28	2:12:05
2016	Birhanu Gedefa**	Ethiopia	31	2:11:53
2015	Birhanu Gedefa	Ethiopia	30	2:08:03
2014	Bazu Worku	Ethiopia	23	2:07:32
2013	Bazu Worku	Ethiopia	22	2:10:17
2012	Tariku Jufar	Ethiopia	27	2:06:51*
2011	Bekana Daba	Ethiopia	22	2:07:04
2010	Teshome Gelana	Ethiopia	20	2:07:37
2009	Deriba Merga	Ethiopia	28	2:07:52
2008	David Cheruiyot	Kenya	37	2:12:32
2007	Feyisa Tusse	Ethiopia	23	2:11:39
2006	David Cheruiyot	Kenya	35	2:12:02
2005	David Cheruiyot	Kenya	34	2:14:50
2004	Marek Jaroszewski	Poland	28	2:18:51
2003	Sean Wade	United States	36	2:24:43
2002	Drew Pisner	United States	20	2:28:43
2001	Christopher Ciamarra	United States	30	2:29:27
2000	Stephen Ndungu	Ethiopia	32	2:11:27
1999	Stephen Ndungu	Ethiopia	31	2:14:56
1998	Stephen Ndungu	Ethiopia	30	2:11:23
1997	Ake Eriksson	Sweden	34	2:19:21
1996	Turbo Tumo	Ethiopia	26	2:10:34
1995	Peter Fonseca	Canada	28	2:11:52
1994	Colin Moore	United States	33	2:13:34
1993	Frank Bjorkli	Norway	27	2:13:21
1992	Filemon Lopez	Mexico	33	2:13:12
1991	Carey Nelson	Canada	27	2:12:28
1990	Paul Pilkington	United States	31	2:11:13
1989	Richard C. Kaitany	Kenya	32	2:10:04
1988	Geir Kvernmo	Norway	32	2:11:44
1987	Derrick May	South Africa	31	2:11:51
1986	Paul Cummings	United States	32	2:11:31
1985	Marty Froelick	United States	26	2:11:13
1984	Charlie Spedding	Great Britain	31	2:11:54
1983	Haliu Ebba	United States	32	2:12:17
1982	Benji Durden	United States	30	2:11:11
1981	Bill Rodgers	United States	33	2:12:19
1980	Ron Tabb	United States	25	2:13:36
1979	Tom Antczak	United States	28	2:15:28
1978	Ron Tabb	United States	23	2:17:15
1977	Clent Mericle	United States	23	2:27:46
1976	Jeff Wells	United States	21	2:17:46
1975	Clent Mericle	United States	21	2:35:00
1974	Juan Garza	United States	29	2:35:00
1973	Juan Garza	United States	28	2:37:47
1972	Danny Green	United States	24	2:32:33

*Race and Texas Record

**Birhanu Gedefa awarded the title following the sanctioning and disqualification of the 1st and 2nd place finishers by USADA and the IAAF.

ALL-TIME HOUSTON MARATHON FEMALE WINNERS

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Keira D'Amato	United States	37	2:19:12
2020	Askale Merachi	Ethiopia	33	2:23:29
2019	Biruktayit Degefa	Ethiopia	28	2:23:28
2018	Biruktayit Degefa	Ethiopia	27	2:24:51
2017	Meskerem Assefa Wondimagegn	Ethiopia	31	2:30:18
2016	Biruktayit Degefa	Ethiopia	25	2:26:07
2015	Yebrgual Arage	Ethiopia	24	2:23:23
2014	Abebech Bekele	Ethiopia	23	2:25:52
2013	Merima Mohammed	Ethiopia	20	2:23:37
2012	Alemitu Abera	Ethiopia	26	2:23:14*
2011	Mamitu Daska	Ethiopia	27	2:26:33
2010	Teyba Erkesso	Ethiopia	27	2:23:53
2009	Teyba Erkesso	Ethiopia	26	2:24:18
2008	Dire Tune	Ethiopia	22	2:24:40
2007	Dire Tune	Ethiopia	21	2:26:52
2006	Firaya Sultanova-Zhdanova	Russia	44	2:32:25
2005	Kelly Keane	United States	32	2:32:27
2004	Margarita Tapia	Mexico	27	2:28:36
2003	Albina Gallyamova	United States	38	2:42:37
2002	Becky Sondag	United States	32	2:50:49
2001	Stacie Albourek	United States	33	2:43:41
2000	Tatyana Pozdnyakova	Ukraine	44	2:32:24
1999	Tatyana Pozdnyakova	Ukraine	43	2:33:23
1998	Gwynneth Coogan	United States	32	2:33:37
1997	Claudia Dreher	Germany	25	2:36:13
1996	Adriana Fernandez	Mexico	24	2:31:59
1995	Tatyana Pozdnyakova	Ukraine	39	2:29:57
1994	Alevtina Naoumova	United States	33	2:34:47
1993	Kristy Johnston	United States	27	2:29:05
1992	Kimberley Webb	Canada	28	2:50:17
1991	Veronique Marot	Great Britain	35	2:30:55
1990	Maria Trujillo	United States	30	2:32:55
1989	Veronique Marot	Great Britain	33	2:30:16
1988	Linda Zeman	United States	27	2:34:52
1987	Bente Moe	Norway	26	2:32:37
1986	Veronique Marot	Great Britain	30	2:31:33
1985	Sylvia Ruegger	Canada	23	2:28:36
1984	Ingrid Kristiansen	Norway	27	2:27:51
1983	Ingrid Kristiansen	Norway	26	2:33:27
1982	Laurie Binder	United States	34	2:40:57
1981	Patti Catalano	United States	27	2:35:27
1980	Vanessa Vajdos	United States	28	2:44:45
1979	Sue Peterson	United States	34	2:46:17
1978	Peggy Kokernot	United States	25	3:01:54
1977	Dorothy Doolittle	United States	30	3:00:34
1976	Marsha Johnson	United States	18	3:37:04
1975	Dorothy Doolittle	United States	28	3:31:24
1973	Nancy Laird	United States	32	4:29:09
1972	Tanya Trantham	United States	14	5:11:55

HOUSTON MARATHON MASTERS MALE WINNERS

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Steve Lawrence	Canada	43	2:25:22
2020	Jose Amado Garcia Gabriel	Guatemala	42	2:20:22
2019	Jorge Maravilla	United States - Mill Valley, Calif.	41	2:24:59
2018	Juan Carlos Romero	Mexico	40	2:20:52
2017	Peter Lawrence	United States - Texas	45	2:37:02
2016	Tomas Luna	Mexico	40	2:23:37
2015	Cesar Martins	Brazil	43	2:23:16
2014	Peter Lawrence	United States - Texas	42	2:31:56
2013	Chris Knorzer	United States - Rocklin, Calif.	43	2:31:38
2012	Brian Pilcher	United States - Ross, Calif.	55	2:34:57
2011	David Cheruiyot	Kenya	40	2:24:07
2010	Sean Wade	United States - Houston, Texas	43	2:33:23
2009	Wilmer Bustillos	Venezuela	43	2:32:36
2008	John Hill	United States - Kingwood, Texas	40	2:40:46
2007	Sean Wade	United States - Houston, Texas	40	2:20:29
2006	Russell Boore	United States - Hampton, Ill.	44	2:34:06
2005	Joe Flores	United States - Houston, Texas	45	2:35:03
2004	Gennady Temnikov	United States - Gaithersburg, Md.	42	2:24:40
2003	Joe Flores	United States - Houston, Texas	43	2:41:10
2002	Joe Flores	United States - Houston, Texas	42	2:34:54
2001	John Zuilhof	United States - Katy, Texas	41	2:41:26
2000	Petr Klimes	Czech Republic	41	2:22:09
1999	Andrey Kuznetsov	Russia	41	2:19:56
1998	Andrey Kuznetsov	Russia	40	2:16:45 *
1997	Yuri Mikhailov	Russia	43	2:24:48
1996	Antoni Niemczak	United States - Rochester, N.Y.	40	2:21:46
1995	Bob Schlaw	United States - Charleston, S.C.	47	2:26:43
1994	Yuri Mikhailov	Russia	40	2:20:34
1993	Leonid Mosseyev	Russia	40	2:29:37
1992	Don Paul	United States - San Francisco, Calif.	41	2:26:56
1991	Luis Lopez	Costa Rica	41	2:18:59
1990	John Custy	United States - Colo.	41	2:28:07
1989	Kjell-Erik Stahl	Sweden	42	2:23:12
1988	Robert Schlaw	United States - Charleston, S.C.	40	2:22:25
1987	Brian Scobie	Great Britain	42	2:30:59
1986	Bruce Mortenson	United States - Minnetonka, Minn.	42	2:23:40
1985	William Johnston	United States - Salt Lake City, Utah	47	2:35:20
1984	John Hobbs	United States - Houston, Texas	42	2:37:48
1983	Mike Manley	United States - Eugene, Ore.	40	2:17:10
1982	Tom Mayfield	United States - San Angelo, Texas	43	2:29:28
1981	Tom Mayfield	United States - San Angelo, Texas	42	2:34:10
1980	Tom Mayfield	United States - San Angelo, Texas	41	2:32:22
1979	Tom Mayfield	United States - San Angelo, Texas	40	2:34:02
1978	Guy McFarland	United States - Oxford, Iowa	41	2:40:17
1977	John Ryan	United States - Mesquite, Texas	44	2:51:37
1976	Joe Burns	United States - New York, N.Y.	46	2:43:19
1975	Al Becken	United States - San Antonio, Texas	46	2:49:24
1973	Al Becken	United States - San Antonio, Texas	45	3:02:43
1972	Joe Burns	United States - New York, N.Y.	43	2:46:47

*Masters race record

HOUSTON MARATHON MASTERS FEMALE WINNERS

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Roberta Groner	United States - Ledgewood, NJ	44	2:32:02
2020	Nancy Jurgens	United States - Apex, N.C.	42	2:46:44
2019	Jennifer Hughes	United States - Salem, Utah	40	2:51:04
2018	Merrilee Blackham	United States - Ogden, Utah	40	2:49:18
2017	Colleen De Reuck	United States	52	2:51:01
2016	Maria Elena Calle	Ecuador	40	2:42:19
2015	Catherine Watkins	United States	43	2:44:59
2014	Laura Bennett	United States - Houston, Texas	46	2:57:52
2013	Laura Bennett	United States - Houston, Texas	45	2:59:13
2012	Nuta Olaru	United States - Boulder, Colo.	41	2:37:37
2011	Sheila Casey	United States - Park Ridge, N.J.	41	2:51:42
2010	Heidy F Lozano	United States - Houston, Texas	46	2:56:12
2009	Heidrun Diakoumopoulos	Greece	40	2:59:00
2008	Tatiana Titova	Russia	42	2:44:57
2007	Firaya Sultanova-Zhdanova	United States - Gainesville, Fla.	45	2:39:06
2006	Firaya Sultanova-Zhdanova	United States - Gainesville, Fla.	44	2:32:25
2005	Allison LeCompte (Willburn)	United States - Houston, Texas	44	3:00:13
2004	Mary Chute	United States - New Fairfield, Conn.	44	2:53:52
2003	Barbara Stroll	United States - Houston, Texas	41	3:01:53
2002	Allison Willburn	United States - Houston, Texas	41	3:03:19
2001	Miyo Chun	United States - Baton Rouge, La.	41	3:10:31
2000	Tatyana Pozdnyakova	Ukraine	44	2:32:24 *
1999	Tatyana Pozdnyakova	Ukraine	43	2:33:23
1998	Claudia Kasen	United States - San Antonio, Texas	40	2:49:48
1997	Marina Jones	United States - Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif.	44	2:59:21
1996	Elena Sipatova	Russia	40	2:35:03
1995	Irina Bondarchuk	Russia	42	2:40:28
1994	Irina Bondarchuk	Russia	41	2:40:28
1993	Irina Bondarchuk	Russia	40	2:49:47
1992	Nancy Prejean	United States - Deer Park, Texas	46	3:11:07
1991	Carol Virga	United States - Boca Raton, Fla.	40	2:47:56
1990	Susan Havens	United States - Olympia, Wash.	42	2:59:09
1989	Susan Havens	United States - Olympia, Wash.	41	2:49:24
1988	Susan Havens	United States - Olympia, Wash.	40	2:52:03
1987	Evy Palm	Sweden	44	2:38:39
1986	Sharon Cooper	United States - Claremore, Okla.	47	3:10:57
1985	Sharon Cooper	United States - Claremore, Okla.	46	3:08:19
1984	Sharon Cooper	United States - Claremore, Okla.	45	3:13:04
1983	Sylvia Quinn	United States - Spokane, Wash.	46	3:14:18
1982	Mae Homs	United States - Edina, Minn.	47	3:28:43
1981	Kay Duplichan	United States - Rockport, Texas	44	3:38:16
1980	Mary Cullen	United States - Houston, Texas	41	3:06:07
1979	Mary Cullen	United States - Houston, Texas	40	3:16:59
1978	Mary Anne McBrayer	United States - Houston, Texas	44	3:37:00
1977	Mary Anne McBrayer	United States - Houston, Texas	43	3:42:17
1976	Lida Askew	United States - Houston, Texas	49	3:48:22
1975	Lida Askew	United States - Houston, Texas	48	4:00:23
1973	Angie Trantham	United States - Houston, Texas		4:57:12
1972	No winner			

* Masters race record

HOUSTON MARATHON WHEELCHAIR WINNERS

Men

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Jacob Allen	United States - Kingwood, TX	20	1:51:05
2020	Dustin Stallberg	United States - Tucson, AZ	17	2:17:18
2019	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	59	2:48:53
2018	Bennie Perez	United States - Houston, Texas	44	3:56:27
2017	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	57	2:03:50
2014	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	54	2:05:46
2013	Grant Berthiaume	United States - Tucson, Ariz.	51	2:12:29
2012	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	52	1:50:42
2011	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	51	1:59:03
2010	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	43	1:54:17
2009	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	42	1:47:29
2008	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	48	1:40:03
2007	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	40	1:53:04
2006	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	38	1:43:11
2005	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	37	1:44:41
2004	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	36	1:52:28
2003	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	43	2:06:36
2002	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	42	2:01:19
2001	Ramiro Bermudez	United States - Houston, Texas	41	1:49:00
2000	Jan Mattern	United States - Arlington, Texas	34	1:53:50
1999	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	33	1:38:28
1998	Jan Mattern	United States - Arlington, Texas	32	1:46:19
1997	Mustapha Badid	United States - McAllen, Texas	31	2:01:16
1996	Mustapha Badid	United States - McAllen, Texas	30	1:51:11
1995	Mustapha Badid	United States - Austin, Texas	29	1:47:22
1994	Jan Mattern	United States - Arlington, Texas	28	1:48:20
1993	Mustapha Badid	United States - Austin, Texas	27	1:47:03
1992	Bill Duff	United States - Houston, Texas	29	1:56:16
1991	Kenneth Carnes	United States - Morningside, Md.	34	1:42:32
1990	Laverne Achenbach	United States - Birmingham, Ala.	47	1:50:38
1989	Bob Molinatti	United States - Huntington Beach, Calif.	30	2:07:04
1988	John Anderson	United States - Houston, Texas	34	2:06:15
1987	Robert Courtney	United States - Houston, Texas	27	2:11:39
1986	Laverne Achenbach	United States - Birmingham, Ala.	43	2:06:21
1985	Randy Snow	United States - Eules, Texas	25	2:19:26
1984	Laverne Achenbach	United States - Houston, Texas	41	2:15:44
1983	Laverne Achenbach	United States - Houston, Texas	40	2:28:00

Women

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Chelsea Stein	United States - Tucson, AZ	18	2:34:28
2008	Holly Koester	United States - Cleveland, Ohio	48	3:33:30
2007	Holly Koester	United States - Cleveland, Ohio	47	3:20:00
2005	Holly Koester	United States - Cleveland, Ohio	45	3:23:37
1999	Jean Driscoll	United States - Champaign, Ill.	32	2:04:20
1998	Julia Wallace	United States - Roswell, Ga.	33	2:04:38
1996	Jean Driscoll	United States - Champaign, Ill.	29	2:12:20
1995	Jean Driscoll	United States - Champaign, Ill.	28	1:59:41
1994	Ann Applewhite	United States - Houston, Texas	35	4:08:37
1993	Patty Durkin	United States - Eules, Texas	32	3:36:35
1992	Patty Durkin	United States - Eules, Texas	31	3:20:36
1991	Patty Durkin	United States - Amarillo, Texas	30	2:38:57
1990	Maria Hill Propper	United States - Gretna, La.	33	3:00:38
1988	Maria Hill	United States - Harvey, La.	32	2:39:41
1986	Stacie Norman	United States - Spring, Texas	n/a	2:35:31

HOUSTON MARATHON TOP 10 PERFORMANCES

Top 10 American Performances Men

No.	Name	State	Time	Place	Date
1	Brett Gotcher	Arizona	2:10:36	7	Jan. 17, 2010
2	Benji Durden	Colorado	2:11:12	1	Jan. 24, 1982
3	Paul Pilkington	Utah	2:11:13	1	Jan. 14, 1990
4	Marty Froelick	Colorado	2:11:14	1	Jan. 06, 1985
5	Nicholas Arciniaga	Arizona	2:11:30	2	Jan. 30, 2011
6	Frank Lara	Colorado	2:11:32	6	Jan. 16, 2022
6	Paul Cummings	Utah	2:11:32	1	Jan. 19, 1986
8	Mark Finucane	Tennessee	2:11:55	3	Jan. 15, 1984
9	Don Janicki	Colorado	2:11:58	3	Jan. 15, 1989
10	John Wellerding	Kentucky	2:12:06	4	Jan. 15, 1984

Women

No.	Name	State	Time	Place	Date
1	Keira D' Amato	Virginia	2:19:12	1	Jan. 16, 2022
2	Kellyn Taylor	Arizona	2:28:40	6	Jan. 18, 2015
3	Kristy Johnston	West Virginia	2:29:05	1	Jan. 24, 1993
4	Maggie Montoya	Colorado	2:29:08	3	Jan. 16, 2022
5	Stephanie Rothstein	Arizona	2:29:35	3	Jan. 30, 2011
6	Janice Klecker	Minnesota	2:30:12	1	Jan. 26, 1992
7	Cathy O'Brien	New Hampshire	2:30:26	2	Jan. 26, 1992
8	Francie Larrieu	Texas	2:30:39	3	Jan. 26, 1992
9	Serena Burla	Virginia	2:31:46	7	Jan. 18, 2015
10	Kelsey Bruce	Texas	2:31:53	6	Jan. 20, 2019

Top 10 Non-American Performances Men

No.	Name	Country	Time	Place	Date
1	Tariku Jufar	Ethiopia	2:06:51	1	Jan. 15, 2012
2	Bekana Daba	Ethiopia	2:07:04	1	Jan. 30, 2011
3	Bazu Worku	Ethiopia	2:07:32	1	Jan. 19, 2014
4	Teshome Gelana	Ethiopia	2:07:37	1	Jan. 17, 2010
5	Debebe Tolassa	Ethiopia	2:07:41	2	Jan. 15, 2012
6	Deriba Merga	Ethiopia	2:07:52	1	Jan. 18, 2009
7	Getachew Terfa	Ethiopia	2:07:54	2	Jan. 19, 2014
8	Birhanu Gedefa	Ethiopia	2:08:03	1	Jan. 18, 2015
9	Gebo Burka	Ethiopia	2:08:12	2	Jan. 18, 2015
10	Zembaba Yigeze	Ethiopia	2:08:27	2	Jan. 17, 2010

Women

No.	Name	Country	Time	Place	Date
1	Alemitu Abera	Ethiopia	2:23:14	1	Jan. 15, 2012
2	Yebrgual Arage	Ethiopia	2:23:23	1	Jan. 18, 2015
3	Biruktayit Degefa	Ethiopia	2:23:28	1	Jan. 20, 2019
4	Askale Merachi	Ethiopia	2:23:29	1	Jan. 19, 2020
5	Guteni Imana	Ethiopia	2:23:32	2	Jan. 18, 2015
6	Merima Mohammed	Ethiopia	2:23:37	1	Jan. 13, 2013
7	Birkutayit Degefa	Ethiopia	2:23:51	3	Jan. 18, 2015
8	Teyba Erkesso	Ethiopia	2:23:53	1	Jan. 17, 2010
9	Teyba Erkesso	Ethiopia	2:24:18	1	Jan. 18, 2009
10	Buzunesh Deba	Ethiopia	2:24:26	2	Jan. 13, 2013

HOUSTON MARATHON TOP 25 PERFORMANCES

Men

No.	Name	Country	Time	Place	Date
1	Tariku Jufar	Ethiopia	2:06:51	1	Jan. 15, 2012
2	Bekana Daba	Ethiopia	2:07:04	1	Jan. 30, 2011
3	Bazu Worku	Ethiopia	2:07:32	1	Jan. 19, 2014
4	Teshome Gelana	Ethiopia	2:07:37	1	Jan. 17, 2010
5	Debebe Tolossa	Ethiopia	2:07:41	2	Jan. 15, 2012
6	Deriba Merga	Ethiopia	2:07:52	1	Jan. 18, 2009
7	Getachew Terfa	Ethiopia	2:07:54	2	Jan. 19, 2014
8	Birhanu Gedefa	Ethiopia	2:08:03	1	Jan. 18, 2015
9	Gebo Burka	Ethiopia	2:08:12	2	Jan. 18, 2015
10	Zembaba Yigeze	Ethiopia	2:08:27	2	Jan. 17, 2010
11	Bazu Worku	Ethiopia	2:08:30	1	Jan. 14, 2018
12	Kelkile Gezahegn	Ethiopia	2:08:36	1	Jan. 19, 2020
13	Jose Antonio Uribe	Mexico	2:08:55	3	Jan. 19, 2014
14	Jason Mbote	Kenya	2:08:58	3	Jan. 17, 2010
15	Debebe Tolossa	Ethiopia	2:09:07	3	Jan. 18, 2015
16	Yitayal Atnafu	Ethiopia	2:09:07	2	Jan. 14, 2018
17	Hussan Adelo	Ethiopia	2:09:09	4	Jan. 17, 2010
18	Charles Kibiwott Seronei	Kenya	2:09:10	5	Jan. 17, 2010
19	Vincent Kiplagat	Kenya	2:09:22	6	Jan. 17, 2010
20	Elisha Barno	Kenya	2:09:32	3	Jan. 14, 2018
21	Dominic Ondoro	Kenya	2:09:40	4	Jan. 18, 2015
22	Richard Kaitany	Kenya	2:10:04	1	Jan. 15, 1989
23	Bazu Worku	Ethiopia	2:10:17	1	Jan. 13, 2013
24	Turbo Tumo	Ethiopia	2:10:34	1	Jan. 21, 1996
25	Steve Brace	Wales	2:10:35	2	Jan. 21, 1996

Women

No.	Name	Country	Time	Place	Date
1	Keira D'Amato	United States	2:19:12	1	Jan. 16, 2022
2	Alemitu Abera	Ethiopia	2:23:14	1	Jan. 15, 2012
3	Yebrgual Arage	Ethiopia	2:23:23	1	Jan. 18, 2015
4	Biruktait Degefa	Ethiopia	2:23:28	1	Jan. 20, 2019
5	Askale Merachi	Ethiopia	2:23:29	1	Jan. 19, 2020
6	Guteni Imana	Ethiopia	2:23:32	2	Jan. 18, 2015
7	Merima Mohammed	Ethiopia	2:23:37	1	Jan. 13, 2013
8	Biruktait Degefa	Ethiopia	2:23:51	3	Jan. 18, 2015
9	Teyba Erkesso	Ethiopia	2:23:53	1	Jan. 17, 2010
10	Teyba Erkesso	Ethiopia	2:24:18	1	Jan. 18, 2009
11	Buzunesh Deba	Ethiopia	2:24:26	2	Jan. 13, 2013
12	Dire Tune	Ethiopia	2:24:40	1	Jan. 13, 2008
13	Biruktayit Degefa	Ethiopia	2:24:51	1	Jan. 14, 2018
14	Belaynesh Oljira	Ethiopia	2:24:57	2	Jan. 14, 2018
15	Meskerem Assefa	Ethiopia	2:25:17	3	Jan. 13, 2013
16	Abebech Bekele	Ethiopia	2:25:52	1	Jan. 19, 2014
17	Meskerem Assefa	Ethiopia	2:25:59	2	Jan. 19, 2014
18	Gelete Burka	Ethiopia	2:26:03	3	Jan. 19, 2014
19	Biruktayit Degefa	Ethiopia	2:26:07	1	Jan. 17, 2016
20	Biruktayit Degefa	Ethiopia	2:26:22	4	Jan. 19, 2014
21	Mamitu Daska	Ethiopia	2:26:33	1	Jan. 30, 2011
22	Belaynesh Fikadu	Ethiopia	2:26:41	2	Jan. 20, 2019
23	Dire Tune	Ethiopia	2:26:52	1	Jan. 14, 2007
24	Meseret Belete	Ethiopia	2:26:56	3	Jan. 20, 2019
25	Sechale Dalasa	Ethiopia	2:27:12	4	Jan. 18, 2015

HOUSTON MARATHON RACE RECORD PROGRESSION

Men

Name	Country	Age	Time	Date
Tariku Jufar	Ethiopia	27	2:06:51	Jan. 15, 2012
Bekana Daba	Ethiopia	22	2:07:04	Jan. 30, 2011
Teshome Gelana	Ethiopia	25	2:07:37	Jan. 17, 2010
Deriba Merga	Ethiopia	28	2:07:52	Jan. 18, 2009
Richard Kaitany	Kenya	32	2:10:04	Jan. 15, 1989
Benji Durden	United States	30	2:11:11	Jan. 24, 1982
Bill Rodgers	United States	33	2:12:19	Jan. 10, 1981
Ron Tabb	United States	25	2:13:36	Jan. 19, 1980
Tom Antczak	United States	28	2:15:28	Jan. 20, 1979
Ron Tabb	United States	23	2:17:15	Jan. 21, 1978
Jeff Wells	United States	21	2:17:46	Jan. 17, 1976
Danny Green	United States	24	2:32:33	Dec. 30, 1972

Women

Name	Country	Age	Time	Date
Keira D' Amato	USA	37	2:19:12	Jan. 16, 2022
Alemitu Abera	Ethiopia	26	2:23:14	Jan. 15, 2012
Teyba Erkesso	Ethiopia	27	2:23:53	Jan. 17, 2010
Teyba Erkesso	Ethiopia	26	2:24:18	Jan. 18, 2009
Dire Tune	Ethiopia	22	2:24:40	Jan. 13, 2008
Dire Tune	Ethiopia	21	2:26:52	Jan. 14, 2007
Ingrid Kristiansen	Norway	27	2:27:51	Jan. 15, 1984
Ingrid Kristiansen	Norway	26	2:33:27	Jan. 16, 1983
Patti Catalano	United States	27	2:35:27	Jan. 10, 1981
Vanessa Vajdos	United States	28	2:44:45	Jan. 19, 1980
Sue Peterson	United States	34	2:46:17	Jan. 20, 1979
Dorothy Doolittle	United States	30	3:00:34	Jan. 22, 1977
Dorothy Doolittle	United States	28	3:31:24	Jan. 18, 1975
Nancy Laird	United States	32	4:29:09	Dec. 29, 1973
Tanya Trantham	United States	14	5:11:55	Dec. 30, 1972

HOUSTON MARATHON RACE RECORD PROGRESSION - MASTERS

Masters Men

Name	Country	Age	Time	Date
Andrey Kuznetsov	Russia	40	2:16:45	Jan. 18, 1998
Mike Manley	United States	40	2:17:10	Jan. 16, 1983
Tom Mayfield	United States	43	2:29:28	Jan. 24, 1982
Tom Mayfield	United States	41	2:32:22	Jan. 19, 1980
Tom Mayfield	United States	40	2:34:02	Jan. 20, 1979
Guy McFarland	United States	41	2:40:17	Jan. 21, 1978
Joe Burns	United States	46	2:43:19	Jan. 17, 1976
Joe Burns	United States	43	2:46:47	Dec. 30, 1972

Masters Women

Name	Country	Age	Time	Date
Tetyana Pozdnyakova	Ukraine	44	2:32:24	Jan. 16, 2000
Tetyana Pozdnyakova	Ukraine	43	2:33:23	Jan. 17, 1999
Elena Sipatova	Russia	40	2:35:03	Jan. 21, 1996
Evy Palm	Sweden	44	2:38:29	Jan. 18, 1987
Mary Cullen	United States	41	3:06:07	Jan. 19, 1980
Mary Cullen	United States	40	3:16:59	Jan. 20, 1979
Mary Anne McBrayer	United States	44	3:37:00	Jan. 21, 1978
Mary Anne McBrayer	United States	43	3:42:17	Jan. 22, 1977
Lida Askew	United States	49	3:48:22	Jan. 17, 1976
Lida Askew	United States	48	4:00:23	Jan. 18, 1975
Angie Trantham	United States	n/a	4:57:12	Dec. 29, 1973

HOUSTON MARATHON MARGINS OF VICTORY - MEN

Year	Winner	Winning Margin (Min:Sec)	Second Place
1984	Charlie Spedding	0:00	Massimo Magnani
1996	Turbo Tumo	0:01	Steve Brace
1983	Haliu Ebba	0:03	Benji Durden
1995	Peter Fonseca	0:04	Terje Naess
2019	Albert Korir	0:06	Yitayal Atnafu
1988	Geir Kvernmo	0:06	Salvador Garcia
2022	James Ngandu	0:07	Abdi Abdo
2006	David Cheruiyot	0:08	Wesly Ngetich
1986	Paul Cummings	0:08	David Edge
2015	Birhanu Gedefa	0:09	Gebo Burka
1999	Stephen Ndungu	0:09	Sammy Maritim
2022	James Ngandu	0:11	Abdi Abdo
1991	Carey Nelson	0:12	Martin Vrabel
2008	David Cheruiyot	0:15	Kasime Adilo
1987	Derrick May	0:15	Geir Kvernmo
1977	Clent Mericle	0:15	Chuck Jewell
2016	Birhanu Gedefa	0:16	Yitayal Atnafu
1994	Colin Moore	0:19	Peter Fonseca
2014	Bazu Worku	0:22	Getachew Terfa
2005	David Cheruiyot	0:26	Andrei Naumov
2017	Dominic Ondoro	0:28	Yitayal Atnafu
1985	Marty Froelick	0:30	Sam Ngatia
1981	Bill Rodgers	0:30	Dick Beardsley
2018	Bazu Worku	0:37	Yitayal Atnafu
2004	Marek Jaroszewski	0:39	Kim Hillard
2012	Tariku Jufar	0:50	Debebe Tolassa
2010	Teshome Gelana	0:50	Zembaba Yigeze
1992	Filemon Lopez	0:51	Michael Heilmann
1979	Tom Antczak	0:53	Scott Eden
2003	Sean Wade	0:59	Lambros Zaragas
1980	Ron Tabb	1:08	Chris Stewart
1972	Danny Green	1:20	Clyde Villemez, Jr.
1982	Benji Durden	1:31	Dick Beardsley
1989	Richard Kaitany	1:32	Kenny Stuart
2002	Drew Prisner	1:40	Joshua Urban
1990	Paul Pilkington	1:55	Allan Zacheriasen
2020	Kelkile Woldaregay Gezahegn	2:01	Bonsa Dida
1997	Ake Eriksson	2:11	Shaun Creighton
1998	Stephen Ndungu	2:14	Sammy Maritim
2007	Feyisa Tusse	2:17	Mikhail Khobotov
2000	Stephen Ndungu	2:29	Sammy Maritim
1975	Clent Mericle, Juan Garza	2:30	Charles Bernick
2013	Bazu Worku	2:33	Teferi Balcha
1993	Frank Bjorkli	2:48	Sean Wade
1973	Juan Garza	3:00	Dennis Manske
2009	Deriba Merga	3:41	Benson Cheruiyot
2011	Bekana Daba	4:26	Nicholas Arciniaga
1978	Ron Tabb	5:49	David Odom

HOUSTON MARATHON MARGINS OF VICTORY - WOMEN

Year	Winner	Winning Margin (Min:Sec)	Second Place
1980	Vanessa Vajdos	0:01	Donna Burge
1981	Patti Catalano	0:04	Laurie Binder
2018	Biruktayit Degefa	0:06	Belaynesh Oljira
2014	Abebech Bekele	0:07	Meskerem Assefa
2015	Yebrgual Arage	0:09	Guteni Imana
1983	Ingrid Kristiansen	0:09	Laurie Binder
1991	Janis Klecker	0:14	Cathy O'Brien
1994	Alevtina Noaumova	0:22	Tatiana Pozdnyakova
2017	Meskerem Assefa Wondimagegn	0:26	Biruktayit Degefa
1996	Adrianna Fernandez	0:30	Loma Guadalupe
2006	Firaya Sultanova-Zhdanova	0:31	Nicole Stevenson
2000	Tatiana Pozdnyakova	0:43	Zinaida Semenova
2013	Merima Mohammed	0:49	Buzunesh Deba
1985	Silvia Ruegger	0:56	Jacqueline Gareau
1987	Linda Zeman	1:05	Sissel Grottenberg
2011	Mamitu Daska	1:14	Ashu Kasim
2020	Askale Merachi	1:18	Biruktayit Degefa
2016	Biruktayit Degefa	1:28	Lisa Weightman
1989	Maria Trujillo	1:54	Kerstin Presslet
1990	Veronique Marot	2:03	Dorthe Rasmussen
1982	Laurie Binder	2:05	Kathleen Molitor
1998	Gwynneth Coogan	2:07	Kim Jones
1993	Kristy Johnston	2:10	Albina Galliamova
1988	Veronique Marot	2:15	Kim Jones
2019	Biruktayit Degefa	2:32	Belaynesh Fikadu
2003	Albina Gallyamova	2:53	Madeline Tormoen
2005	Kelly Keane	2:58	Wioletta Kryza
1999	Tatiana Pozdnyakova	3:00	Zinaida Semenova
1986	Bente Moe	3:00	Veronique Marot
2009	Teyba Erkesso	3:07	Nuta Olaru
2007	Dire Tune	3:22	Beata Rakonczai
1997	Claudia Dreher	3:24	Betsy Kempter
1992	Kimberly Webb	4:05	Sandy Lovejoy
1995	Tatiana Pozdnyakova	4:16	Suzanna Ciric
2010	Teyba Erkesso	4:51	Margarita Plaksina
2004	Margarita Tapia	5:01	Nicole Stevenson
2012	Alemitu Abera	5:10	Benita Willis
2002	Becky Sondag	5:18	Kathryn Scarborough
1978	Peggy Kokernot	7:07	Dusty Burke
1979	Sue Peterson	8:00	Donna Burge
1976	Marsha Johnson	9:08	Annabelle Corboy
1984	Ingrid Kristiansen	9:10	Jenny Spangler
2022	Keira D'Amato	9:56	Alice Wright
2008	Dire Tune	10:58	Worknesh Tola
2001	Stacie Alboucrek	12:12	Joy Smith
1977	Dorothy Doolittle	15:02	Mary Glenn
1973	Nancy Laird	4:03	Angie Trantham
1975	Dorothy Doolittle	4:59	Lida Askew
1972	Tanya Trantham	n/a	Only competitor

TOP 100 MEN'S PERFORMANCES IN HOUSTON

TIME	ATHLETE	YEAR	TIME	ATHLETE	YEAR
2:06:00	Thomas Rono	2022	2:11:27	Stephen Ndungu	2000
2:06:51	Tariku Jufar	2012	2:11:30	Abayneh Ayele	2019
2:07:04	Bekana Daba	2011	2:11:30	Nick Arciniaga	2011
2:07:32	Bazu Worku	2014	2:11:31	Paul Cummings	1986
2:07:37	Teshome Gelana	2010	2:11:32	Frank Lara	2022
2:07:41	Debebe Tolossa	2012	2:11:33	Luke Caldwell	2022
2:07:43	Evans Sambu	2022	2:11:33	Benson Cheruiyot	2009
2:07:52	Deriba Merga	2009	2:11:36	Kenny Stuart	1989
2:07:54	Getachew Terfa	2014	2:11:39	David Edge	1986
2:08:03	Birhanu Gedefa	2015	2:11:39	Nicholas Kioko	1996
2:08:12	Gebo Burka	2015	2:11:39	Feyisa Tusse	2007
2:08:27	Zembaba Yigeze	2010	2:11:41	Wilfred Murgor	2011
2:08:30	Bazu Worku	2018	2:11:43	Sam Ngatia	1985
2:08:36	Kelkile Gezahegn	2020	2:11:43	Dominic Ondoro	2014
2:08:55	Jose Antonio Uribe	2014	2:11:44	Geir Kvernmo	1988
2:08:58	Jason Mbote	2010	2:11:50	Salvador Garcia	1988
2:09:07	Debebe Tolossa	2015	2:11:51	Derrick May	1987
2:09:07	Yitayal Atnafu	2018	2:11:51	Benson Seurei	2020
2:09:09	Hussan Adelo	2010	2:11:52	Peter Fonseca	1995
2:09:10	Charles Kibiwott Seronei	2010	2:11:52	Stephen Scullion	2020
2:09:22	Vincent Kiplagat	2010	2:11:53	Birhanu Gedefa	2016
2:09:32	Elisha Barno	2018	2:11:54	Charlie Spedding	1984
2:09:40	Dominic Ondoro	2015	2:11:54	Massimo Magnani	1984
2:10:02	Albert Korir	2019	2:11:55	Tefera Debela	2019
2:10:04	Richard Kaitany	1989	2:11:55	Mark Finucane	1984
2:10:08	Yitayal Atnafu	2019	2:11:55	Wolfgang Krueger	1985
2:10:17	Bazu Worku	2013	2:11:56	Terje Naess	1995
2:10:25	Justus Kimutai	2019	2:11:58	Don Janicki	1989
2:10:34	Turbo Tumo	1996	2:12:02	David Cheruiyot	2006
2:10:35	Steve Brace	1996	2:12:05	Dominic Ondoro	2017
2:10:36	Brett Gotcher	2010	2:12:06	John Wellerding	1984
2:10:37	Silah Limo	2015	2:12:06	Geir Kvernmo	1987
2:10:37	Bonsa Dida	2020	2:12:09	Yitayal Atnafu	2016
2:10:52	Leonid Shvetsov	1996	2:12:10	Wesley Ngetich	2006
2:10:54	Elisha Barno	2019	2:12:17	Hailu Ebba	1983
2:10:58	Juan Pacheco	2019	2:12:19	Bill Rodgers	1981
2:10:59	Sean Wade	1996	2:12:20	Benji Durden	1983
2:11:03	James Ngandu	2022	2:12:21	Yuriy Abramov	2009
2:11:04	Amanuel Mesel	2020	2:12:23	Sam Ngatia	1987
2:11:08	Dadi Yami Gameda	2014	2:12:27	Alfredo Shahanga	1987
2:11:11	Abdi Abdo	2022	2:12:28	Carey Nelson	1991
2:11:11	Benji Durden	1982	2:12:32	Andreas Weniger	1985
2:11:13	Marty Froelick	1985	2:12:32	David Cheruiyot	2008
2:11:13	Paul Pilkington	1990	2:12:33	Yitayal Atnafu	2017
2:11:13	Demssew Tsega	2012	2:12:40	Martin Vrabel	1991
2:11:16	Elisha Barno	2022	2:12:42	Dick Beardsley	1982
2:11:18	Silva Osmiro	1996	2:12:43	Allan Zachariasen	1987
2:11:19	Kenta Uchida	2022	2:12:44	Jerry Kiernan	1986
2:11:20	Kelkile Gezahegn	2022	2:12:44	Abayne Ayele Woldegiorgis	2017
2:11:23	Stephen Ndungu	1998	2:12:45	Josh Izewski	2022

TOP 100 WOMEN'S PERFORMANCES IN HOUSTON

TIME	ATHLETE	YEAR	TIME	ATHLETE	YEAR
2:19:12	Keira D'Amato	2022	2:29:35	Stephanie Rothstein	2011
2:23:14	Alemitu Abera	2012	2:29:57	Tetyana Pozdnyakova	1995
2:23:23	Yebrgual Arage	2015	2:29:57	Margarita Hernandez	2016
2:23:28	Biruktayit Degefa	2019	2:30:14	Beata Rakonczai	2007
2:23:29	Askale Merachi	2020	2:30:16	Veronique Marot	1989
2:23:32	Gutenu Imana	2015	2:30:18	Meskerem Assefa	2017
2:23:37	Merima Mohammed	2013	2:30:31	Meseret Legese	2013
2:23:51	Birkutait Degefa	2015	2:30:43	Lioudmila Korthchaguina	2009
2:23:53	Teyba Erkesso	2010	2:30:44	Biruktayit Degefa	2017
<u>2:24:18</u>	<u>Teyba Erkesso</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2:30:55</u>	<u>Veronique Marot</u>	<u>1991</u>
2:24:26	Buzunesh Deba	2013	2:31:01	Alemitu Abera	2010
2:24:40	Dire Tune	2008	2:31:03	Tetyana Pozdnyakova	1996
2:24:47	Biruktayit Degefa Eshetu	2020	2:31:15	Albina Galliamova	1993
2:24:50	Malindi Elmore	2020	2:31:16	Veronique Marot	1985
2:24:51	Biruktayit Degefa	2018	2:31:19	Yihunlish Delelecha	2012
2:24:54	Meseret Belete	2020	2:31:28	Yulia Gromova	2009
2:24:57	Belaynesh Oljira	2018	2:31:33	Veronique Marot	1986
2:25:17	Meskerem Assefa	2013	2:31:33	Jovana de la Cruz	2016
2:25:52	Abebech Bekele	2014	2:31:46	Serena Burla	2015
<u>2:25:59</u>	<u>Meskerem Assefa</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2:31:53</u>	<u>Kelsey Bruce</u>	<u>2019</u>
2:26:03	Gelete Burka	2014	2:31:59	Adriana Fernandez	1996
2:26:07	Biruktayit Degefa	2016	2:32:00	Tsehay Adhana	2018
2:26:22	Biruktayit Degefa	2014	2:32:01	Vianey de la Rosa	2015
2:26:33	Mamitu Daska	2011	2:32:02	Roberta Groner	2022
2:26:41	Belaynesh Fikadu	2019	2:32:06	Amane Gobena	2009
2:26:52	Dire Tune	2007	2:32:06	Veronicah Nyaruai Wanjiru	2018
2:26:56	Meseret Belete	2019	2:32:09	Rachel Hannah	2016
2:27:12	Sechale Dalesa	2015	2:32:15	Malindi Elmore	2019
2:27:21	Melesech Tsegaye Beyene	2018	2:32:24	Tetyana Pozdnyakova	2000
<u>2:27:25</u>	<u>Nuta Olaru</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2:32:25</u>	<u>Firiya Sultanova-Zhdanova</u>	<u>2006</u>
2:27:32	Gladys Kipsoi	2018	2:32:27	Kelly Keane	2005
2:27:35	Lisa Weightman	2016	2:32:29	Loma Guadalupe	1996
2:27:37	Makda Haji	2014	2:32:31	Kim Jones	1989
2:27:47	Ashu Kasim	2011	2:32:36	Salina Chirchir	1996
2:27:51	Ingrid Kristiansen	1984	2:32:36	Andrea Soraya Limon	2020
2:28:06	Buze Diriba	2019	2:32:37	Bente Moe	1987
2:28:24	Benita Willis	2012	2:32:37	Karolina Szabo	1993
2:28:27	Fatuma Sado	2015	2:32:38	Atsede Tesema	2022
2:28:36	Silvia Ruegger	1985	2:32:39	Brittany Feivor	2022
<u>2:28:36</u>	<u>Margarita Tapia</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2:32:47</u>	<u>Maria Trujillo</u>	<u>1989</u>
2:28:40	Kellyn Taylor	2015	2:32:54	Kathya Mirell Garcia Barrios	2022
2:28:43	Sechale Dalasa	2016	2:32:54	Sasha Gollish	2019
2:28:44	Margarita Plaksina	2010	2:32:55	Maria Trujillo	1990
2:28:46	Sechale Dalasa	2019	2:32:56	Nicole Stevenson	2006
2:29:05	Kristy Johnston	1993	2:32:58	Dorthe Rasmussen	1991
2:29:08	Alice Wright	2022	2:33:00	Christina Welsh	2022
2:29:08	Maggie Montoya	2022	2:33:07	Zinaida Semenova	2000
2:29:22	Bekelech Gudeta	2020	2:33:12	Lindsay Flanagan	2015
2:29:32	Jacqueline Gareau	1985	2:33:15	Gitte Karlshoj	1996
<u>2:29:32</u>	<u>Ursula Sanchez</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2:33:18</u>	<u>Olga Appell</u>	<u>1991</u>

HOUSTON MARATHON MULTIPLE WINNERS

Men

Year	Name	Time
2018	Bazu Worku	2:08:30
2014	Bazu Worku	2:07:32
2013	Bazu Worku	2:10:17
2016	Birhanu Gedefa	2:11:53
2015	Birhanu Gedefa	2:08:03
2008	David Cheruiyot	2:12:32
2006	David Cheruiyot	2:12:02
2005	David Cheruiyot	2:14:50
2000	Stephen Ndungu	2:11:27
1999	Stephen Ndungu	2:14:56
1998	Stephen Ndungu	2:11:23
1980	Ron Tabb	2:13:36
1978	Ron Tabb	2:17:15
1977	Clent Mericle	2:27:46
1975	Clent Mericle	2:35:00
1975	Juan Garza	2:35:00
1973	Juan Garza	2:37:47

Women

Year	Name	Time
2019	Biruktayit Degefa	2:23:28
2018	Biruktayit Degefa	2:24:51
2016	Biruktayit Degefa	2:26:07
2017	Meskerem Assefa	2:30:18
2014	Meskerem Assefa	2:25:59
2010	Teyba Erkesso	2:23:53
2009	Teyba Erkesso	2:24:18
2008	Dire Tune	2:24:40
2007	Dire Tune	2:26:52
2000	Tetyana Pozdnyakova	2:32:24
1999	Tetyana Pozdnyakova	2:33:23
1995	Tetyana Pozdnyakova	2:29:57
1991	Veronique Marot	2:30:55
1989	Veronique Marot	2:30:16
1986	Veronique Marot	2:31:33
1984	Ingrid Kristiansen	2:27:51
1983	Ingrid Kristiansen	2:33:27
1977	Dorothy Doolittle	3:00:34
1975	Dorothy Doolittle	3:31:24

Masters Men

Year	Name	Time
2017	Peter Lawrence	2:37:00
2014	Peter Lawrence	2:31:56
2005	Joe Flores	2:35:03
2003	Joe Flores	2:41:10
2002	Joe Flores	2:34:54
1999	Andrey Kuznetsov	2:19:56
1998	Andrey Kuznetsov	2:16:45
1997	Yuri Mikhailov	2:24:48
1994	Yuri Mikhailov	2:20:34
1995	Robert Schlauf	2:26:43
1988	Robert Schlauf	2:22:25
1982	Tom Mayfield	2:29:28
1981	Tom Mayfield	2:34:10
1980	Tom Mayfield	2:32:22
1979	Tom Mayfield	2:34:02
1975	Al Becken	2:49:24
1973	Al Becken	3:02:43
1976	Joe Burns	2:43:19
1972	Joe Burns	2:46:47

Masters Women

Year	Name	Time
2014	Laura Bennett	2:57:52
2013	Laura Bennett	2:59:13
2007	Firya Sultanova-Zhdanova	2:39:06
2006	Firya Sultanova-Zhdanova	2:32:25
2000	Tetyana Pozdnyakova	2:32:24
1999	Tetyana Pozdnyakova	2:33:23
1995	Irina Bondarchuk	2:40:28
1994	Irina Bondarchuk	2:40:28
1993	Irina Bondarchuk	2:49:47
1990	Susan Havens	2:59:09
1989	Susan Havens	2:49:24
1988	Susan Havens	2:52:03
1986	Sharon Cooper	3:10:57
1985	Sharon Cooper	3:08:19
1984	Sharon Cooper	3:13:04
1980	Mary Cullen	3:06:07
1979	Mary Cullen	3:16:59
1978	Mary Anne McBrayer	3:37:00
1977	Mary Anne McBrayer	3:42:17
1976	Lida Askew	3:48:22
1975	Lida Askew	4:00:23

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

1972

December 30

113 Runners

5-mile loop at Memorial Park

Men's Winner: Danny Green 2:32:33

Women's Winner: Tanya Trantham 5:11:55

Run over a five-mile loop at Memorial Park at the end of December, the inaugural Houston Marathon drew 113 runners and about twice that many spectators. Race director Pete League, who would serve in that capacity until 1976, ensured that the course was measured properly so it could be certified by the AAU, with assistance from distance running legend Ted Corbitt.

Danny Green, who went on to become one of the nation's top high school track and cross country coaches at The Woodlands, overtook Clyde Villamez after the 24-mile mark and went on to win in 2:32:33. Green told the Houston Chronicle in 2002, "We were doing those loops in Memorial Park, and my family would be telling me where I was and where he (Villamez) was... I never ran any faster. I was never able to break that (2:32:33)."

14-year-old Tanya Trantham was the first female finisher, crossing the line in 5:11:55. In 35th place overall was Frank Stranahan, better known as a top amateur golfer who was the 1952 British Open runner-up.

1973

December 29

120 Runners started, 58 finished

5-mile loop at Memorial Park

Men's Winner: Juan Garza 2:37:47

Women's Winner: Nancy Laird 4:29:07 (course record)

Juan Garza, who went on to be an NCAA Division I national cross country qualifier in 1974 for Pan American University, won the second edition of the Houston Marathon by three minutes over Dennis Manske, one of the largest winning margins in race history. Manske ran three more times at Houston, including a 2:39:59 in 1991 after a 16-year hiatus.

Nancy Laird was the women's champion, and was also the Gulf AAU LDR chair who asked race director Pete League to help develop more distance events in the Houston area. Laird returned to the race in 1975 and finished more than 30 minutes faster than her debut time.

1974

Race not held, date moved to January

1975

January 18

112 Runners

5-mile loop at Memorial Park

Men's Winner: tie, Clent Mericle & Juan Garza

2:35:00

Women's Winner: Dorothy Doolittle 3:31:24 (CR)

Two Rio Grande Valley foes used to duking it out on the track and in cross country ended up in a virtual dead heat in the third Houston Marathon. After a year off in 1974, the race returned for the final time to Memorial Park, where former Texas A&I Javelina Clent Mericle and 1973 winner Juan Garza (Pan American U.) both crossed the line in 2:35:00.

Top honors in the five-runner women's race went to Dorothy Doolittle, who ended up 48th overall in 3:31:24. Doolittle would go on to win one more time (1977) and earn renown as a collegiate and high school track and field coach, including a stint at the University of Houston.

1976

January 17

210 Runners

3-loop course incorporating Memorial Park and adjoining areas

Men's Winner: Jeff Wells 2:17:46 (CR)

Women's Winner: Marsha Johnson 3:37:04

Rice cross country and track star Jeff Wells ran in the inaugural Houston Marathon in 1972, finishing in 2:38:44, but in 1976 he ran his first serious race and destroyed the course record with a 2:17:46. At the time it was the tenth-fastest clocking ever by a collegiate runner in the marathon. John Lodwick, a Rice teammate, was second at 2:26:15, also under the old course record, and 1975 champ Clent Mericle was third at 2:29:37.

Wells was part of one of the closest finishes in Boston Marathon history in 1978, coming across the line only two seconds adrift of Bill Rodgers, who won at 2:10:13. He was a two-time Olympic Trials finalist in the 10,000 meters and was on Team USA at the 1977 and 1978 IAAF World Cross Country Championships. Wells ran three more times at Houston, including a 2:29:16 in 1996 at age 41.

An 18-year-old, Marsha Johnson, was the women's winner at 3:37:04. She would run the race six more times, with a best time of 3:16:09 in 1981.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

1977

January 22

410 Runners started, 290 finished

3-loop course incorporating Memorial Park and adjoining areas

Men's Winner: Clent Mericle 2:27:46

Women's Winner: Dorothy Doolittle 3:00:34 (CR)

George Kleeman took over as race director in 1977 as the race was held at Memorial Park for the final time. Clent Mericle, the 1975 co-winner, picked up the win by himself this go-around, covering the distance in 2:27:46. University of Houston legend and Olympian Leonard Hilton was the pre-race favorite, but fell victim to cramps as he was leading at 23 miles, finishing 11th at 2:39:33. Rice sophomore Chuck Jewell was the runner-up at 2:28:39 and edged out Mark Walter for the Junior title.

Improving her own course record from the 1975 race, Dorothy Doolittle won the women's crown at 3:00:34 and was 54th overall. Jack Lippincott, who ran his 40th-consecutive Houston Marathon in 2014, had his highest placing in '77, taking 12th overall.

1978

January 21

788 started, 567 finished

Course started downtown, went out to 610 via Memorial Drive, then back downtown

Men's Winner: Ron Tabb 2:17:11 (race record)

Women's Winner: Peggy Kokernot 3:01:54

Frigid weather and a new course welcomed 23-year-old Missourian Ron Tabb, who ran away from the field to win by almost six minutes in 2:17:11 over David Odom. Tabb's time lowered the previous race record of 2:17:46, set by Jeff Wells in 1976. The temperature at the start was 27 degrees, and it didn't warm up much over the duration of the race, but it didn't stop a Houston-record 127 runners from breaking 3:00:00.

Women's winner Peggy Kokernot had gained national notoriety in December 1977, appearing on the cover of Time magazine as part of a story on the International Year of the Woman, a nationwide event that culminated in Houston and included a torch relay. Kokernot, a college athlete at Trinity University, stepped in for a 16-mile stretch in Alabama that was under boycott by local runners, keeping the relay going. She was one of three women selected to carry the torch the last mile and entered the Sam Houston Coliseum to raucous applause. Kokernot, who won by more than seven minutes in 3:01:54, helped the push to add the marathon for women to the Olympic program, and she went on to host the popular P.M. Magazine show in San Antonio.

1979

January 20

1,700+ started, 1,000+ finished

Men's Winner: Tom Antczak 2:15:28 (CR)

Women's Winner: Sue Petersen 2:46:17 (CR)

What started out as a two-man race turned into a coronation and course record for Tom Antczak of Wisconsin, who chopped almost two minutes off Ron Tabb's 1978 record with his 2:15:28. Antczak, a Wisconsin-La Crosse graduate who qualified for three U.S. Olympic Trials marathons and went on to a storied coaching career at Wisconsin-Platteville, ran the first 22 miles with Duke's Scott Eden before pulling away as Eden struggled over the final four miles. Eden also finished under the previous race record with his 2:16:21.

Windy conditions held back women's winner Sue Petersen, but the 34-year-old Californian still smashed the existing race record and won by eight minutes as she ran side-by-side with her husband, Pete. In winning the national AAU title, Petersen reinforced her world top-10 ranking and brought Houston into the realm of an elite women's race.

1980

January 19

1,914 started, 1,540 finished

Men's Winner: Ron Tabb 2:13:36 (CR)

Women's Winner: Vanessa Vajdos 2:44:45 (CR)

Two years after his initial win and course record, Ron Tabb returned with a vengeance to crush the since-lowered record in 2:13:36, overcoming windy and humid conditions and a strong challenge from Britain's Chris Stewart. Tabb was running at 2:11 pace through 22 miles before the wind put paid to any hopes of a faster time. Stewart finished just over a minute back at 2:14:44. Tabb later placed fourth in the 1980 Olympic Trials marathon and was second at Boston in 1983 with a PR 2:09:31. He also represented the U.S. at the inaugural World Championships in Helsinki in 1983, finishing 18th at 2:13:38.

A close-as-can-be finish in the women's race saw Vanessa Vajdos edge Memorial High School coach Donna Burge by a second in 2:44:45, setting a course record. Vajdos, now a New Braunfels chiropractor, ran together with her close friend Burge all the way before outleaning her at the line. She finished 10th in 1981 at the Ottawa Avon International Women's Marathon, the putative world championships at the time.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

1981

January 10 • 2,408 finishers
Men's Winner: Bill Rodgers 2:12:19 (CR)
Women's Winner: Patti Catalano 2:35:28 (CR)

The reigning king of American marathoners made his first appearance at Houston a memorable one, as Bill Rodgers rolled to a course-record 2:12:19 to win by 30 seconds over Dick Beardsley. Rodgers, known as "Boston Billy" after winning that race four times and setting an American Record of 2:09:27 in 1979, also had four New York titles on his resume. Reaching the halfway point in 1:04:46, near world record pace, Rodgers and Beardsley were still in contact, but at 16 miles Rodgers made his move. Two miles later a stomach upset and quick trip into the woods threatened to derail his title run, but Beardsley also suffered stomach cramps and Rodgers held on to win. Defending champion Ron Tabb withdrew at 14 miles with a bone spur in his left heel.

As the first U.S. woman to run under 2:30, Patti Catalano was the pre-race favorite and she fulfilled those expectations with a course record 2:35:28. But it wasn't easy. Laurie Binder ran the race of her life to that point, shadowing Catalano until less than two miles remained. The duo bumped each other and both runners were unbalanced, with Binder taking the lead. That lead lasted until the final quarter-mile, where Catalano regained the lead and sprinted to the win while Binder slashed her personal best by three minutes with a 2:35:31.

1982

January 24 • 1,861 finishers
Men's Winner: Benji Durden 2:11:11 (CR)
Women's Winner: Laurie Binder 2:40:57

Five years, five course records. But this time the record wasn't set by the pre-race favorite. Heading into the race, most talk was about defending champ Bill Rodgers and runner-up Dick Beardsley, with Benji Durden almost an afterthought. Durden turned all the attention to himself, though, running a relatively easy 2:11:11 to set a new standard and take the scalps of some of the sport's biggest names. He finished more than a minute-and-a-half ahead of Beardsley, who was second for the second year in a row, while Rodgers faded to fifth at 2:14:52 after a whirlwind week of promotional appearances and sales meetings to bolster his line of running apparel. Durden and Beardsley worked together from the eight-mile mark to drop Rodgers and then took turns pushing the pace. At 18 miles Beardsley didn't take his turn and Durden moved away and on to the win.

After a second-place finish the previous year, Laurie Binder stepped atop the podium with a 2:40:57, taking control of the race after seven miles and never being challenged. Binder told the Houston Post that she was "pretty uncomfortable" over the final 10 kilometers, running by herself and having to try and maintain her pace. Kathleen Molitor was second at 2:43:02.

1983

January 16 • 2,060 finishers
Men's Winner: Hailu Ebba (Ethiopia) 2:12:17
Women's Winner: Ingrid Kristiansen (Norway) 2:33:27 (CR)

Eleven years into the life of the Houston Marathon, the world showed up. For the first time ever, international athletes swept the titles, with Ethiopia's Hailu Ebba outkicking defending champ Benji Durden to take men's top honors by three seconds in 2:12:17, and Norway's superstar Ingrid Kristiansen clipping more than two minutes off the course record with her 2:33:27 to beat reigning champ Laurie Binder by nine seconds.

Ebba, an Oregon State graduate who was an Olympic semifinalist at 1500 meters in 1972, saw Ron Tabb sprint away to an early lead, which stretched to 300 yards at the halfway mark. Tabb fell off at 15 miles, where Ebba, Durden and local favorite Marty Froelick of Rice took over the lead. Those three kept the lead, and it wasn't until the final few yards that Ebba's patented kick (he had a 1:47 800 PR) pushed him past Durden.

Binder was the leader in the women's race through 14 miles, where Kristiansen took over. They stayed close the rest of the way and the Norwegian staved off a last-gasp challenge from Binder over the final 100 yards. Former Lamar University runner Midde Hamrin of Sweden was third, also under the previous record with her 2:35:06.

1984

January 15 • 2,093 finishers
Men's Winner: Charlie Spedding (Great Britain) 2:11:54
Women's Winner: Ingrid Kristiansen (Norway) 2:27:51 (CR)

In baseball, the tie goes to the runner. At the '84 Houston Marathon, the tie went to Charlie Spedding. A situation that was unprecedented saw Britain's Spedding awarded the win after a dead-heat finish with Massimo Magnani of Italy. There was no finish-line camera, so it was up to the race staff to determine whose torso crossed the line first. Race director David Hannah, after much consultation, announced that Spedding had edged Magnani, and that announcement sparked an immediate protest by the Italian.

A big pack that included '82 winner Benji Durden went through the 10-mile mark together before Dean Matthews opened up a lead through 13 miles. Magnani and John Wellerding took over then and started to move away from the pack that included Spedding. Spedding and Mark Finucane split from the chase pack and with just over a mile to go, four men were in contention. Making up a three-yard deficit over the final 30 yards, Spedding did just enough to earn the title.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

1984

(continued)

Less dramatic, but no less impressive, was Ingrid Kristiansen's second straight win in the women's race. A completely dominant performance broke her own course record by more than five minutes at 2:27:51. The Norwegian would go on to win the 10,000 at the 1987 World Championships in Rome after a fourth-place effort in the inaugural women's Olympic marathon at Los Angeles in '84.

1985

January 6 • 1,890 finishers

Men's Winner: Marty Froelick 2:11:14

Women's Winner: Sylvia Ruegger (Canada) 2:28:36

Running earlier in the month than usual, athletes in the 13th edition saw UTEP steeplechaser Sam Ngatia of Kenya take off and establish a comfortable lead after the 14-mile mark. In his marathon debut, Ngatia had more than a minute on Rice's Marty Froelick and Wolfgang Krueger of West Germany at 20 miles, running at sub-2:10 pace. That's when the wheels came off for Ngatia, though, as he was hobbled by blisters and was reeled in by Froelick. Cutting the gap steadily into the final mile, Froelick finally passed Ngatia with just under a half-mile to go and went on to just miss the course record with his 2:11:14.

Froelick's time was likely the fastest ever on the course, though, as a recent TAC rule change mandated that certified courses be one-tenth of a percent longer than the standard distance of 26 miles, 385 yards.

Two Canadians fought it out for the women's title, with top honors going to 1984 Olympic eighth-placer Sylvia Ruegger in 2:28:36, almost a minute ahead of Jacqueline Gareau. The duo ran together for 22 miles before Ruegger started to pull away and win in only her third marathon ever. She lowered her own national record in the process.

1986

January 19 • 2,620 finishers

Men's Winner: Paul Cummings 2:11:31

Women's Winner: Veronique Marot (Great Britain) 2:31:33

A new single-loop course that covered more of the city set the stage for a pair of contrasting races. Britain's Veronique Marot, the third-placer in 1985, was a gun-to-tape winner in the women's race, clocking 2:31:33 to beat U.S. legend Francie Larrieu-Smith in her marathon debut. Larrieu-Smith, a four-time Olympian who would eventually take 12th in the '92 marathon at Barcelona, stayed within 30 seconds of Marot through 20 miles, but couldn't make a real dent in the lead as she finished at 2:33:36.

Sub-4:00 miler and 1984 10K Olympian Paul Cummings made the most of his footspeed over the last

5K to outleg Canada's David Edge by eight seconds in 2:11:31. Those two had to make up a lot of ground in the final half of the race to catch defending champ Marty Froelick, who had a 26-second edge after 21 miles. By 23 miles Froelick was out of contention, and Cummings sealed the win over the final quarter-mile.

The new course also drew in more volunteers, going from 950 in 1985 to 2,500 in '86.

1987

January 18 • 2,849 finishers

Men's Winner: Derrick May (South Africa) 2:11:51

Women's Winner: Bente Moe (Norway) 2:32:37

A collegian and a collegiate coach picked up the hardware as Seattle Pacific University's Bente Moe of Norway captured the women's title and South Africa's Derrick May, an assistant coach at Nevada-Reno, won the men's race. Moe's biggest issue on the day came post-race, as she had to decide whether to accept the \$22,000 prize money and forego her NCAA eligibility. From seven miles on Moe was basically unchallenged, winning by more than three minutes in 2:32:37 on a day that saw gusty winds lower the temperature from 43 to 38 degrees over the duration of the event.

Basically an unknown coming into the race, May eased into the lead pack at 10 miles, challenging a group of three that included 1985 runner-up Sam Ngatia by 17 miles. Hanging with Ngatia for the next seven miles, May made a decisive move at 24 miles and won at 2:11:51, 15 seconds ahead of Norway's Geir Kvernmo, who was running only his second marathon.

The race also served as the U.S. men's championship, with Ric Sayre the top American in seventh at 2:13:54 to earn a spot on the Pan American Games squad.

1988

January 17 • 3,073 finishers

Men's Winner: Geir Kvernmo (Norway) 2:11:44

Women's Winner: Linda Zeman 2:34:52

Sometimes, it's just your day. And it certainly was for Linda Zeman, who stunned everyone by easily winning the women's race with a huge personal best as she became the first-ever "uninvited" woman to mount the podium. After deciding to run the race on January 1 as a part of her New Year's resolutions, Zeman crushed her previous PR by eight minutes to clock 2:34:52, more than a minute ahead of the runner-up. Hotter-than-usual conditions at the start also affected the race, with the temperature at 64 degrees and the humidity at 85%.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

1988

(continued)

Moving up a place from his runner-up finish in '87, Norway's Geir Kvernmo held off Mexico's Salvador Garcia to win at 2:11:44. Kvernmo, who set a Norwegian record of 2:10:17 to place fifth at London in 1987, cranked up the pace at the halfway mark and held a 30-second lead over Garcia at 21 miles. Over the final five miles Garcia inched closer and closer, but he couldn't close the gap completely and ended up six seconds back.

1989

January 15 • 3,195 finishers

Men's Winner: Richard Kaitany (Kenya) 2:10:04 (CR)

Women's Winner: Veronique Marot (Great Britain) 2:30:16

Heavy fog at the race start limited visibility to less than 50 yards, but a little more than two hours later it was abundantly clear that no one could match the quality of former Iowa State runner Richard Kaitany of Kenya, who set a course record of 2:10:04 to win by more than 90 seconds. Those four seconds on the end of his time were heartbreaking, though, as Kaitany missed out on a \$10,000 bonus on offer to the first man to break 2:10. He had run 2:09:39 at Chicago the previous October and said he would have gone under the bonus time if only there had been a clock for him to see as he raced to the finish. Kaitany and '88 winner Geir Kvernmo were together through 17 miles, where the Kenyan felt jostled and took off, never to be challenged again.

Three years after her first Houston victory, Britain's Veronique Marot ran with Maria Trujillo and Norway's Sissel Grottenberg for the first 10 miles before moving away and easing to the win more than two minutes ahead of Kim Jones at 2:30:16. Three months later, on April 23, Marot ran the best race of her career to win at London in 2:25:56.

1990

January 14 • 3,237 finishers

Men's Winner: Paul Pilkington 2:11:13

Women's Winner: Maria Trujillo 2:32:55

Former Weber State steeplechaser Paul Pilkington had all cylinders firing on the way to his career-best 2:11:13 win, the third-fastest time ever at Houston. Race veteran Sam Ngatia of Kenya, who had tried five times previously to win, had the lead at the halfway point and stayed with Pilkington through 18 miles, but the American was clearly stronger and powered away to win his first marathon in six starts.

With thoughts of her late-race fade the previous year, Maria Trujillo staved off Germany's Kerstin Pressler over the last eight miles to win at 2:32:55. The German was on Trujillo's shoulder at 18 miles, but cited fatigue and the course's hills for her failure to maintain that challenge, finishing second at 2:34:49.

1991

January 20 • 3,798 finishers

Men's Winner: Carey Nelson (Canada) 2:12:28

Women's Winner: Veronique Marot (Great Britain) 2:30:55

Strong winds blew throughout the race, gusting to 15 mph, but they couldn't stop Britain's Veronique Marot from becoming the first-ever three-time women's champion at 2:30:55. Marot, who also won in '86 and '89, ran with Denmark's Dorthe Rasmussen for 17 miles and then took off and created a two-minute gap over the runner-up. One year later at Barcelona, Marot would finish 16th in the Olympic marathon.

Men's champion Carey Nelson of Canada, a 5K Olympian in 1988, won his second straight marathon in 2:12:28, the slowest winning time since Ron Tabb's 2:13:36 in 1980. Contending with Czechoslovakia's Martin Vrabel through 23 miles, Nelson's winning move made up a 30-yard gap and he sprinted on to win by 12 seconds over Vrabel. Nelson finished 35th in the '96 Olympic marathon at Atlanta.

1992

January 26 • 3,789 finishers

Men's Winner: Filemon Lopez (Mexico) 2:13:12

Women's Winner: Kimberley Webb 2:50:17

Women's Olympic Trials Winner: Janis Klecker 2:30:12

Houston '92 served as the U.S. Olympic Trials race for women and it lived up to its potential. Top-seeded Kim Jones dropped after three miles with an ankle injury, leaving '88 Olympian Cathy O'Brien and four-time Olympian Francie Larrieu-Smith to contend with Janis Klecker, who was running for her sixth time on the course. A strategic race dictated a moderate pace, and the turning point came at a water stop at 15 miles when Klecker got her feet tangled and fell. O'Brien helped her up.

Those two got back on pace and at 20 miles O'Brien broke away to open up a 20+ second margin over Klecker by 23 miles. Klecker and Larrieu-Smith worked together to close the gap and Klecker was 100 yards adrift of O'Brien with just over a mile to go. With less than a quarter-mile left, Klecker moved ahead for good and won by 14 seconds in 2:30:12, with O'Brien and Larrieu-Smith claiming the other two Olympic berths. For Larrieu-Smith, it was to be her fifth Olympic team.

Mexico's Filemon Lopez was looking for his own qualifying time for his national Olympic team (2:11), but the pesky winds and his solo run late in the race put paid to those hopes. Lopez and Michael Heilmann of Germany opened up a 200-yard lead on the pack by 10 miles, but just before the 11-mile point Heilmann had to stop and tie his shoe and he could never reclaim the time that cost as Lopez moved away and eventually crossed the line at 2:13:12.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

1993

January 24 • 3,524 finishers
Men's Winner: Frank Bjorkli (Norway) 2:13:21
Women's Winner: Kristy Johnston 2:29:05

Scandinavian-like weather, with wind chills in the 30-degree range and 30 mph gusts, played into the hands of Norway's Frank Bjorkli, who was running only his second marathon. Defending champ Filemon Lopez dropped at 10 miles due to leg cramps, leaving Bjorkli, '90 champion Paul Pilkington and Mark Plaatjes to work the next seven miles. After Pilkington and Plaatjes began to drop, Bjorkli's way was clear and the story was Sean Wade's charge from 15th to second place over the final stretch. Bjorkli clocked 2:13:21, with Wade second at 2:16:09. Plaatjes would be the story of American marathoning later in the year with his stunning win at the World Championships in Stuttgart.

The conditions didn't bother women's winner Kristy Johnston at all, apparently, as she knocked 10 minutes off her personal best with a 2:29:05 that was the third fastest ever on the course. At the halfway mark Johnston was running with Hungary's Karolina Szabo and Russia's Albina Gallyamova, and she began to move away from those two, throwing down her fastest mile of the day at 17 miles to virtually guarantee her win. Gallyamova was second, more than two minutes behind Johnston.

1994

January 16 • 3,921 finishers
Men's Winner: Colin Moore (Great Britain) 2:13:34
Women's Winner: Alevtina Naumova (Russia) 2:34:47

Slow times were the order of the day in damp and windy conditions, with veteran Russian Alevtina Naumova taking advantage of the neophyte tactics of Ukraine's Tetyana Pozdnyakova to claim the women's win and Britain's Colin Moore running a very business-like race to take top men's honors. Naumova let Pozdnyakova go when the Ukrainian surged at nine miles, and there was a minute gap by 17 miles, with Trina Painter joining Naumova in the chase. Debutante Pozdnyakova hit the proverbial wall after mile 19, and Naumova continued to gain ground. She took the lead at 25 miles and went on to the win at 2:34:47, 22 seconds ahead of Pozdnyakova.

Brick mason Moore and Canada's Peter Fonseca were the leaders after 15 miles, breaking away from the field. Nearing the final miles, Moore took advantage of Fonseca's cramping problems to take the lead for good at 25 miles and win by 19 seconds at 2:13:34.

1995

January 15 • 4,410 finishers
Men's Winner: Peter Fonseca (Canada) 2:11:52
Women's Winner: Tetyana Pozdnyakova (Ukraine) 2:29:57

Third time was a charm for men's winner Peter Fonseca of Canada, while second time was lucky for Tetyana Pozdnyakova of Ukraine in the women's race. On the heels of fourth-place and second-place finishes his past two tries in '92 and '94, Portugal-based Fonseca settled in at a fast pace with Norway's Terje Naess and New Zealand's Sean Wade. The trio was together through 23 miles before a Fonseca surge dropped Wade. On the run in to the finish Fonseca had the better speed and came away with the win at 2:11:52.

Falling victim to "The Wall" in her debut the previous year, Pozdnyakova didn't make any mistakes this time around. Taking the lead from Tatyana Titova of Russia at 15 miles, Pozdnyakova stretched the margin to more than two minutes by 21 miles and cruised to the win at 2:29:57, more than four minutes ahead of runner-up Suzanna Ciric of Yugoslavia.

1996

January 21 • 4,361 finishers
Men's Winner: Turbo Tumo (Ethiopia) 2:10:34
Women's Winner: Adriana Fernandez (Mexico) 2:31:59

A near wrong turn almost cost Ethiopia's Turbo Tumo the men's title, and a positive drug test did cost the women's winner her second straight title. Tumo was the best of the deepest field in race history, with four men dipping under 2:11. Pacemakers Justin Chaston and Jon Warren carried the field through the halfway mark before dropping to let a group of six that included Tumo, Britain's Steve Brace, Russia's Leonid Shvetsov and New Zealand's Sean Wade take over. Tumo and Brace moved to the front over the final three miles and as Tumo was making the final turn to the finish he erroneously tried to follow the lead motorcycle. Notified quickly of his error, Tumo corrected it and outsprinted Brace to win by one second at 2:10:34, the second-fastest time ever on the course.

Defending champion Tetyana Pozdnyakova of Ukraine made a late-race surge to close a two-minute gap and win at 2:31:03, but was later disqualified after failing a doping test. Runner-up Adriana Fernandez of Mexico was elevated to champion with her 2:31:59.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

1997

January 12 • 4,290 finishers
Men's Winner: Ake Eriksson (Sweden) 2:19:01
Women's Winner: Claudia Dreher (Germany) 2:36:13

The most miserable conditions in the history of the event turned the '97 race into a battle for survival, not speed. With the temperature never rising above 31 degrees, and sleet falling, a pair of Europeans picked up their first Houston wins. Claudia Dreher of Germany made her debut a memorable one, running the first few miles with a small group before assuming an insurmountable lead at seven miles on the way to a 2:36:13 win. In her wake, Betsey Kempter was runner-up more than three minutes back and 1995 champ Tetyana Pozdnyakova placed third. Those three were the only women under 2:40 on the day.

Eriksson, who notched a 2:10:53 PR to take fourth at Chicago in 1990, followed the early pace made by Sean Wade and Jon Warren until Wade dropped at 10 miles and Ethiopia's Bedaso Turbe joined Warren at the front. Turbe turned on the jets and opened up a big lead until mile 21, where the engines sputtered and he was passed by Eriksson and Australia's Shaun Creighton. Creighton crumbled after 23 miles, leaving Eriksson alone to win by more than two minutes.

1998

January 18 • 4,459 finishers
Men's Winner: Stephen Ndungu (Kenya) 2:11:23
Women's Winner: Gwyn Coogan 2:33:37

Competing for a U.S. championship brought out the best of the women's field, with 22 women breaking 2:50 and eight going sub-2:42. The best of them? Gwyn Coogan. Coogan, a '92 Olympian at 10,000 meters, kept to her pre-race plan in the muggy conditions, letting Linda Somers take the early lead. Recovering from a fall three miles in, Coogan and Kim Jones steadily moved up and caught Somers Smith at 10 miles. From there, Coogan kept pushing the pace and opened up a two-minute lead by 24 miles. She kept that margin through the finish at 2:33:37, ahead of Jones and Somers Smith. Coogan earned a \$30,000 payday and the total purse of \$100,500 was the largest ever for a USATF women's national championship.

In his second race at the distance, Kenya's Stephen Ndungu showed a foretaste of things to come with a dominant win to lead a sweep of the top three men's spots by Kenyan runners. Dissatisfied with the early pace, Ndungu pushed ahead at nine miles and had an easy time of it in winning at 2:11:23.

1999

January 17 • 4,369 finishers
Men's Winner: Stephen Ndungu (Kenya) 2:14:56
Women's Winner: Tetyana Pozdnyakova (Ukraine) 2:33:23

Warm and humid conditions again played a role in the outcome, but couldn't stop Stephen Ndungu of Kenya from winning his second straight title and leading fellow countrymen Sammy Maritim and Gideon Mutisya to a 1-2-3 repeat of the '98 finish. Ndungu almost didn't make it to the line, though, fighting off physical problems at 15 miles before recovering and winning by nine seconds.

Another former champion, 1995 winner Tetyana Pozdnyakova of Ukraine, didn't push the pace, biding her time behind Ethiopia's Elfenesh Alemu most of the race before grabbing the lead after 22 miles while Alemu faded a bit due to fatigue and the lingering effects of a cold. Pozdnyakova nabbed her second official title at 2:33:23, three minutes ahead of Russia's Zinaida Semenova, with Alemu a disappointed third. 1996 Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Kerri Strug was a noteworthy finisher at 4:12:06.

2000

January 16 • 4,404 finishers
Men's Winner: Stephen Ndungu (Kenya) 2:11:28
Women's Winner: Tetyana Pozdnyakova (Ukraine) 2:32:25

The first race of the new millennium had a pair of very familiar faces atop the podium after all the running was done, with Kenya's Stephen Ndungu completing a hat trick with his third straight men's victory in 2:11:28 and ageless Tetyana Pozdnyakova of Ukraine also picking up a third career women's title at 2:32:25.

This was perhaps the easiest of Ndungu's three wins. Unhappy with uneven pacesetting, Ndungu made the best of a bad situation and took over the lead at 19 miles and finished more than two minutes ahead of Kenya's Sammy Maritim at 2:11:27. Maritim earned runner-up honors for the third straight year, outsprinting Gemechu Kebede of Ethiopia.

Nicole Carroll of Australia set a crazy pace for the first seven miles, given the relatively toasty conditions, and paid the price by dropping out at eight miles. '99 runner-up Zinaida Semenova of Russia took over the lead and held it until she was passed by a very patient Pozdnyakova at 23 miles. The Ukrainian, with the best career flat speed in the field, strided on to win at 2:32:24 and relegated Semenova to the second spot again.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

2001

January 14 • 3,944 finishers

Men's Winner: Chris Ciamarra 2:29:27

Women's Winner: Stacie Alboucrek 2:43:40

Prize money was not offered and there were no international elites in the field, but the men's race still had some intrigue with multiple lead changes and dropouts before Chris Ciamarra crossed the line for the win at 2:29:27, the slowest winning time since 1975. Ciamarra, a restaurant manager from Pennsylvania, drove to Houston the day before race, and hurriedly finished his post-race press conference to make the 1,400-mile drive back home. Jerry Pullins was the leader through 17 miles and abruptly dropped out, leaving a small group to take turns before Sean Wade grabbed the lead at 21 miles. Ciamarra passed Wade at 22 miles and never looked back.

Just over nine months after giving birth to a son, Stacie Alboucrek endured a bit more pain to win the women's race with a personal best 2:43:40. The Florida mom went to the lead early and never relinquished it, topping runner-up Joy Smith by more than 12 minutes.

2002

January 20 • 4,244 finishers

Men's Winner: Drew Prisner 2:28:43

Women's Winner: Becky Sondag 2:50:49

First-time marathoner Drew Prisner, a Compaq worker, kept the hardware in the company house, so to speak, winning his debut at 2:28:43 in a race sponsored by his employer. Daniel Shaw rolled out to a big early lead, stretching the margin to four minutes by 14 miles. Shaw started to tighten up four miles later, and by the 23-mile mark Prisner could see Shaw and made his move. Prisner ended up winning by more than a minute over Joshua Urban.

High school English teacher Becky Sondag ran with a couple half-marathon entrants for the first nine miles of her race before the two courses split apart and she was left on her own out front, never to see any challengers on the way to winning by more than five minutes at 2:50:49, the slowest winning mark since 1978.

2003

January 19 • 4,713 finishers

Men's Winner: Sean Wade (New Zealand) 2:24:43

Women's Winner: Albina Gallyamova (Russia) 2:42:37

In his fifth finish, Sean Wade finally won. The local teacher from New Zealand had finished second, third, fourth and fifth the four previous times he finished the race. Lambros Zaragas of Greece jetted to the lead and was on 2:12 pace through the early miles and 2:16 through the halfway point. Encouraged by a group of his P.E. students from the Shlenker School, Wade passed his own house at 21 miles still trailing but heard from spectators that Zaragas was slowing down. Paying the price for his early speed, Zaragas yielded the lead with just under a mile to go and Wade was finally able to claim the Houston title at 2:24:43.

Moving to the lead quickly in the women's race, Russia's Albina Gallyamova was on cruise control when she was surprised by Madeline Tormoen at nine miles. The unexpected challenge spurred the Russian to surge again and she held on to the lead the rest of the way to win at 2:42:37, almost three minutes ahead of Tormoen, who ran with an implanted defibrillator.

2004

January 18 • 5,353 finishers

Men's Winner: Marek Jaroszewski (Poland) 2:18:51

Women's Winner: Margarita Tapia (Mexico) 2:28:36

Not since 1995 had a woman run under 2:30 at Houston. Margarita Tapia of Mexico did that and more en route to a majestic and dominant win at 2:28:36, winning by more than five minutes over Nicole Stevenson of Canada. Tapia's dominance was such that her competitors only saw her at the start and for a brief period after as she moved rapidly away from everyone. Her time qualified her for a spot in the Mexican Olympic team, and she finished 38th at Athens.

A six-man group led the men's race through 14 miles, including Poland's Marek Jaroszewski, defending champ Sean Wade of New Zealand and Australia's Kim Gillard. Jaroszewski and Gillard pulled away from Wade after 15 miles and traded the lead for the next six miles before Gillard tried to make a decisive move. Jaroszewski managed to hold on as Gillard slowed a little, and at 24 miles the Pole took the lead for good. He ended up winning by 39 seconds over Gillard, with Wade third at 2:22:26.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

2005

January 16 • 5,718 finishers
Men's Winner: David Cheruiyot (Kenya) 2:14:50
Women's Winner: Kelly Keane 2:32:27

Local favorite Kelly Keane of the Woodlands couldn't hold back a huge smile as she broke the tape at 2:32:27 to win the women's title, having enjoyed the support of a huge and raucous crowd all along the course. Keane and Poland's Wioletta Kryza ran with four other women through the early miles before breaking away after seven miles. The duo ran in tandem for most of the next 14 miles. Keane took off after the 21 mile mark and established a 100-yard lead, taking advantage of Kryza's tightening hamstrings to stretch that lead and race on to the win by almost three minutes.

Entering the race late, Kenya's David Cheruiyot puzzled many observers, who confused him with Daniel Cheruiyot, a seeded runner in the half marathon. Nonetheless, Cheruiyot sorted out any confusion by the finish as he picked up his first title at 2:14:50. Complaining later that the pace was too slow, Cheruiyot was stronger than Andrej Naumov of Ukraine and reigning champion Marek Jaroszewski of Poland, breaking away from the duo easily with sub-5:00 miles midway through the race. Naumov was second, 26 seconds behind Cheruiyot, while Jaroszewski improved his '04 time by three minutes to take third.

2006

January 15 • 5,414 finishers
Men's Winner: David Cheruiyot (Kenya) 2:12:02
Women's Winner: Firiya Sultanova (Russia) 2:32:25

Responding to complaints of a slow pace the previous year, race organizers provided an experienced rabbit for reigning champion David Cheruiyot. New Zealander Sean Wade, the '03 winner and a veteran Houston runner, pulled the leaders through 11 miles before dropping out. Cheruiyot was surprised to have two fellow Kenyans still at his side in the persons of John Itati and Wesley Ngetich. Ngetich was the strongest of the challengers, taking the lead until the final 100 yards, where Cheruiyot sped past him to finish first with a PR 2:12:02, eight seconds up on Ngetich.

What looked like a runaway win for Russia's Firiya Sultanova turned into a painful trip to the finish line for the 44-year-old after she felt a twinge in her foot at the halfway point. Ignoring the excruciating pain, Sultanova kept pushing but at 25 miles she was forced to stop and walk five times and watch her four-minute lead crumble. She put in one final valiant effort in the final mile, though, and crossed the line at 2:32:25, 31 seconds ahead of Canada's Nicole Stevenson.

2007

January 14 • 5,303 finishers
Men's Winner: Feyisa Tusse (Ethiopia) 2:11:39
Women's Winner: Dire Tune (Ethiopia) 2:26:52 (CR)

Breaking a course record that was set before she was born, Ethiopia's Dire Tune ran a marvelous race that made the 21-year-old the first woman ever under 2:27 at Houston. Starting the race in a small group with defending champion Firiya Sultanova of Russia and Claudia Camargo of Argentina, Tune ran easily. She and Camargo dropped Sultanova after three miles and by eight miles Tune was basically alone, stretching her lead and impressing the crowds with her rapid pace on the way to a win by more than three minutes over Hungary's Beata Rakonczai.

Another Ethiopian, Feyisa Tusse, won the men's race and shared something in common with Tune, the women's champion - they both slept on cots at DFW airport two nights previously after missing the last flight to Houston. Neither athlete appeared to suffer from the rigors of their lengthy journey from Addis Ababa, and Tusse's only complaint was the pacesetters were too slow. Running pretty much on his own most of the way, Tusse missed the course record with a 2:11:39 but won by more than two minutes.

2008

January 13 • 5,519 finishers
Men's Winner: David Cheruiyot (Kenya) 2:12:32
Women's Winner: Dire Tune (Ethiopia) 2:24:40 (CR)

One year after breaking a decades-old record, Ethiopia's Dire Tune lowered her own course best by more than two minutes to crush the field and win her second straight title at 2:24:40. Tune won by almost 11 minutes, one of the largest winning margins ever at Houston. She wasn't pleased with her time, though, hoping for a 2:21 clocking. Tune and fellow Ethiopian Worknesh Tola ran together in the lead at six miles, and Tune made a small break at the halfway point, putting herself 60 yards up on Tola. By the 19th mile there was no sight of anyone behind Tune, and she pushed through the final miles to take the win.

Winning his third title in four years, David Cheruiyot of Kenya was again unhappy with the pacemaking as he had hopes of breaking the course record and earning the \$10,000 bonus that accompanied that feat. As it was, Cheruiyot had plenty to handle in the form of Ethiopia's Kasime Adilo. After showing his frustration with the pacers by waving his arms in a "let's go" motion midway through the race, Cheruiyot and Adilo slowed the pace dramatically and then sparked it back up again as they neared the last miles. Cheruiyot was too quick over the final stretch for Adilo, becoming only the second man to thrice win Houston, crossing the line at 2:12:32.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

2009

January 19 • 5,349 finishers
Men's Winner: Deriba Merga (Ethiopia) 2:07:52 (CR)
Women's Winner: Teyba Erkesso (Ethiopia) 2:24:18 (CR)

The era of Ethiopian dominance arrived in full force in '09, heralded by a pair of wins with superb record-setting performances from Deriba Merga and Teyba Erkesso. Merga not only broke the 20-year-old men's record, he crushed it. But was he happy? No. Merga had aimed at a 2:05 and appeared to be on pace early in the race as he followed the rabbits, but when the last of the three pacemakers dropped out with more than nine miles left it was left to the diminutive Merga to try and maintain his speed in the teeth of a hefty headwind that pushed back as he ran into downtown. He ended up winning by 3:41 at 2:07:52, the fastest time ever run in the state of Texas.

Erkesso was similarly dominant, winning by more than three minutes with her 2:24:18, but had the advantage of a male pacemaker who helped shield her from the persistent winds that bedeviled Merga. Early on Erkesso ran with countrywoman Amane Gobena and Romania's Nuta Olaru. The two Ethiopians started to pull away after 15 miles, and Erkesso pushed the pace to gap Gobena over the next couple miles. By 21 miles there were no challengers visible and Erkesso polished off her record run.

2010

January 18 • 6,287 finishers
Men's Winner: Teshome Gelana (Ethiopia) 2:07:37 (CR)
Women's Winner: Teyba Erkesso (Ethiopia) 2:23:53 (CR)

Two more Ethiopian champions and two more course records were the result of a late entrant and a confident returning winner. Teshome Gelana had not even entered the race by the deadline, but his agent persuaded race officials to let him in and he rewarded that decision with a brilliant late run to shave 15 seconds off the record set last year and lead five other men under 2:10. It was a group affair for the majority of the race, with a lead pack of six or seven through 19 miles. Gelana stayed with that group until 22 miles, when he put the pedal down and burned a 4:40 mile to open up a gap that would never close. He slowed to 4:50s the rest of the way, but the damage was done and he won by 50 seconds at 2:07:37. Brett Gotcher ran the fastest time ever by an American at Houston to take seventh at 2:10:36.

Defending the title she won in '09, Teyba Erkesso was shadowed by Alemitu Abera for six miles but Erkesso kept the pressure on and extended her lead to almost a minute by the halfway point. Russia's Margarita Plaksina moved past Abera by 18 miles but couldn't make a dent in Erkesso's lead, which had stretched to three minutes. The final margin was almost five minutes as Erkesso cut 25 seconds off her existing record to clock 2:23:53, with Plaksina at a very

respectable 2:28:44.

2011

January 30 • 6,852 finishers
Men's Winner: Bekana Daba (Ethiopia) 2:07:04 (CR)
Women's Winner: Mamitu Daska (Ethiopia) 2:26:33

A marathoning neophyte of sorts, Ethiopia's Bekana Daba set a men's course record in only his second race at the distance, even taking time near the finish for a bathroom break. The 22-year-old was safely ensconced in the lead pack for the first 14 miles, showing no signs of trouble despite the rapid mid-race pace. He and Wilfred Murgor of Kenya burst forward at 15 miles and opened up a huge lead. Murgor dropped back eventually and the only challenge left for Daba was whether or not to make a quick stop at the port-a-potty on the way in. He did, just as he entered downtown, but still managed to clock a blistering 2:07:04 and win by more than four minutes over surprising American Nick Arcianaga, who was second at 2:11:30 after originally running as a pacemaker for Brett Gotcher.

Tactics were much the same for Mamitu Daska of Ethiopia in the women's race. She and Ashu Kasim were together for 24 miles and then she unleashed a withering kick that took her through a 5:17 25th mile and helped her win by 1:14 at 2:26:33. Stephanie Rothstein had a great day, too, finishing third as the top U.S. runner at 2:29:35.

2012

January 15 • 7,614 finishers
Men's Winner: Tariku Jufar (Ethiopia) 2:06:51 (CR)
Women's Winner: Alemitu Abera (Ethiopia) 2:23:14 (CR)

Much of the attention of marathon fans was on Saturday's U.S. Olympic Trials races, but a pair of Ethiopians quickly redirected that attention Sunday with course records going to Tariku Jufar and Alemitu Abera in the 40th anniversary race. Jufar was not the pre-race favorite, but with a PR of 2:08:10 coming in he was certainly a capable contender. Debebe Tolossa and Demssew Tsega, also of Ethiopia, had the pace set at sub-2:06 tempo and Jufar kept up with that duo as they passed the halfway point at 1:03:08. Tsega started sliding back at 20 miles, where Jufar made a big move. Tolossa tried to match Jufar's move but couldn't keep up that pace and it was all Jufar the rest of the way as he became the first man under 2:07 at Houston, beating Tolossa by 50 seconds at 2:06:51.

Nothing was close in the women's race, where Abera, the third-placer in 2010, took off at a high and determined pace and opened up a three minute lead by halfway. She was never even remotely challenged as she cropped 39 seconds off the record set by Teyba Erkesso two years previously. Australia's Benita Willis finished well to earn a respectable second at 2:28:24.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

2013

January 13 • 6,530 finishers

Men's Winner: Bazu Worku (Ethiopia) 2:10:17

Women's Winner: Merima Mohammed (Ethiopia) 2:23:37

Ethiopia's 20-year-old Merima Mohammed overcame leg problems and cold, wet conditions to run the second-fastest ever women's race, while countryman Bazu Worku, 22, ran away with the men's title as youth was served. Mohammed ran the first half of the race with fellow Ethiopians Bizunesh Deba and Meskerem Assefa and that trio stayed together through 33km, when Mohammed made a strong move and broke away. She stretched her lead to 47 seconds over Deba by the 40km mark and crossed the line in 2:23:37, missing the course record by 23 seconds.

Deba, the runner-up of the 2011 New York Marathon, finished second in 2:24:26, which is the fifth-fastest time in race history. Showing great range for an athlete who boasts PRs of 2:02:12 and 4:02:12 for 800m and 1500m, Assefa finished third on her marathon debut in 2:25:17.

Worku, who had been running in a pack of nine early in the race, came through the halfway mark in 65:25 with five others. But by 25km, he had opened up a 50-second lead over countryman Solomon Molla. Worku continued to stretch that lead with every mile and finished in 2:10:17, winning by more than two-and-a-half minutes. Teferi Balcha claimed runner-up honors in 2:12:50, while Molla held on for third in 2:14:37.

2014

January 19 • 6,945 finishers

Men's Winner: Bazu Worku (Ethiopia) 2:07:32

Women's Winner: Abebech Bekele (Ethiopia) 2:25:52

It took Bazu Worku almost 26 miles to shake fellow Ethiopian Getachew Terfa, but over the final half-mile the defending champion pulled away to win in 2:07:32, the third-fastest time in race history. Terfa crossed the line 22 seconds later at 2:07:54, and unheralded Mexican Jose Antonio Uribe shattered his personal best with a 2:08:54 to place third.

With the pacemakers doing their jobs to near perfection, the lead pack of 10 came through the half-marathon at 63:15, and through the next 5K there were still 10 men within three seconds of each other. Going by the 30K mark at 1:30:04, Worku and Terfa had only Solomon Deksisa for company, and the next 5K segment was crucial as the lead pair surged and put almost a minute between them and Uribe, who had moved ahead of Deksisa. Heading into the heart of the city on the way to the finish, Worku and Terfa fought back and forth for the lead. By the time Worku made the final turn towards home in front of the GRB he had broken Terfa and sealed the victory and a \$40,000 payday.

Sarah Kiptoo of Kenya made the early pace for the women, taking a group of seven through 10K

in 33:56. She faded over the next 5K, leaving six women in contention and Meskerem Assefa and Gelete Burka with a slight edge. Five runners went past the half-marathon mark in 1:12:13 and Abebech Bekele and Biruktait Degefa looked poised to make a break. No one could make a significant dent, though, and Bekele and Degefa held only a one second margin at 35K.

Bekele eased ahead over the next 5K and had a 10-second gap over Assefa and Burka with two miles to go, and she held off a furious late challenge by Assefa to win her first marathon in 2:25:52. That was the eighth-fastest performance in race history and Assefa climbed to No. 9 with her 2:25:59. Former world indoor 1500 champion Burka couldn't summon enough speed at the end but still claimed the No. 10 all-time list spot at 2:26:03.

2015

January 18 • 7,004 finishers

Men's Winner: Birhanu Gedefa (Ethiopia) 2:08:03

Women's Winner: Yebrgual Arage (Ethiopia) 2:23:23

Near-perfect conditions yielded speedy performances as Yebrgual Arage ran the second fastest time ever by a woman at Houston and Birhanu Gedefa outkicked Gebo Burka to take the men's race. It was the seventh straight sweep of the titles by Ethiopia.

Arage made a late race surge and passed early leader Biruktait Degefa before fighting off the challenge of Guteni Imana on the way to a 2:23:23 that was a personal best by almost three minutes. Imana finished at 2:23:32, the third-fastest time ever at Houston and a seven minute improvement on her previous best, and Degefa also dipped under 2:24 with a 2:23:51 that moved her to fifth on the all-time race performance list.

Kellyn Taylor had an impressive debut to place sixth at 2:28:40 as the top American, three minutes ahead of 2014 half marathon champion Serena Burla, who crossed the line at 2:31:46 in seventh.

Gedefa was content to run with the pack for the early part of the race, cruising through the halfway point at 1:03:20. He stayed with the leaders through 30K at 1:31:06 and was six seconds behind Debebe Tolossa with just over four miles to go. Burka made a strong push and pulled away from the pack, opening up a 14-second lead by 40K, but Gedefa fought back and passed Burka in the final 400 meters to win at 2:08:03, a lifetime best and the eighth-fastest time ever at Houston.

Burka's 2:08:12 made him the ninth-fastest in race history, while Tolossa was third at 2:09:07. Kenya's Dominic Ondoro was also under 2:10, taking fourth at 2:09:40. 2014 half marathon runner-up, Aaron Braun, moved up in distance to great effect, finishing as the top American at 2:12:54 in seventh.

HOUSTON MARATHON HISTORY

2016

January 17 • 7,802 finishers

Men's Winner: Birhanu Gedefa (Ethiopia) 2:11:53
Women's Winner: Biruktayit Degefa (Ethiopia) 2:26:07

What started off as runaways by Poland's Artur Kozlowski and Australia's Lisa Weightman, turned into a pair of Ethiopian victories.

2015 men's runner-up Gebo Burka passed Kozlowski after the 35K mark, making up a 1:01 deficit from 30K as he ran stride for stride with countryman Girmay Gebru. The duo passed 40K together, and with less than a half-mile to go Burka pulled ahead and went on to win at 2:10:54. It was the eighth straight Houston win for Ethiopia.

Defending champion Birhanu Gedefa was third at 2:11:53, and Kozlowski ended up fifth at 2:14:11. Two-time winner Bazu Worku was sixth.

Kozlowski had a 20-second lead by 10K and added 19 seconds to that over the next 5K. He passed the half at 1:04:58, more than 50 seconds ahead of the chase pack that included Daniel Vargas of Mexico along with Gebru and Worku.

Gedefa was second at 25K, 58 seconds behind the leader, and by 30K he was 1:02 back, just behind Burka, Gebru and Yitayal Atanfu. Over the next 5K that group cut Kozlowski's margin to 19 seconds, passing him for good just after that.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) subsequently notified the Houston Marathon Committee that Burka and Gebru were sanctioned for anti-doping rule violations. Both runners from Ethiopia were removed from the results and the 2016 final standings updated. Gedefa, the 2015 Houston Marathon winner, was awarded the 2016 title and prize money was reallocated in accordance with the new results.

Weightman ran alone at the front of the women's race until just before the 30K point, where Biruktayit Degefa pushed past her and pulled away to win at 2:26:07. Degefa was third last year after a fourth-place finish in 2014, and she ran the second half of her race in 1:12:20, 1:27 faster than the first 13.1 miles. Her win was the 10th in a row for Ethiopia.

Degefa was a minute back at the half, running with three other women, but the quartet made up 15 seconds over the next 5K.

After losing her lead, Weightman dropped back by 27 seconds over the next 5K and fell even farther behind by 40K. She held on to take second at 2:27:35 and 2015 fourth-placer Sechale Dalasa moved up one rung to place third at 2:28:43.

2017

January 15 • 7,152 finishers

Men's Winner: Dominic Ondoro (Kenya) 2:12:05
Women's Winner: Meskerem Assefa (Ethiopia) 2:30:18

Late-race breakaways led to first-time wins in the Chevron Houston Marathon

After a runner-up finish in 2014 and a third-place effort in 2013, Meskerem Assefa of Ethiopia extended her nation's dominance in the women's marathon with a 2:30:18 to notch her first win and extend to 11 the streak of Ethiopian victories. Assefa and defending champion Biruktayit Degefa ran together until the 25-kilometer mark, where Assefa made a subtle move to put six seconds on Degefa over the next 5K. Steadily moving away from Degefa, Assefa hit 35K in 2:03:44, 26 seconds in front, and her lead increased to 40 seconds by 40K. Fighting cramps, Assefa held on over the final two kilos to win by 26 seconds as Degefa crossed the line at 2:30:44.

Local favorite Becky Wade, a former Rice all-American in track and field, was the top U.S. finisher, taking third in 2:35:57.

Kenya's Dominic Ondoro snapped an eight-race winning streak by Ethiopian men with his strong finish over the final four kilos, clocking 2:12:05. Ondoro was part of a large pack early in the race, which was whittled down to five at the 25K mark. The group became four over the next 5K, with last year's runner-up, Yitayal Atanfu of Ethiopia hanging on Ondoro's shoulder. Also in the group were Atanfu's countrymen Abayneh Ayele, a 2:06 man, and Andualem Shiferaw. Between 35K and 40K, Ondoro and Atanfu pulled away, with Ondoro breaking Atanfu and taking a 10-second lead by 40K. Atanfu had no answer for Ondoro's strength in the final two kilos and ended up second in 2:12:33. Assefa and Ondoro each earned \$45,000 for their respective wins in the Chevron Houston Marathon.

Elkanah Kibet took honors as the top American man, placing sixth in 2:17:25.

2018

January 14 • 7,031 finishers

Men's Winner: Bazu Worku (Ethiopia) 2:08:30

Women's Winner: Biruktayit Degafa (Ethiopia)
2:24:51

In the 46th year of the Houston Marathon, Bazu Worku, 27, of Ethiopia came back from a 23-second deficit at 40K to win here for the third time, breaking the tape in 2:08:30. Finishing second for the third consecutive year was Yitayal Atnafu of Ethiopia, in 2:09:07.

Atnafu, 24, ran the 18th mile in 4:30, the fastest of the day, to pull away from the field, and appeared to have the race in hand before fading in the final kilometers and being caught by his training partner. Worku also won here in 2013 and 2014.

"I was having a plan," said Worku through a translator. "At 25K I was doing my pace, and at 35K." After catching up with Atnafu just past 40K, he said, "I knew that I was winning."

Finishing in sixth (2:15:52) as top American was Wilkerson Given, a local favorite, coached by Danny Green, the winner of the first-ever Houston Marathon in 1972. Given was among three men running times that qualified them to compete in the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Marathon.

For the women, Biruktayit Degafa, 27, of Ethiopia won in 2:24:51 after a spirited battle with countrywoman Belaynesh Oljira, runner-up in 2:24:57.

It was Degafa's fifth-consecutive appearance here at the Chevron Houston Marathon, a streak that included a win in 2016 and a second-place finish last year.

"When I come to Houston, I feel it is special joy, because I consider Houston as my hometown," she said through a translator. "As if I'm coming to a family. I came here very prepared, and I knew that I would be winning today." Both male and female marathon winners each earned a first-place prize of \$45,000, plus time bonuses.

Sarah Crouch was the top American, seventh in 2:35:22, while Hiruni Wijayarathne, eighth in 2:36:35, set a women's national record for Sri Lanka. Including Crouch, seven American women qualified to run in the 2020 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Marathon.

2019

January 20 • 6,721 finishers

Men's Winner: Albert Korir (Kenya) 2:10:02

Women's Winner: Biruktayit Degafa (Ethiopia)
2:23:28

Winning the Chevron Houston Marathon were newcomer Albert Korir, racing in America for the first time, and Biruktayit Degafa, who became the third woman in Houston history to win the marathon three times.

In a resounding three-minute victory, Degafa set a personal best of 2:23:28, the third-fastest winning time in race history, only 14 seconds shy of Alemitu Abera's 2012 record of 2:23:14.

"When I prepare to come here to Houston, I really get excited," said Degafa, who lives in Albuquerque, N.M. but trained for this race in Ethiopia. "I come to win."

It was her sixth-consecutive appearance here, and she became only the third woman to win three times.

Degafa was challenged through 30K by Meseret Belete, the 19-year-old world junior record-holder in the half marathon who was making her debut at the distance. But Belete couldn't respond when Degafa picked up the pace just after 30K, and would be passed near the finish by Belaynesh Fikadu, who finished as runner-up in 2:26:41. Belete was third in 2:26:51, for an Ethiopian sweep of the podium.

Korir, meanwhile, had never been to this country before and had to battle until the final kilometer, when he slowly pulled ahead of Ethiopia's Yitayal Atnafu to win in 2:10:02, six seconds ahead of the man who would become runner-up here for an astonishing fourth year in a row – on his 26th birthday, no less. Finishing third was Justus Kimutai of Kenya in 2:10:25.

Korir, a 24-year-old Kenyan who worked cutting down trees early in his career to supplement his meager race earnings, said: "I am grateful to win this race for the first time in America."

The victors each took home \$45,000 for the win, with Degafa earning an extra \$10,000 in time bonuses for running sub-2:24.

Leading the Americans in the marathon were Tyler Jermann of St. Paul, Minnesota, ninth in 2:13:29, and Kelsey Bruce of Dallas, sixth in 2:31:53.

2020

January 19 • 6,923 finishers

Men's Winner: Kelkile Gezahegn (Ethiopia) 2:08:36

Women's Winner: Askale Merachi (Ethiopia) 2:22:29

The Chevron Houston Marathon welcomed defending champion Biruktayit Degefa (ETH) back to the start to vie for her fourth victory (a historic feat in Houston's race history), but it was clear from the start that compatriot Askale Merachi (ETH) had other ideas. Merachi separated from the lead pack before 10K, and she maintained course record pace until the later stages of the race. In spite of running unchallenged to the finish line, she held on to crush her personal best and run the fourth fastest time in Chevron Houston Marathon history, 2:23:29. History eluded Degefa as she finished second in 2:24:57, and Canadian Malindi Elmore, who recently came out of retirement from professional running, finished third in a Canadian national record, 2:24:50.

The men's race started on pace to break the course record, but slowed over the final four miles. By mile 15, the pack shrank to just five runners, and by mile 17, it turned into a duel between Kelkile Gezahegn (ETH) and Bonsa Dida (ETH). Kelkile and Bonsa slowed dramatically between miles 22 and 24, and then Kelkile hit the gas pedal, leaving Bonsa behind, racing to the finish to win in 2:08:36. Bonsa finished second in 2:10:37, and Amanuel Mesel (ERI) finished third in 2:11:04.

One of the most exciting finishes of the day belonged to Michael Roeger (AUS). Roeger, a T46 Paralympian, obliterated his own world record (2:22:51) to, as he said in the pre-race press conference, "put his competitors on notice" heading into the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. Roeger finished 26th overall in 2:19:33.

Americans Adriana Nelson and Craig Hunt led a deep field of U.S. athletes as they both collected eighth place finishes. Nelson clocked 2:33:18, and Hunt ran 2:17:18. Twelve American men and 18 American women met the qualifying standard to compete in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials in Atlanta next month.

Steve Schmidt (USA) and Antonio Arreola (USA) joined an exclusive club to become the first two runners to run a sub-three hour marathon for the sixth decade. Schmidt finished in 2:58:07 and Arreola finished a few strides behind in 2:58:18. Schmidt ran his first sub-three hour marathon in 1979, and Arreola ran his first in 1976. Arreola holds the record for the longest time span between his first sub-three hour marathon and his last.

2021

January 8-17 • Finishers: 1,665

The Houston Marathon Committee and the City of Houston announced the difficult decision to transition the traditional in-person Chevron Houston Marathon to a virtual running event in 2021 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 10,000 runners registered to run #togetherfromanywhere to complete their virtual 26.2 mile distance over the course a 10-day period.

2022

January 16 • Finishers: 6,277

Women's Winner: Keira D'Amato (2:19:12)

Men's Winner: Joseph Ngandu (2:11:03)

Returning to an in-person event after a virtual race in 2021, the 50th Anniversary of the Chevron Houston Marathon was one for the record books. Keira D'Amato became the first American woman to win the race since 2005. Her time of 2:19:12 broke the 16-year-old American record by 24 seconds and the course record by more than four minutes.

In the early miles of the race, D'Amato ran side-by-side with Biruktayit Degefa of Ethiopia. But, from the halfway point on, the real estate agent from Virginia was all alone. She went through the half marathon in 1:09:40, and ran a negative split for the second half of the race. Her margin of victory was more than nine minutes.

"I just can't believe this," said D'Amato, after being greeted at the finish line by her son Tommy, 7, and daughter Quinn, 5. "I'm really tired, but I'm really, really happy. Dreams come true, you know?" D'Amato also became the first U.S. woman to win here since 2005. D'Amato's record has since been broken by Emily Sisson who ran 2:18:29 at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon in October of 2022.

The race for second was a thrilling battle between Alice Wright of Great Britain and Maggie Montoya of the United States. Both were making their marathon debut and were side by side entering the final 100 meters. Wright and Montoya were given the identical finishing time of 2:29:08 with Wright taking second and Montoya third.

The men's race was a much closer finish with only 13 seconds separating the top three finishers. In his marathon debut, James Ngandu took the lead in the final miles of the race and outsprinted Abdi Abdo of Bahrain to win in 2:11:03. Abdo took second in 2:11:11 and Elisha Barno of Kenya finished third in 2:11:16

The top American was Houston native Frank Lara. Lara, also making his marathon debut, finished fourth in 2:11:32.



HALF MARATHON RESULTS & RECORDS

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2022 HOUSTON HALF MARATHON TOP 10

Men

Place	Name	Country	Age	Time
1	Milkesa Tolosa	Ethiopia	21	1:00:24
2	John Korir	Kenya	25	1:00:27
3	Wilfred Kimitei	Kenya	19	1:00:44
4	Kirubel Erassa	United States	28	1:00:44
5	Shadrack Kimining	Kenya	25	1:00:53
6	Patrick Tiernan	Australia	27	1:00:55
7	Biya Simbassa	United States	28	1:01:03
8	Rory Linkletter	Canada	25	1:01:08
9	Sydney Gidabuday	United States	25	1:01:09
10	Scott Fauble	United States	30	1:01:11

Women

Place	Name	Country	Age	Time
1	Vicoty Chepngeno	Kenya	28	1:05:03
2	Sara Hall	United States	38	1:07:15
3	Dominique Scott	South Africa	29	1:07:32
4	Fiona O'Keeffe	United States	23	1:07:42
5	Jessica Judd	Great Britain	27	1:07:52
6	Emily Durgin	United States	27	1:07:54
7	Caren Maiyo	Kenya	24	1:08:41
8	Dakotah Lindwurm	United States	26	1:09:36
9	Nell Rojas	United States	34	1:09:42
10	Annie Frisbie	United States	25	1:10:27

HOUSTON HALF MARATHON WINNERS BY YEAR

Men

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Milkesa Tolosa	Ethiopia	21	1:00:24
2020	Jemal Yimer	Ethiopia	23	0:59:26
2019	Shura Kitata	Ethiopia	22	1:00:11
2018	Jake Robertson	New Zealand	28	1:00:01
2017	Leonard Korir	United States - Colorado Springs, Colo.	30	1:01:14
2016	Lelisa Desisa	Ethiopia	26	1:00:37
2015	Diego Estrada	United States - Flagstaff, Arizona	25	1:00:51
2014	Meb Keflizighi	United States - Mammoth Lakes, Calif.	38	1:01:23
2013	Feyisa Lilesa	Ethiopia	22	1:01:54
2012	Feyisa Lilesa	Ethiopia	21	59:22*
2011	Jeffrey Eggleston	United States - Flagstaff, Ariz.	26	1:08:26
2010	Antonio Vega	United States - St. Paul, Minn.	26	1:01:54
2009	Meb Keflezighi	United States - San Diego, Calif.	33	1:01:25
2008	James Carney	United States - Lafayette, Colo.	29	1:02:21
2007	Ryan Hall	United States - Mammoth Lakes, Calif.	24	59:43**
2006	Nicodemus Malakwen	Kenya	24	1:02:07
2005	Julius Kibet	Kenya	22	1:03:17
2004	Gilbert Koech	United States - Albuquerque, N.M.	23	1:03:08
2003	Scott Strand	United States - Birmingham, Ala.	34	1:05:13
2002	Justin Chaston	United States - Houston, Texas	33	1:08:42

Women

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Vicoty Chepngeno	Kenya	28	1:05:03
2020	Hitomi Niiya	Japan	31	1:06:38
2019	Brigid Kosgei	Kenya	24	1:05:50
2018	Ruti Aga	Ethiopia	23	1:06:39
2017	Veronicah Wanjiru	Kenya	27	1:07:58
2016	Mary Wacera	Kenya	27	1:06:29*
2015	Kim Conley	United States - California	28	1:09:44
2014	Serena Burla	United States - Falls Church, Va.	31	1:10:48
2013	Mamitu Daska	Ethiopia	29	1:09:53
2012	Belaynesh Olijara	Ethiopia	21	1:08:26
2011	Colleen DeReuck	United States - Boulder, Colo.	46	1:16:19
2010	Shalane Flanagan	United States - Portland, Ore.	28	1:09:41
2009	Magdalena Boulet	United States - Oakland, Calif.	35	1:11:47
2008	Kate O'Neill	United States - Palo Alto, Calif.	27	1:11:57
2007	Elva Dryer	United States - Gunnison, Colo.	35	1:11:42
2006	Asmae Leghaoui	Morocco	29	1:11:56
2005	Olga Romanova	Russia	24	1:12:36
2004	Colleen DeReuck	United States - Boulder, Colo.	39	1:10:55
2003	Beth Old	United States - Douglasville, Ga.	28	1:17:03
2002	Christy Nielsen-Crotta	United States - Fort Worth, Texas	26	1:21:37

*Race record

**American Record

HOUSTON HALF MARATHON MASTERS WINNERS BY YEAR

Men

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Stephane Proulx	Canada	43	1:11:33
2020	Jason Holroyd	United States	43	1:10:19
2019	Colin Fewer	Canada	41	1:07:09
2018	Bernard Lagat	United States	43	1:02:00
2017	Eric Loeffler	United States	40	1:07:37
2016	Neville Davey	Ireland	40	1:07:42
2015	Luis Armenteros	United States	42	1:13:06
2014	Bob Weiner	United States	48	1:11:15
2013	Brian Haskett	United States	41	1:19:21
2012	Sean Wade	United States	45	1:09:54
2011	Mario Delgado	United States	40	1:11:59
2010	Darren De Reuck	United States	44	1:12:37
2009	Sean Wade	United States	42	1:07:09
2008	Sean Wade	United States	41	1:07:43
2007	Simon Guterrez	United States	40	1:11:13
2006	Martin Rodriguez-Flores	Mexico	40	1:06:55*
2005	William Moore	United States	43	1:10:48
2004	William Moore	United States	42	1:09:43
2003	William Moore	United States	41	1:10:30
2002	Chris Jagers	United States	40	1:15:57

Women

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Laura Pierce	United States	40	1:21:43
2020	Crystal Harriss	United States	41	1:15:28
2019	Lyndsay Tessier	Canada	40	1:13:54
2018	Perry Shoemaker	United States	46	1:15:35
2017	Becky Sondag	United States	47	1:28:05
2016	Jen Rhines	United States	41	1:14:57
2015	Colleen De Reuck	United States	50	1:17:57
2014	Rochelle Cuff	United States	41	1:27:54
2013	Kimberly Mac Namee	United States	41	1:25:53
2012	Trina Painter	United States	45	1:16:38
2011	Colleen De Reuck	United States	46	1:16:19
2010	Colleen De Reuck	United States	45	1:16:28
2009	Colleen De Reuck	United States	44	1:12:14*
2008	Colleen De Reuck	United States	43	1:14:55
2007	Trina Painter	United States	40	1:19:29
2006	Bonnie Jo Barron	United States	44	1:28:30
2005	Firaya Sultanova-Zhdanova	Russia	43	1:13:26
2004	Linda Somers Smith	United States	42	1:17:58
2003	Carole Smith	United States	48	1:27:53
2002	Doris Windsand-Dausman	United States	45	1:27:44

HOUSTON HALF MARATHON WHEELCHAIR WINNERS BY YEAR

Men

Year	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	55	1:18:50
2020	Jacob Allen	Arizona	18	00:58:26
2019	Saul Mendoza	Mexico	51	1:15:55
2016	Charlie Jones	Texas	17	2:33:22
2014	Kevin Saunders	Texas	58	1:20:10
2011	Hildebrando Botero	Texas	46	1:04:46
2010	Kevin Saunders	Texas	54	1:48:07
2009	Hildebrando Botero	Texas	44	1:08:04
2008	Kevin Saunders	Texas	52	1:34:29
2007	John Sage	Texas	28	1:16:52
2006	Ramiro Bermudez	Texas	46	0:59:54
2005	Ramiro Bermudez	Texas	45	1:03:20
2004	Ramiro Bermudez	Texas	44	1:16:41
2002	R. Joe Miller	Texas	28	1:41:40

Women

Place	Name	Country	Age	Time
2022	Maria Galvan	Texas	33	2:22:31
2020	Mary Kate Callahan	Illinois	24	01:10:57
2018	Lecia Baker	Texas	20	3:12:15
2016	Michelle Jones	Texas	44	2:41:50
2012	Courtney Washer	Texas	32	2:46:04
2011	Courtney Washer	Texas	31	3:08:15
2003	Kerri Morgan	Missouri	28	2:39:24

TOP 25 HOUSTON HALF MARATHON PERFORMANCES

Men

No.	Name	Country	Time	Place	Date
1	Feyisa Lilesa	Ethiopia	59:22	1	Jan. 15, 2012
2	Jemal Yimer Mekonnen	Ethiopia	59:25	1	Jan. 19, 2020
3	Bernard Kipkorir Ngeno	Kenya	59:26	2	Jan. 19, 2020
4	Shadrack Kimining Korir	Kenya	59:27	3	Jan. 19, 2020
5	Philemon Kiplimo	Kenya	59:28	4	Jan. 19, 2020
6	Abel Kipchumba	Kenya	59:35	5	Jan. 19, 2020
7	Geoffrey Koech	Kenya	59:36	6	Jan. 19, 2020
8	Gabriel Gerald Geay	Tanzania	59:42	7	Jan. 19, 2020
9	Ryan Hall	United States	59:43	1	Jan. 14, 2007*
10	Shura Kitata	Ethiopia	59:47	8	Jan. 19, 2020
11	Andamlak Belihu Berta	Ethiopia	59:52	9	Jan. 19, 2020
12	Jake Robertson	New Zealand	1:00:01	1	Jan. 14, 2018
13	Shura Kitata	Ethiopia	1:00:11	1	Jan. 20, 2019
14	Jake Robertson	New Zealand	1:00:12	10	Jan. 19, 2020
15	Jemal Yimer	Ethiopia	1:00:14	2	Jan. 20, 2019
16	Guye Adola idemo	Ethiopia	1:00:15	2	Jan. 14, 2018
17	Bedan Karoki Muchiri	Kenya	1:00:18	3	Jan. 20, 2019
18	Feyisa Lilesa	Ethiopia	1:00:20	3	Jan. 14, 2018
19	Shura Kitata	Ethiopia	1:00:20	4	Jan. 14, 2018
20	Milkesa Tolosa	Ethiopia	1:00:24	1	Jan. 16, 2022
21	Gabriel Geay	Tanzania	1:00:26	4	Jan. 20, 2019
22	Clement Langat	Kenya	1:00:29	5	Jan. 14, 2018
23	Sam Chelanga	United States	1:00:37	6	Jan. 14, 2018
24	Lelisa Desisa	Ethiopia	1:00:37	1	Jan. 17, 2016
25	Stephen Sambu	Kenya	1:00:41	7	Jan. 14, 2018

Women

No.	Name	Country	Time	Place	Date
1	Vicoty Chepngeno	Kenya	1:05:03	1	Jan. 16, 2022
2	Brigid Kosgei	Kenya	1:05:50	1	Jan. 20, 2019
3	Mary Wacera	Kenya	1:06:29	1	Jan. 17, 2016
4	Hitomi Niiya	Japan	1:08:36	1	Jan. 19, 2020
5	Ruti Aga	Ethiopia	1:06:39	1	Jan. 14, 2018
6	Cynthia Limo	Kenya	1:06:41	2	Jan. 17, 2016
7	Fancy Chemutai	Kenya	1:06:48	2	Jan. 20, 2019
8	Caroline Chepkoech	Kenya	1:06:48	2	Jan. 14, 2018
9	Mary Wacera	Kenya	1:06:50	3	Jan. 14, 2018
10	Buze Diriba	Ethiopia	1:06:50	4	Jan. 14, 2018
11	Ruti Aga	Ethiopia	1:06:56	3	Jan. 20, 2019
12	Edith Chelimo	Kenya	1:07:13	5	Jan. 14, 2018
13	Sara Hall	United States	1:07:15	2	Jan. 16, 2022
14	Eunice Chumba	Bahrain	1:07:18	6	Jan. 14, 2018
15	Molly Huddle	United States	1:07:25	7	Jan. 14, 2018
16	Monicah Ngige	Kenya	1:07:29	4	Jan. 20, 2019
17	Emily Sisson	United States	1:07:30	5	Jan. 20, 2019
18	Gladys Cheron	Kenya	1:07:37	6	Jan. 20, 2019
19	Delvine Meringor	Kenya	1:07:48	7	Jan. 20, 2019
20	Mare Dibaba	Ethiopia	1:07:55	3	Jan. 17, 2016
21	Edith Chelimo	Kenya	1:07:56	8	Jan. 20, 2019
22	Veronicah Wanjiru	Kenya	1:07:58	1	Jan. 15, 2017
23	Dera Dida Yami	Ethiopia	1:08:06	2	Jan. 15, 2017
24	Ruti Aga	Ethiopia	1:08:07	4	Jan. 17, 2016
25	Brilliant Jepkorir Kipkoech	Kenya	1:08:08	2	Jan. 19, 2020

* American Record

TOP 10 AMERICAN PERFORMANCES IN HOUSTON HALF MARATHON BY TIME

Men

No.	Name	State	Time	Place	Date
1	Ryan Hall	California	59:43	1	Jan. 14, 2007*
2	Sam Chelanga	Colorado	1:00:37	6	Jan 14, 2018
3	Diego Estrada	Flagstaff, Ariz.	1:00:51	1	Jan. 18, 2015
4	Haron Lagat	Colorado	1:01:01	10	Jan 14, 2018
5	Leonard Korir	Colorado	1:01:14	1	Jan. 15, 2017
6	Meb Keflezighi	California	1:01:23	1	Jan. 19, 2014
7	Meb Keflezighi	California	1:01:25	1	Jan. 18, 2009
8	Luke Puskedra	Oregon	1:01:29	4	Jan. 17, 2016
9	Scott Bauhs	California	1:01:30	3	Jan. 15, 2012
10	Dathan Ritzenhein	Oregon	1:01:35	2	Jan. 18, 2009

Women

No.	Name	State	Time	Place	Date
1	Sara Hall	Arizona	1:07:15	2	Jan. 16, 2022
2	Molly Huddle	Rhode Island	1:07:25	7	Jan. 14, 2018
3	Emily Sisson	Arizona	1:07:30	5	Jan. 20, 2019
4	Fiona O'Keeffe	North Carolina	1:07:42	4	Jan. 16, 2022
5	Emily Durgin	Arizona	1:07:54	6	Jan. 16, 2022
6	Jordan Hasay	Oregon	1:08:38	8	Jan. 14, 2018
7	Jordan Hasay	Oregon	1:08:40	4	Jan. 15, 2017
8	Sara Hall	Arizona	1:08:58	9	Jan. 19, 2020
9	Molly Huddle	Rhode Island	1:09:34	12	Jan. 19, 2020
10	Dakotah Lindwurm	Minnesota	1:09:36	26	Jan. 16, 2022

*American record

TOP AMERICAN PERFORMANCES IN HOUSTON HALF MARATHON BY YEAR

Men

Year	Name	State	Time	Place
2022	Kirubel Erassa	Colorado	1:00:44	3
2020	Jared Ward	Utah	1:01:36	11
2019	Reed Fischer	Minnesota	1:02:06	10
2018	Sam Chelanga	Colorado	1:00:37	6
2017	Leonard Korir	Colorado	1:01:14	1
2016	Luke Puskedra	Oregon	1:01:29	4
2015	Diego Estrada	Arizona	1:00:51	1
2014	Meb Keflezighi	California	1:01:23	1
2013	Shadrack Biwott	Oregon	1:02:23	3
2012	Scott Bauhs	California	1:01:30	3
2011	Jeffrey Eggleston	Arizona	1:08:26	1
2010	Antonio Vega	Minnesota	1:01:54	1
2009	Meb Keflezighi	California	1:01:25	1
2008	James Carney	Colorado	1:02:21	1
2007	Ryan Hall	California	59:43*	1
2006	Brian Sell	Michigan	1:02:39	2
2005	Dan Browne	Oregon	1:03:56	2
2004	Dan Browne	Oregon	1:03:09	2
2003	Scott Strand	Alabama	1:05:13	1

Women

No.	Name	State	Time	Place
2022	Sara Hall	Arizona	1:07:15	2
2020	Sara Hall	Arizona	1:08:58	9
2019	Emily Sisson	Rhode Island	1:07:30	5
2018	Molly Huddle	Rhode Island	1:07:25	7
2017	Jordan Hasay	Oregon	1:08:40	4
2016	Sara Hall	California	1:10:07	5
2015	Kim Conley	California	1:09:44	1
2014	Serena Burla	Virginia	1:10:48	1
2013	Lisa Uhl	Iowa	1:13:28	5
2012	Kelly Johnson	Arizona	1:13:11	6
2011	Colleen De Reuck	Colorado	1:16:19	1
2010	Shalane Flanagan	Oregon	1:09:41	1
2009	Magdalena Boulet	California	1:11:47	1
2008	Kate O'Neill	California	1:11:57	1
2007	Elva Dryer	Colorado	1:11:42	1
2006	Jen Rhines	Tennessee	1:13:29	5
2005	Colleen De Reuck	Colorado	1:14:05	5
2004	Colleen De Reuck	Colorado	1:10:55	1
2003	Beth Old	Georgia	1:17:03	1

TOP 10 NON-AMERICAN PERFORMANCES IN HOUSTON HALF MARATHON

Men

No.	Name	Country	Time	Place	Date
1	Feyisa Lilesa	Ethiopia	59:22*	1	Jan. 15, 2012
2	Jemal Yimer Mekonnen	Ethiopia	59:25	1	Jan., 19, 2020
3	Bernard Kipkorir Ngeno	Kenya	59:26	2	Jan., 19, 2020
4	Shadrack Kimining Korir	Kenya	59:27	3	Jan., 19, 2020
5	Philemon Kiplimo	Kenya	59:28	4	Jan., 19, 2020
6	Abel Kipchumba	Kenya	59:35	5	Jan., 19, 2020
7	Geoffrey Koech	Kenya	59:36	6	Jan., 19, 2020
8	Gabriel Gerald Geay	Tanzania	59:42	7	Jan., 19, 2020
9	Shura Kitata	Ethiopia	59:47	8	Jan., 19, 2020
10	Andamlak Belihu Berta	Ethiopia	59:52	9	Jan., 19, 2020

Women

No.	Name	Country	Time	Place	Date
1	Vicoty Chepngeno	Kenya	1:05:03*	1	Jan. 16, 2022
2	Brigid Kosgei	Kenya	1:05:50	1	Jan. 20, 2019
3	Mary Wacera	Kenya	1:06:29	1	Jan. 17, 2016
4	Hitomi Niiya	Japan	1:06:38	1	Jan. 20, 2020
5	Ruti Aga	Ethiopia	1:06:39	1	Jan. 14, 2018
6	Cynthia Limo	Kenya	1:06:41	2	Jan. 17, 2016
7	Fancy Chemutai	Kenya	1:06:48	2	Jan. 20, 2019
8	Caroline Chepkoech	Kenya	1:06:48	2	Jan. 14, 2018
9	Mary Wacera	Kenya	1:06:50	3	Jan. 14, 2018
10	Buze Diriba	Ethiopia	1:06:50	4	Jan. 14, 2018

*Race record

HOUSTON HALF MARATHON RECORD PROGRESSION

Men

Name	Country	Age	Time	Date
Feyisa Lilesa	Ethiopia	21	59:22	Jan. 15, 2012
Ryan Hall	United States	24	59:43	Jan. 14, 2007
Nicodemus Malakwen	Kenya	24	1:02:07	Jan. 15, 2006
Gilbert Koech	United States	23	1:03:08	Jan. 18, 2004
Scott Strand	United States	34	1:05:13	Jan. 19, 2003
Justin Chaston	United States	33	1:08:42	Jan. 20, 2002

Women

Name	Country	Age	Time	Date
Vicoty Chepngeno	Kenya	28	1:05:03	Jan. 16, 2022
Brigid Kosgei	Kenya	24	1:05:50	Jan. 20, 2019
Mary Wacera	Kenya	27	1:06:29	Jan. 17, 2016
Belaynesh Olijara	Ethiopia	21	1:08:26	Jan. 15, 2012
Shalane Flanagan	United States	28	1:09:41	Jan. 17, 2010
Colleen De Reuck	United States	39	1:10:55	Jan. 18, 2004
Beth Old	United States	28	1:17:03	Jan. 19, 2003
Christy Nielsen-Crotta	United States	26	1:21:37	Jan. 20, 2002

HOUSTON HALF MARATHON RECORD PROGRESSION – MASTERS

Men

Name	Country	Age	Time	Date
Bernard Lagat	United States	43	1:02:00	Jan. 21, 2018
Martin Rodriguez-Flores	Mexico	40	1:06:55	Jan. 15, 2006
William Moore	United States	42	1:09:43	Jan. 18, 2004
William Moore	United States	41	1:10:30	Jan. 19, 2003
Stephane Proulx	Canada	43	1:11:33	Jan. 16, 2022

Women

Name	Country	Age	Time	Date
Colleen De Reuck	United States	44	1:12:14	Jan. 18, 2009
Firaya Sultanova-Zhdanova	Russia	43	1:13:26	Jan. 16, 2005
Linda Somers-Smith	United States	42	1:17:58	Jan. 18, 2004
Laura Pierce	United States	40	1:21:43	Jan. 16, 2022

HOUSTON HALF MARATHON MARGINS OF VICTORY BY TIME

Men

Year	Winner	Winning Margin (Min:Sec)	Second Place
2017	Leonard Korir	0:00	Feyisa Lilesa
2004	Gilbert Koech	0:01	Dan Browne
2020	Jemal Yimer	0:01	Bernard Kipkorir
2022	Milkesa Tolosa	0:02	John Korir
2019	Shura Kitata	0:03	Jemal Yimer
2013	Feyisa Lilesa	0:06	Deriba Merga
2010	Antonio Vega	0:07	Patrick Smyth
2016	Lelisa Desisa	0:08	Mosinet Geremew
2009	Meb Keflezighi	0:10	Dathan Ritzenhein
2008	James Carney	0:11	Jason Lehmkuhle
2018	Jake Robertson	0:14	Guye Adola Idemo
2014	Meb Keflezighi	0:16	Aaron Braun
2006	Nicodemus Malakwen	0:32	Brian Sell
2005	Julius Kibet	0:39	Dan Browne
2015	Diego Estrada	0:51	Jared Ward
2002	Justin Chaston	1:35	Gannon White
2012	Feyisa Lilesa	2:06	Tilahun Regassa
2007	Ryan Hall	2:37	Fasil Bizunesh
2003	Scott Strand	2:44	Sammy Nyamongo
2011	Jeffrey Eggleston	3:30	Luis Armenteros

Women

Year	Winner	Winning Margin	Second Place
2012	Belaynesh Olijara	0:02	Caroline Kilel
2007	Elva Dryer	0:05	Kate O'Neill
2017	Veronicah Wanjiru	0:09	Dera Dida Yami
2018	Ruti Aga	0:09	Caroline Chepkoech
2016	Mary Wacera	0:12	Cynthia Limo
2006	Asme Leghzaoui	0:13	Dorota Gruca
2008	Kate O'Neill	0:13	Desiree Davila
2005	Olga Romanova	0:19	Lioudmila Kortchaguina
2009	Magdalena Boulet	0:19	Kelly Jaske
2010	Shalane Flanagan	0:27	Serena Burla
2015	Kim Conley	0:32	Brianne Nelson
2004	Colleen De Reuck	0:36	Sylvia Mosqueda
2019	Brigid Kosgei	0:58	Fancy Chemutai
2014	Serena Burla	1:24	Lauren Kleppin
2020	Hitomi Niiya	1:30	Brilliant Jepkorir
2003	Beth Old	1:46	Jackie Rzepecki
2002	Christy Nielson-Crotta	1:50	Karina Quesada
2013	Mamitu Daska	2:05	Caroline Kilel
2022	Vicoty Chpngeno	2:11	Sara Hall
2011	Colleen De Reuck	2:31	Leah Thorvilson

HALF MARATHON HISTORY

2002

Men's Winner: Justin Chaston (England) 1:08:42
Women's Winner: Christy Nielsen-Crotta 1:21:37
Finishers: 2,675

After 30 years of marathon-only competition, Houston added the half-marathon in 2002, with El Paso Energy as the sponsor. The 13.1-mile race was immediately popular, with more than 2,500 finishers, but the first race didn't present a dramatic finish.

Justin Chaston, a Houston resident and already a two-time British Olympian in the steeplechase, trailed eventual runner-up Gannon White through five miles and edged ahead before being overtaken again by White. Chaston, who would go on to represent Britain for a third time in the steeplechase in the '04 Olympics, moved back ahead for good at 10 miles and put almost two minutes on White in the closing stages.

In the women's race, Fort Worth's Christy Nielsen-Crotta was never really challenged on the way to victory over University of Houston distance runner Karina Quesada, crossing the line in 1:21:37. The native of Iowa, who qualified for the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials marathon, beat Quesada by almost two minutes.

2003

Men's Winner: Scott Strand 1:05:13
Women's Winner: Beth Old 1:17:03
Finishers: 3,990

Originally conceived as a way to increase participation in the marathon, the '03 half proved even more successful than the debut in '02 as more than 4,500 runners signed up.

Another successful steeplechaser was a runaway winner of the second edition, as former Auburn star Scott Strand knocked more than three minutes off the event record with his 1:05:13. Strand, who qualified for the 1996 and 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 3000 SC, ran with Kenya's Sammy Nyamongo through 5K and then pulled ahead with each additional kilometer, putting a 12-second gap on Nyamongo by the 10K point. By the time he crossed the line, Strand had completed the perfect warm-up for the '04 Trials marathon, winning by almost three minutes.

Women's winner Beth Old, who would go on to place 15th in the 2004 Olympic Trials marathon, went wire to wire at the front of the pack to beat runner-up Jackie Rzepecki by 1:46 in 1:17:03, slicing more than four minutes off the inaugural event record. Old, who ran at Georgia Tech as Beth Mallory and would be inducted into the school's Sports Hall of Fame in 2010, was an NCAA cross country national qualifier for the Rambling Wreck in 1994.

2004

Men's Winner: Gilbert Koech (Kenya) 1:03:08
Women's Winner: Colleen DeReuck 1:10:55
Finishers: 5,207

A fast pace pulled five men under 1:04 at the '04 half, sponsored by HP. Kenya's Gilbert Koech had a PR of 1:02:05 coming into the race and needed every bit of that speed to outlean Dan Browne with the help of a cone near the finish line, earning victory in 1:03:08 to take more than two minutes off the event record.

Browne told the Houston Chronicle, "There was a cone out there, and there was a direction - half-marathoners stay on this side and marathoners on the other side. I took it literally, because in my heart, that's what we're supposed to do." Koech slipped by the other side of the cone and edged Browne by one second.

Former South African Colleen De Reuck, a four-time Olympian in the 10,000 and marathon, won by 36 seconds over Sylvia Mosqueda, smashing the event record with her 1:10:55. Seven women finished faster than the existing record of 1:17:03, and '03 champion Beth Old was sixth in 1:14:54. The 39-year-old De Reuck placed 36th in the 2004 Olympic Games marathon for Team USA.

2005

Men's Winner: Julius Kibet (Kenya) 1:03:17
Women's Winner: Olga Romanova (Russia) 1:12:36
Finishers: 6,732

Aramco became a sponsor as Houston hosted its first of seven consecutive USA Half Marathon Championships in '05, with '04 overall runner-up Dan Browne holding off seven other men under 1:05 to take the U.S. title in 1:03:56. Browne went out with the aim of capturing the overall title, but when he realized that Kenya's Julius Kibet was not to be caught, he set his aim on a national championship.

Kibet made a decisive move just after 10K, and went through the line at 1:03:17 to give Kenya a second-straight win. Aramco sponsored the race for the first time, starting a long-term relationship with the event.

Russians dominated the women's contest, led by 24-year-old Olga Romanova, who took top honors in 1:12:36. Romanova, twice a top-15 finisher in the short course event at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships, was 19 seconds ahead of countrywoman Lioudmila Kortchaguina, with '04 winner Colleen De Reuck fifth in 1:14:05.

HALF MARATHON HISTORY

2006

Men's Winner: Nicodemus Malakwen (Kenya) 1:02:07
Women's Winner: Asmae Leghzaoui (Morocco) 1:11:56
Finishers: 7,351

A pair of big personal bests gave Kenya's Nicodemus Malakwen and American Brian Sell the overall and U.S. titles in 2006, with both men chopping a chunk off the previous event record. Malakwen clocked 1:02:07 to trim 1:01 off Gilbert Koech's '04 mark, while Sell sped home in 1:02:39. The second American, Jason Hartmann, also beat Koech's standard with a 1:03:07 in third, and five U.S. men bettered 1:04.

Malakwen started showing his dominance at 5K and had a full minute lead late in the race before easing in ahead of Sell by 32 seconds.

Morocco's Asmae Leghzaoui, a seventh-place finisher in the 10,000 at the 2001 IAAF World Championships and the 10h-placer at the '02 World Half Marathon, ran with the leaders in the women's race through eight miles and then moved ahead on her way to a 1:11:56 that would put her 12 seconds ahead of runner-up Dorota Gruca of Poland. Jen Rhines was the top American in fifth at 1:13:29.

2007

Men's Winner: Ryan Hall 59:43
Women's Winner: Elva Dryer 1:11:42
Finishers: 6,857

Barrier-breaking Ryan Hall sent shockwaves through the running community with his masterful 59:43 to become the first U.S. man under 60 minutes, setting an American and North American record and demolishing the old national mark of 1:00:55 set in 1985 by Mark Culp. Not to mention crushing the Houston event record and seizing the USA Championship trophy and \$21,000 in prize money.

Hall broke away from the field at two miles and went past 5K at 14:05. His lead kept getting bigger and bigger, and as he headed into the finish stretch there was no one else in sight. Fasil Bizuneh and Meb Keflezighi gamely battled for runner-up honors, with Bizuneh getting the nod by two seconds in 1:02:20. Five men dropped below the 1:03 mark and the top 10 finished faster than 1:04, with '05 U.S. champ Dan Browne eighth in 1:03:55.

Houston also hosted the women's national championship race for the first time, and two-time Olympian Elva Dryer came away with the win in 1:11:42, just five seconds up on Kate O'Neill, her roommate at the Athens Olympic Games in '04.

Dryer and O'Neill exchanged the lead for much of the race before Dryer opened up a small margin in the last mile. "I had to maintain a good steady pace," said Dryer. "A couple of us were together at the beginning. I knew O'Neill wasn't far behind the whole time."

2008

Men's Winner: James Carney 1:02:21
Women's Winner: Kate O'Neill 1:11:57
Finishers: 8,226

When a man is determined to win and he has the talent, it's hard to stop him. At least that was the case with James Carney, who overcame the disappointment of a 14th-place finish at the Olympic Trials marathon in New York the previous November to run away with the U.S. half title in 1:02:21. Running aggressively from the start, Carney was never headed as he beat second-placer Jason Lemkuhle by 11 seconds.

Before the race even started, Carney had other obstacles to overcome, since an airline lost his luggage and it didn't arrive until late the night before. "The lost luggage wasn't going to stop me," he told the Houston Chronicle. "I was focused. I would have run in dress shoes if I had to."

Moving up one spot from 2007, Kate O'Neill was 10 seconds slower but a great deal happier to win in 1:11:57, with Desiree Davila second in 1:12:10. Battling pesky winds, O'Neill ran at the front all the way and was aided by the withdrawal of defending champ Elva Dryer, who stopped at nine miles due to injury.

2009

Men's Winner: Meb Keflezighi 1:01:25
Women's Winner: Magdalena Boulet 1:11:47
Finishers: 8,334

Two years after watching Ryan Hall shatter the American record ahead of him, Meb Keflezighi improved on his third-place effort and made a bold statement with his 1:01:25 win and U.S. title. With uber-talented Dathan Ritzenhein on his heels, Keflezighi pushed hard between the second and third miles and managed to stake himself a solid lead, increasing it to almost 100 meters at times during the middle stages. Ritzenhein made up ground heading to the finish and crossed the line at 1:01:35.

Keflezighi, the 2004 Olympic marathon silver medalist, said this win was one of the most special to him, given his injuries in 2008 that hobbled him for much of the year. His time was a personal best.

Magdalena Boulet also set a lifetime best to win the women's U.S. crown in 1:11:47, 19 seconds in front of Kelly Jaske. Looking for redemption after not finishing the marathon at the '08 Olympics in Beijing, Boulet noted the loud crowds in Houston as a key to her performance. Reigning champ Kate O'Neill had a lead over Boulet early in the race but couldn't hold on as she slid back to 11th, while ageless Colleen De Reuck (44) was third behind Jaske in 1:12:16.

HALF MARATHON HISTORY

2010

Men's Winner: Antonio Vega 1:01:54
Women's Winner: Shalane Flanagan 1:09:41
Finishers: 9,918

Two years after claiming Olympic bronze in the 10,000 on the track at Beijing, Shalane Flanagan tested herself at a longer distance in Houston and came away as a very impressive winner with an event-record 1:09:41, chopping more than a minute off Colleen De Reuck's '04 standard. Flanagan's efforts helped drag Serena Burla to a 1:10:08 in second place, also under the previous record, and '09 winner Magdalena Boulet was fifth.

Kelly Jaske, the previous year's second-placer, went out hard to take some of the pacesetter pressure off Flanagan, who became the No. 5 American ever at the distance, with the 10th-fastest U.S. time ever. Flanagan told Track & Field News, "The primary goal was to win the race. Everything else was a bonus. I feel like I gave a really good effort, but I actually feel like I have more running in my legs. That's a good sign to me."

In what was certainly the top performance of his career, former Minnesota Gopher Antonio Vega moved up from seventh in '09 to the top of the podium with a lifetime-best 1:01:54. Calling it his breakout race, Vega was seven seconds better than Patrick Smyth, who clocked 1:02:01 to lead four other men under 1:03. Vega told the Houston Chronicle, "I was going to make my big move at the turnaround point, so I increased the pace and that separated me from the pack. ... But I almost got a stiff neck coming into downtown, looking around for people to come up from behind."

2011

Men's Winner: Jeffrey Eggleston 1:08:26
Women's Winner: Colleen De Reuck 1:16:19
Finishers: 9,313

With the U.S. Championships being held separately on Saturday, Sunday's half marathon fields were diminished, giving 46-year-old Colleen De Reuck a chance to win her second Houston title. De Reuck did just that, taking an easy victory in 1:16:19, almost three minutes in front of Leah Thorvilson. She won her first Houston half in '04, setting an event record that was not broken until 2010.

The men's competition gave Jeffrey Eggleston a second chance at gold, since he dropped out of the U.S. race on Saturday after the eight-mile mark. Eggleston decided to give it another try Sunday, a decision that led to a 3:30 margin of victory in 1:08:26.

"I just hit a really rough patch and made the poor decision of dropping out," Eggleston told the Houston Chronicle in reference to Saturday's effort. "I was here for another day, and Houston is such a great venue that I wanted to come back and get out there and enjoy the course and have a more positive

experience."
U.S. Championships
Men's Winner: Mo Trafeh 1:02:17
Women's Winner: Jen Rhines 1:11:14

Held on the Saturday before the marathon, the U.S. Championship race in 2011 saw American Record holder Ryan Hall return to the site of his stunning 59:43 in 2007. Hall didn't win in his return, but finishing only three seconds behind Mo Trafeh's 1:02:17 was a welcome result for Hall after he suffered through fatigue issues during the final months of the previous year.

Trafeh, with a nagging foot injury, went past early leader Patrick Smyth and later outkicked Hall to pick up his first national title.

Women's champion Jen Rhines stayed behind Nan Dennard and Serena Burla throughout the first half of the race before making a move with two miles to go that put her in the lead for good as she raced to a 1:11:14 to beat Burla by 24 seconds.

For Burla, it was an emotional return to Houston. At the 2010 race in which she finished second, Burla had inexplicable hamstring pain that almost forced her to abandon the race. She later found out it was a malignant tumor, and it was removed on Feb. 26.

"It's a mystery to me how I can still run," Burla told the Houston Chronicle. "Sometimes things can't be explained. It's been a pretty moving year. Please write how grateful I am to everybody in the running community for their support. The unknown can be pretty scary. But so many people were helping me, telling me to be fearless. ... To everyone who had a positive thought or said a prayer for me, thank you."

2012

Men's Winner: Feyisa Lilesa (Ethiopia) 59:22
Women's Winner: Belaynesh Olijara (Ethiopia) 1:08:26
Finishers: 9,374

In a year that saw Houston host the Olympic Trials marathon and gain worldwide attention, a pair of Ethiopian youngsters rampaged through the half marathon record books.

Feyisa Lilesa and Belaynesh Olijara broke course records held by a couple of familiar names: Lilesa's 59:22 edged the mark set by American Ryan Hall (59:43) in 2007, while Olijara's winning time of 1:08:26 shattered the mark set by American Shalane Flanagan (1:09:41).

Lilesa, a 21-year-old who won the marathon bronze medal at the 2011 IAAF World Championships, was a late entrant, but had little trouble handling the field. Ethiopian Tilahun Regassa was runner-up, in 1:01:28, with American Scott Bauhs on his heels in a personal best 1:01:30. In fourth was Luke Puskedra in 1:01:36, a senior at the University of Oregon who was making his half-marathon debut.

HALF MARATHON HISTORY

The women's race was another matter. Oljira and Kenya's Caroline Kilel, winner of the 2011 Boston Marathon, ran shoulder-to-shoulder right to the end, with the 21-year-old Oljira, running her first race in the United States, using her 10,000-meter speed to win in a sprint.

"Right from the beginning I was following her and I knew, and I prepared in my mind, that I have to sprint very fast at the last 100 meters or so," Oljira said.

Joan Samuelson, 1984 Olympic gold medalist in the marathon, finished in 1:38:03.

2013

Men's Winner: Feyisa Lilesa (Ethiopia) 1:01:54

Women's Winner: Mamitu Daska (Ethiopia) 1:09:53

Finishers: 10,065

Running in wet and cold conditions, course record-holder Feyisa Lilesa of Ethiopia defended his title in the men's race and countrywoman Mamitu Daska, the 2011 marathon champion, won the women's crown. Daska became the first-ever woman to win the marathon and the half marathon at Houston.

Lilesa ran side-by-side with Deriba Merga until the pair entered the home stretch, where Lilesa used his superior speed to win in 1:01:54. Merga was second at 1:02:00 and Kenya's Wilson Erupe made a late surge to take third in 1:02:12.

Daska took command early in the race, leading through 5km in 16:18, and then doubled her margin by the 10km mark, clocking 32:42. At 15km, she had a 1:27 lead over Caroline Kilel of Kenya and her margin of victory was 2:05 when she crossed the line at 1:09:54, the fifth-fastest time in race history. Kilel finished as the runner-up for the second year in a row, finishing in 1:11:58 and Hellen Jemutai, also of Kenya, was third in 1:12:34.

The top Americans were newly-minted U.S. citizen Shadrack Biwott, who finished fourth in 1:02:23, and Lisa Uhl, who took sixth in 1:13:38. Despite rainy conditions, the finisher total exceeded 10,000 for the first time in the history of the Houston Half Marathon.

2014

Men's Winner: Meb Keflezighi 1:01:23

Women's Winner: Serena Burla 1:10:48

Finishers: 10,500

Houston once again hosted the USA Half Marathon Championships, this time on a new course with superb weather, and Meb Keflezighi broke away from the field after the eight-mile mark to win in 1:01:23, his second U.S. title and the second-fastest time in race history by an American. It was Keflezighi's 22nd U.S. title at all distances.

Keflezighi ran with a large pack for the first half of the race, trading the lead with last year's top American

finisher, Shadrack Biwott, and Tyler Pennel. Aaron Braun and Tim Ritchie pulled the field through 5K in 14:38, and a group of seven men led by Pennel passed 10K in 29:10. By 15K Keflezighi gapped the pack by three seconds at 43:34, and he added nine seconds to that margin over the next 5K to clock 58:12.

Braun and Josphat Boit edged past Pennel over the final kilometer to finish second and third in 1:01:38 and 1:01:41.

Serena Burla mounted the podium for the first time, winning the women's title in 1:10:48 as she ran almost unchallenged for the majority of the race.

A pack of eight cruised through 5K under 17:03 with Burla at the front. Burla made a strong push in the next 5K to take a 15-second lead over Lauren Kleppin at 10K, and by 15K that lead had stretched to 40 seconds at 50:07. She went through 20K at 67:08 and had a 1:18 margin, which increased to 1:24 at the finish, with Kleppin second and Caitlin Comfort third at 1:12:16.

2015

Men's Winner: Diego Estrada 1:00:51

Women's Winner: Kim Conley 1:09:44

Finishers: 11,664

Two very different races produced two superb results in races that served as the U.S. championship race for the ninth time for men and seventh time for women.

Diego Estrada shot to the lead after running with the pack for the first 5K at 14:41, opening a 20-second gap by 10K (28:51) and stretching that margin to 45 seconds over Jared Ward at the 15K mark (43:14). He tacked on five more seconds to his cushion by 20K (57:45) and eased to the finish at 1:00:51, the third-fastest time ever by an American and also the third-fastest ever at Houston.

Ward finished well to clock 1:01:42 in his debut at the distance to move to ninth on the all-time Houston list, and Girma Mecheso was third at 1:02:16. Three-time champion Meb Keflezighi was fighting a cold and a sore back as he pursued his fourth U.S. title and third straight, but battled through to take fourth at 1:02:18.

Kim Conley, a gold medalist in the 10,000 at the 2014 USA Outdoor Championships, bided her time through 10 miles at a fast pace, running with the leaders through 5K at 16:45 and 10K at 33:27. She shared the lead with 2006 U.S. champ Annie Bersagel at 15K (50:08) and then pulled away over the next 5K, running 16:12 for that portion of the race to pass 20K at 1:06:20 and take a 22-second lead.

Conley was powerful through the finish, crossing the line at 1:09:44 for the fifth-fastest time ever at Houston and the second-fastest by an American woman in the race.

HALF MARATHON HISTORY

2016

Men's Winner: Lelisa Desisa (Ethiopia) 1:00:37

Women's Winner: Mary Wacera (Kenya) 1:06:29
(course record)

Finishers: 11,079

Kenya's Mary Wacera ran the fastest-ever women's half marathon on American soil, moving to No. 9 on the all-time world list as she shattered the course record with a 66:29 to win.

New Zealand's Kim Smith set the previous all-comers record of 67:11 in 2011 at Philadelphia, while the course record of 68:26 was set in 2012 by Belyanesh Olijara of Ethiopia.

Wacera, who collected \$45,000 for her record-setting win, made a move just after the 15-kilometer mark to take the lead from fellow Kenyan Cynthia Limo. She established a six-second gap over the next 5K and stretched the margin to 12 seconds at the finish. Limo's 66:41 moved her to 11th on the all-time world list.

2015 world marathon champion, Mare Dibaba of Ethiopia, was also faster than the existing course record with a 1:07:55 in third, as was fourth-placer Ruti Aga of Ethiopia, who clocked 68:07. Sara Hall was the top American woman, setting a lifetime best with her 70:07 in fifth.

Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia ran the third-fastest men's time ever at Houston, winning by eight seconds with his 60:37. Mosinet Geremew of Ethiopia was the runner-up at 60:45, and Luke Puskedra took the top U.S. spot in fourth at 61:29.

2017

Men's Winner: Leonard Korir (United States)
1:01:14

Women's Winner: Veronicah Wanjiru (Kenya)
1:07:58

Finishers: 11,414

Leonard Korir of the United States outleaned race record-holder Feyisa Lilesa of Ethiopia in the Aramco Houston Half Marathon on a humid, windy morning that hampered times in the longer races.

Veronicah Nyaruai Wanjiru of Kenya helped control the pace through the early stages of the women's half marathon and then rolled out to a 12-second lead over Dera Dida Yami of Ethiopia by the 15K mark. Nyaruai's move dropped defending champion and race record-holder Mary Wacera of

Kenya, and Jordan Hasay of the U.S. had moved up to fifth. Running by herself, Nyaruai added six seconds to her margin by 20K, with Hasay up to third. The last stretch saw Nyaruai lose some of her lead to Dida Yami, but she had enough to finish in 67:58, the fourth-fastest time in race history. That earned her a \$10,000 time bonus.

Wacera passed Hasay to finish third in 68:38, but the former Oregon all-American shattered the American race record in fourth with her 68:40 that put her at No. 6 on the all-time U.S. list.

The most exciting finish of the day came from Korir and Lilesa, who elbowed each other as they approached the line. Korir came away with the win as both men were awarded a time of 61:14. A group of 10 men went through 10K in 28:51, and by the next 5K mark Korir and Lilesa were nine seconds back of Yigrem Demelash and Samsom Gebreyohannes.

Fikadu Tsadik and Hiskel Tewelde Ghebru were in a group of four with Korir and Lilesa at 20K, but all eyes went to the pair of Korir and Lilesa down the final stretch. The duo made a mad dash to the tape to finish three seconds ahead of Ghebru and Tsadik, with Korir clocking the sixth-fastest time in race history. Wanjiru and Korir each picked up \$20,000 for their victories in the Aramco Houston Half Marathon.

2018

Men's Winner: Jake Robertson (New Zealand)
1:00:01

Women's Winner: Ruti Aga (Ethiopia) 1:06:39
Finishers: 11,088

In the 16th year of the Houston Half Marathon, late entrant Jake Robertson of New Zealand won in 1:00:01, the third-fastest time in race history, while Ruti Aga of Ethiopia won the women's race in 1:06:39—not only the second-fastest time in race history, but also the second-fastest time ever run on U.S. soil. The winners each earned a first-place prize of \$20,000, plus time bonuses. Huddle's record-breaking performance means that both the men's and women's American records have been set here in Houston.

Setting an American record in the Aramco Houston Half Marathon was Molly Huddle, whose time of 1:07:25 in finishing seventh broke the mark of 1:07:34 set by Deena Kastor in 2006. En route, she also broke American records at 10 miles and 20K pending ratification.

The half marathon saw Robertson, who has lived and trained in Kenya since he was 17, pull away from Guye Adola just before 20K. He kept the hammer down through the finish, trying to dip under the magic 60-minute mark before winning in a time that tied his personal best.

"Wow ... the best in the world," he said afterward. "The whole caliber of the field, I'm speechless. It's an amazing feeling."

Finishing as top American was Sam Chelanga, sixth in a personal best 1:00:37, while Bernard Lagat, 43, set an American masters record, winning the masters division in 1:02:00 and placing 15th overall. Lagat's time is also the fastest ever run in the world by a 43-year-old, according to the Association of Road Racing Statisticians.

The women's half marathon was both fast and deep. Before Mary Wacera shattered the event record for the Aramco Houston Half Marathon by running 1:06:29 in 2016 for the fastest half marathon ever on U.S. soil, the event record was 1:08:26. In today's race, a remarkable seven women bettered that time, with Aga's 1:06:39 now ranking as the second fastest ever run in this country.

Asked what she would do with her prize money, Aga said she would use it to build a house. Caroline Chepkoech of Kenya was runner-up in 1:06:48, the fourth-fastest time in race history, with the next five women all breaking into the top 10 all-time here.

Setting a national record for Saudi Arabia with a time of 1:26:47 was Sarah Attar, who in 2012 was among the first two women to compete at the Olympics for her country.

Huddle, 33, is among them. A 25-time national champion and two-time Olympian, Huddle set the American record for 10,000 meters when she finished sixth in Rio in 2016. In November, after winning the USA 5K championships at the NYRR Dash to the Finish Line 5K, Huddle declared her intention to run here under 68 minutes, a time that would overtake Kastor's mark. She ran with the leaders through 10 miles, but said she was worried about falling off record pace after that.

"This has to be one of the deepest halves in the country for women, ever, and to be in that race and to be fit and ready for it is lucky, is awesome," she said. "So even when I was hurting, I was like, just hang on to these women. They're all here today. It was a great day for the women."

Of the American record, Huddle said: "It means a lot. To be in the company of Deena Kastor, who had such a great marathon career, gives me a lot of confidence, and that's a really special feeling. Deena has really set the bar high for us."

2019

Men's Winner: Shura Kitata (Ethiopia) 1:00:11
Women's Winner: Brigid Kosgei (Kenya) 1:05:50
Finishers: 12,614

The 17th Aramco Houston Half Marathon again lived up to its reputation for being flat and fast, with Brigid Kosgei running the fastest half marathon ever on U.S. soil.

In winning the women's half marathon in 1:05:50, Kosgei shattered the previous course record of 1:06:29, set by Mary Wacera at this race in 2016. Although pleased with her 45-second personal best, the 24-year-old Kenyan, winner of the 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon, said she had been hoping to clock an even-faster time.

"If not for the coldness, I would have run 64 (minutes, or 1:04)," she said. The world record is 1:04:51.

By 15K, Kosgei and compatriot Fancy Chemutai had a 17-second lead over defending champion Ruti Aga of Ethiopia and Kosgei soon pulled ahead for good. Chemutai, who owns the second-fastest half marathon time in history, would finish second in 1:06:48, the fifth-fastest time ever run in the U.S., and Aga third in 1:06:56, the eighth-fastest – giving the Aramco Houston Half Marathon the eight fastest times ever run on U.S. soil.

It almost saw another American record, as well, with Emily Sisson just missing the mark of 1:07:25 set here last year by her training partner, Molly Huddle. Nonetheless, Sisson's 1:07:30, good for fifth place, makes her the second-fastest American woman in history.

"I've got some mixed feelings," said Sisson, who ran without a watch. "I was a little disappointed at first, just to come so close to Molly's record. But I think tomorrow I'll be pretty happy with it."

In the men's half marathon, Shura Kitata of Ethiopia outlasted Jemal Yimer, the third-fastest half marathoner in history, surging ahead in the final kilometer to win by three seconds, in 1:00:11. Behind Yimer (1:00:14) was Bedan Karoki of Kenya in 1:00:18.

"The weather was not friendly," said Kitata, of an early slow pace. "I couldn't relax. But later on ... I was very confident that I would finish it well."

The top American finisher was Reed Fischer, 10th in a personal best of 1:02:06.

"When you come to run Houston, you come to run fast," said Fischer, 23, of Boulder.

For the win, Kosgei and Kitata each earned \$20,000. Kosgei also took home a bonus of \$10,000 for running faster than 1:09, while Kitata nabbed an extra \$5,000 for running under 1:00:30.

2020

Men's Winner: Jemal Yimer (Ethiopia) 59:25
Women's Winner: Hitomi Niiya (Japan) 1:06:38
Finishers: 13,449

Hitomi Niiya (JPN) entertained fans with a solo performance to the finish. She took command of the race immediately, and, running alongside pacer, Tsuyoshi Ugachi (JPN), she smashed both her personal best and the Japanese national record to win in the third fastest time in Aramco Houston Half Marathon history, 1:06:38. Brilliant Kipkoech (KEN) finished a distant second in 1:08:08, and Caroline Chepkoech Kipkirui (KEN) rounded out the top three in 1:08:13.

While the women's race lacked drama, the men's race more than made up for it. A pack of 14 men rolled through the first 5K on pace to break the course record (59:22), and the pack remained strong at five over the final mile of the race. Last year's runner-up, Jemal Yimer (ETH), dug the deepest to win in 59:25, producing the second fastest time ever run in Houston and North America. Bernard Ngeno (KEN) was a step behind in 59:26, and Shardrack Korir (KEN) set a personal best to finish third in 59:27.

Americans Sara Hall and Jared Ward hit the line as the top Americans. While Hall finished well ahead of the next American in ninth place and a personal best in 1:08:58, Ward out-sprinted Reed Fischer and Nicolas Montanez to capture the top American spot by one second. Overall, 27 American women and 30 American men met the qualifying standard to compete in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials next month in Atlanta.

Matt and Andrew Leach of Great Britain broke the Guinness world record for the fastest father-son duo in the half marathon. Collectively, they ran 2:14:05. The previous record stood at 2:20:33. Matt ran 1:02:55, and Andrew ran 1:11:10.

Canadian Callum Neff competed as the Last Runner Starting to raise funds for the Houston Marathon Foundation. He started behind the entire half marathon and marathon open field, and somehow managed to finish with a net time of 1:09:59. Neff holds the Guinness record for the fastest marathon run while pushing a jogging stroller, 2:31:21.

2021

January 8-17 • Finishers: 3,368
The Houston Marathon Committee and the City of Houston announced the difficult decision to transition the traditional in-person Aramco Houston Half Marathon to a virtual running event in 2021 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 10,000 runners registered to run #togetherfromanywhere to complete their virtual 13.1 mile distance over the course of a 10-day period.

2022

January 16 • Finishers: 11,247
Women's Winner: Vicoty Chepngeno (1:05:03)
Men's Winner: Milkesa Mengesha (1:00:24)

The 2022 Aramco Houston Marathon was the fastest women's half marathon ever run in the United States and rewrote the record books for the event. Six of the eight fastest women's times in event history were run in 2022.

Vicoty Chepngeno not only smashed Brigid Kosgei's course record by 47 seconds, but her 1:05:03 is the fastest time ever run in any race in the country. "I wanted to run my best time," she said of her strategy to take the race out from the start. However, she added, she was surprised to run so much faster than 1:07:22, her previous best mark.

Chepngeno wasn't the only runner breaking records. Second place finisher Sara Hall made it known prior to the race that she would be chasing the American record of 1:07:25 set in Houston by Molly Huddle in 2018. Hall broke away from the chase pack at 15K and hammered the last four miles of the race to finish in 1:07:15.

"It's incredible," she said of not only breaking the record by 10 seconds but doing so on the same course where her husband set the men's record in 2007, a record that still stands. "It's something I've dreamed of doing. Our lives were never the same after that day, so it's always a special memory here in Houston." Sara Hall's record was later broken by Emily Sisson who ran 1:07:11 at the USATF Half Marathon Championships in Indianapolis in May.

Finishing third was Dom Scott of South Africa in 1:07:32.

The men's race came down to a sprint between 21-year-old Milkesa Mengesha of Ethiopia and John Korir of Kenya. Mengesha, a 2020 Olympian in the 10,000, held on winning by just three seconds in 1:00:24. Less than 20 seconds back was another sprint finish. Wilfred Kimiti of Kenya battled side by side with Kirubel Erassa of the United States. Kimiti outleaned Erassa for third, but both were given the time of 1:00:42.



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READY, SET, RUN FOR A REASON

Crossing the finish line of the Chevron Houston Marathon, Aramco Houston Half Marathon or We Are Houston 5K is the culmination of the hard work and training runners put into preparation for their race. By participating in the Run for a Reason Charity Program, the hard work does more than get runners to the finish line; it offers help and hope to the thousands of people who benefit from the charities in the program.

Linking runners with more than 63 non-profits, the Run for a Reason Charity Program provides an avenue for race participants, individuals and organizations to collect donations on behalf of an official charity. In addition, the program offers a platform for charities to raise awareness and educate others about their important cause.

The Run for a Reason program surpassed \$35 million raised for local non-profits since its inception in 1995. Prizes are awarded to the top fundraisers based on total number of dollars raised.

For additional information about the Run for a Reason charity program, visit RunforaReasonHouston.org.

Run for a Reason Fundraising

Year	Fundraising Total
2022	\$1,548,203
2021	\$681,210
2020	\$1,807,084
2019	\$1,813,355
2018	\$1,839,000
2017	\$2,000,000
2016	\$2,300,000
2015	\$2,500,000
2014	\$2,600,000
2013	\$2,200,000
2012	\$2,329,000
2011	\$2,086,000
2010	\$1,777,000
2009	\$1,100,000
2008	\$1,334,000
2007	\$893,000
2006	\$695,000
2005	\$795,000
2004	\$786,000
2003	\$678,000
2002	\$543,000
2001	\$450,000
2000	\$362,000
1999	\$281,000
1998	\$245,000
1997	\$230,000
1996	\$138,000
1995	\$63,000

2023 OFFICIAL RUN FOR A REASON CHARITIES

AIDS Foundation Houston	American Cancer Society	Texas Center for the Missing, Houston's
American Brain Tumor Association	Galveston Bay Foundation	Amber Alert AND Silver Alert Provider
BikeHouston	March of Dimes	FRIENDS FOR LIFE ANIMAL SHELTER
Bloom Fitness	American Diabetes Association	Houston SPCA
Chance for Hope Foundation	JDRF	Avondale House
Harrisons Heroes	West Houston Assistance Ministries, Inc.	Organization for Autism Research
Houston Haven	Houston Area Parkinson Society	3 A Bereavement Foundation
Houston Recovery Center	THE ASTROS FOUNDATION	Bo's Place
Mental Health America of Greater Houston	A 2nd Cup	Counseling Connections For Change, Inc
Team Catapult	The Arbor School	Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Water For People	Houston Children's Charity	Addi's Faith Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation	Open Door Mission	B.I.G. Love Cancer Care
Lupus Foundation of America, Texas Gulf Coast	Star of Hope Mission	Snowdrop Foundation Inc.
Steel Magnolia Moms	Ronald McDonald House Houston	Sunshine Kids Foundation
Child Advocates, Inc.	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital	Texas Children's Hospital
Homes For Our Troops	Kickstart Kids	Alzheimer's Association
ALS Association, Texas Chapter	Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS)	Houston Food Bank
Living Water International	Vita Living, Inc	American Heart Association
Bel Inizio	Reach Unlimited	Down Syndrome Association of Houston
Dress for Success Houston	The H.E.A.R.T. Program	The Cade R. Alpard Foundation for Pediatric Liver Disease
CanCare, Inc.	The Todd Krampitz Foundation	Houston Marathon Foundation
	Epilepsy Foundation Texas	

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Sidewalk Squad corporate donor program is an opportunity for local businesses to support the Chevron Houston Marathon Run for a Reason charity program - an annual fundraising drive that allows runners, individuals and organizations to utilize our races as a vehicle to raise funds for charitable causes. In addition, the program offers a platform for charities to raise awareness and educate others about their cause.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2023 CORPORATE PARTNERS



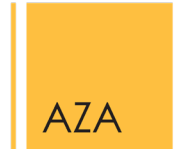
Accenture
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alliantgroup
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AZA Law
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BASF Corporation
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Christian Brothers Automotive
Dress For Success Houston



Halliburton
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Kirksey Architecture
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Musket Trillium
Houston Area Parkinson Society



Sunnova Energy
Dress for Success Houston



Talos Energy
Dress for Success Houston



The Daily Mile
Houston Marathon Foundation

Carnes Funeral Home
Bo's Place

Home Instead
Houston Area Parkinson Society

Morgan Stanley
Bo's Place

Parzivand Law Firm
Houston Food Bank

Russell & Smith Ford, Honda & Mazda
Bo's Place

HOUSTON MARATHON FOUNDATION



About Us

The Houston Marathon Foundation, founded in 2008, is committed to supporting the advancement of running as an element of a healthy lifestyle; with a primary focus on providing support to the Houston running community, by creating opportunities for youth who have limited access to fitness opportunities. The youth of this program discover the life-changing benefits of long-distance running. A secondary and equal focus of the foundation is to promote participation and accessibility for participants with disabilities and support the development of U.S. elite runners nation-wide through scholarship and program funding initiatives.

One of those initiatives funded and created by the HMF is The We Run Houston after-school running program. This after-school program provides coaching support to over 2,000 students annually, who have limited access to fitness opportunities. These young athletes train to participate in the annual Houston Marathon Committee weekend events.

Our Mission

The mission of the Houston Marathon Foundation is to support the advancement of running as an element of a balanced, healthy lifestyle in the Houston community and nationally.

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2023 MEN'S MARATHON ATHLETES

Men

Name	Country of Citizenship	Personal Best
Thomas Rono	KEN	2:06:00
Evans Sambu	KEN	2:07:43
Dominic Ondoro	KEN	2:08:00
Tsedat Ayana	ETH	2:08:03
Kenta Uchida	JPN	2:08:12
Sammy Rotich	KEN	2:10:08
James Ngandu	KEN	2:10:17
CJ Albertson	USA	2:10:23
Jaun Luis Barrios	MEX	2:10:55
Shadrack Biwott	USA	2:12:01
Tyler Pennel	USA	2:12:34
Parker Stinson	USA	2:12:58
Teshome Mekenon	USA	2:13:27
Mitchell Klinger	USA	2:16:21
Mason Frank	USA	2:17:30

2023 WOMEN'S MARATHON ATHLETES

Women

Name	Country of Citizenship	Personal Best
Hitomi Niiya	JPN	2:21:17
Sintayehu Lewetegn	ETH	2:22:36
Muliye Dekeb Haylemariyam	ETH	2:26:52
Mægan Krifchin	USA	2:29:21
Tristan Van Ord	USA	2:29:32
Emily Setlack	CAN	2:29:48
Kinsey Middleton	CAN	2:30:09
Dayna Pidhoresky	CAN	2:30:58
Bridget Belyeu	USA	2:31:00
Beverly Ramos	PUR	2:31:10
Molly Bookmeyer	USA	2:31:39
Andrea Pomaranski	USA	2:33:10
Nina Zarina	RUS	2:33:22
Elissa Legault	CAN	2:33:27
Anne Centner	USA	2:38:29
Joanna Stephens	USA	2:39:06
Melissa White	USA	2:43:46

2023 MEN'S HALF MARATHON ATHLETES

Name	Country of Citizenship	Personal Best
Shura Kitata	ETH	0:59:47
Mohamed Reda EL AARABY	MAR	0:59:54
Edward Cheserek	KEN	1:00:17
Rory Linkletter	CAN	1:01:08
Sydney Gidabudy	USA	1:01:09
Shadrack Kipchirchir	USA	1:01:16
Alberto Gonzalez Mindez	GUA	1:01:20
Wesley Kiptoo	KEN	1:01:26
Reed Fischer	USA	1:01:37
Conner Mantz	USA	1:01:40
Zouhair Talbi	MAR	1:02:00
Fernando Cabada	USA	1:02:00
Patricio Castillo	MEX	1:02:15
Julio Ortiz	MEX	1:02:16
Tsegay Tuemay	ERI	1:02:29
Colin Bennie	USA	1:02:46
Wilkerson Given	USA	1:02:50
Ben Preisner	CAN	1:03:08
Kevin Koski	USA	1:03:35
Frank Lara	USA	1:03:37
Afwerki Zeru	USA	1:03:41
Brian Shrader	USA	1:04:03
Jordan Gusman	MLT	1:05:03
Jack Mastandrea	USA	1:06:29
JP Flavin	USA	1:06:48
Brian Barazza	USA	Debut
Graham Crawford	USA	Debut
JP Trojan	USA	Debut
Conner Winter	USA	Debut

2023 WOMEN'S HALF MARATHON ATHLETES

Name	Country of Citizenship	Personal Best
Tirunesh Dibaba	ETH	1:06:50
Emily Sisson	USA	1:07:11
Hiwot Gebrekidan	ETH	1:07:22
Molly Huddle	USA	1:07:25
Dom Scott	RSA	1:07:32
Jessica Judd	GBR	1:07:52
Lindsay Flanagan	USA	1:09:37
Natasha Wodak	CAN	1:09:41
Nazret Weldu	ERI	1:09:47
Maggie Montoya	USA	1:10:06
Ryo Koido	JPN	1:10:20
Daniela Torres	MEX	1:10:22
Erika Kemp	USA	1:10:38
Lilly Partridge	GBR	1:10:50
Jessica Watychowicz	USA	1:11:32
Anna Dibaba	ETH	1:11:39
Paola Bonilla	ECU	1:11:48
Rosie Edwards	GBR	1:12:24
Maor Tiyouri	ISR	1:12:27
Jessie Cardin	USA	1:13:45
Anne-Marie Blaney	USA	1:16:23
Leslie Sexton	CAN	2:28:52
Vanessa Fraser	USA	Debut
Olivia Pratt	USA	Debut
Jenny Simpson	USA	Debut
Marielle Hall	USA	Debut
Amy Davis	USA	Debut
Heather Kampf	USA	Debut

2023 ATHLETE BIOS

Marathon Men



James Ngandu

Age: 32

Citizenship: Kenya

Personal best: 2:10:17 (Duluth, 2022)

History in this race: 1st, 2022 (2:11:03); 18th, 2020 (1:01:45, half marathon); 9th, 2019 (1:01:51, half marathon)

James Ngandu made his marathon debut at last year's Chevron Houston Marathon and what a debut it was. Ngandu won the race by just eight seconds after taking the lead in the final two miles. Since graduating from Tiffin University in Ohio in 2019, Ngandu has been a familiar face at road races across the United States. After his Houston victory last year he won half marathons in Columbus, OH and Philadelphia and finished third at the Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, Minnesota with a new personal best of 2:10:17.



Dominic Ondoro

Age: 34

Citizenship: Kenya

Personal Best: 2:08:00 (See Genezareth, 2013)

History in this race: 11th, 2019 (2:14:51); DNF, 2018; 1st, 2017 (2:12:05); 4th, 2015 (2:09:40); 5th, 2014 (2:11:43)

Dominic Ondoro is a familiar face on the start line of the Chevron Houston Marathon. This year marks his sixth time running the race for the 2017 Champion. Ondoro, a Kenyan Citizen, lives and trains in Grand Prairie, Texas. Ondoro is a four-time winner of the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon and a two-time winner of the Grandma's Marathon. He holds the course record for both events.



Kenta Uchida

Age: 26

Citizenship: Japan

Personal Best: 2:08:12 (Otsu, 2021)

After finishing fourth in last year's Chevron Houston Marathon, Japan's Kenta Uchida is back to chase a spot on the podium in 2023. Houston was only the second marathon of Uchida's career. In his debut, he ran 2:08:12 at the Lake Biwa Mainichi Marathon in

Otsu, Japan. It was the 76th and final running of the event and is one of the fastest ever run with 28 men running under 2:09.



Evans Sambu

Age: 29

Citizenship: Kenya

Personal Best: 2:07:43 (Barcelona, 2022)

A 2:07 marathoner, Evans Sambu will make his North American debut in the Chevron Houston Marathon. Running marathons since 2013, Sambu ran the two fastest times of his career last year including the 2:07:43 ninth place finish in Barcelona and a 2:08:24

fourth place finish in Seoul.

2023 ATHLETE BIOS



Tsedat Ayana

Age: 26

Citizenship: Ethiopia

Personal Best: 2:06:18 (Dubai, 2020)

Tsedat Ayana ran his breakthrough marathon when he won the Zurich Maratón de Sevilla in Spain in 2019. Since that victory he's placed third in the 2020 Standard Charter Dubai Marathon in a new personal best and fourth in 2021 Boston Marathon, one spot behind his training partner, Jemal Yimer.

Birhan Nebebew

Age: 28

Citizenship: Ethiopia

Personal Best: 2:06:52

The Chevron Houston Marathon will be Birhan Nebebew's first race in the United States since taking third in the Credit Union Cherry Blossom 10 Miler in 2017. Since then, he's taken to the marathon almost exclusively and run the distance seven times including a victory at the 2020 Xiamen Marathon in China. A runner with cross country roots, Nebebew was the third runner on Ethiopia's gold medal winning team in the junior race at the 2013 World Cross Country Championships in Poland.

Teshome Mekonen

Age: 27

Citizenship: United States (New York City, NY)

Personal Best: 2:13:27 (Ottawa, 2022)

In November, Teshome Mekonen became a United States citizen following his marriage to his wife Feven, an Ethiopian immigrant living in Harlem. He ran his first race as an American that weekend and finished fourth in the BAA Half Marathon. Mekonen has been living and training in New York City since 2016 where he regularly wins New York Road Runners races in Central Park. Last year, he won the Brooklyn Half Marathon. Although he has a personal best of 1:00:02 in the half marathon and has run under 1:02:00 11 times, Mekonen has yet to have a breakthrough in the marathon distance. He struggled in his debut at the 2021 TCS New York City Marathon and in his follow up race in Ottawa last May. But Mekonen, who is currently taking English lessons, believes he can run 2:03 in the not-too-distant future.

2023 ATHLETE BIOS



CJ Albertson

Age: 29

Citizenship: United States (Clovis, NM)

Personal Best: 2:10:23 (Boston, 2022)

CJ Albertson holds the World Record for 50K, covering the 31 mile distance in 2:38:44 (5:07 per mile) last October. He had hoped that would prepare him for a fast marathon in Valencia in December, but he was forced to drop out of the race due to stomach issues. He gave it another try in Malaga, Spain the following weekend, but said the leaders went out too fast leaving him to run alone to a 2:13:36 tenth place finish. Albertson, a cross country coach at Clovis Community College in New Mexico, gained national attention when he lead the first 20 miles of the 2021 Boston Marathon before finishing 10th. He ran his personal best of 2:10:23 in Boston last year, but believes he can run much faster. "I don't feel like I have had that breakout race like I feel I can do," Albertson told Outside Magazine in the fall. "I think I can run in the 2:07 range on a fast course."



Parker Stinson

Age: 30

Citizenship: United States (Broomfield, CO)

Personal Best: 2:10:53 (Chicago, 2019)

History in this race: 12th, 2019 (1:02:11, half marathon); 14th, 2017 (1:03:17, half marathon)

Parker Stinson is on the comeback trail. After setting the American 25K record and a new marathon personal best in 2019, Stinson struggled to recapture that magic in 2020 and 2021. But with a 2:12:58 eighth place finish at Grandma's Marathon in June, the former NCAA Champion says he feels like he's headed in the right direction. Now training with Roots Running in Colorado, Stinson said he's had some of the best marathon workouts of his career this winter. He'll feel at home on the start line with one of his main training partners, Frank Lara, lining up alongside him.

Thomas Kiplagat Rono

Age: 35

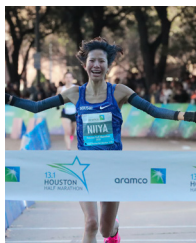
Citizenship: Kenya

Personal Best: 2:06:00

Thomas Kiplagat Rono comes to Houston with the fastest personal best in the field, a 2:06:00 when he won the 2019 Seoul Marathon. He hasn't run that fast in recent years, however he recorded two finishes under 2:11 in 2022 after missing virtually all of 2020 and 2021. Kiplagat Rono started his marathon career in 2013 with a victory in his debut race, the Eldoret KASS Marathon, held at more than 7,000 feet above sea level.

2023 ATHLETE BIOS

Marathon Women



Hitomi Niiya

Age: 34

Citizen: Japan

Personal Best: 2:21:17 (Tokyo, 2022)

History in this race: 2020, 1st (1:06:38, half marathon)

One of the most celebrated runners in Japanese history, Hitomi Niiya not only won the 2020 Aramco Houston Half Marathon, but her winning time of 1:06:38 is the third fastest time in race history and the Japanese national record for the half marathon. This year, she hopes to take a shot at the Japanese record for the marathon of 2:20:29. Niiya, who also holds the national record in the 10,000m, won the 2007 Tokyo Marathon. However, she spent the early years of her career focusing mostly on the 5,000m and the 10,000m distance, running both in the 2012 London Olympics. Niiya retired from running in 2014 due to a foot injury, but returned to competition in 2018. She represented Japan at the 2019 World Championships in Doha and the 2020 Tokyo in the 10,000m. Niiya made her return to the marathon last year placing seventh in Tokyo in a new personal best 2:21:17.

Sintayehu Lewetegn

Age: 26

Citizenship: Ethiopia

Personal Best: 2:22:36 (Ljubljana, 2022)

Seven of Sintayehu Lewetegn's last eight marathons dating back to the fall of 2018 have been under 2:26, but she is still chasing that first career victory. Among the 26-year-old's accomplishments are a runner-up finish and personal best in Ljubljana, Slovakia last year and third place finishes in Prague and Osaka in 2022 and 2020 respectively. Houston will be her first time competing in North America.



Tristin Van Ord

Age: 28

Citizenship: United States (Boone, NC)

Personal Best: 2:29:32 (Rotterdam, 2022)

History in this race: 18th, 2022 (1:12:31, half marathon)

Triston Van Ord had a breakout performance in the marathon last spring, running under 2:30 for the first time in her career to finish fifth in Rotterdam and qualify for her second consecutive U.S. Olympic Team Trials Marathon. Training with Zap Fitness in Blowing Rock, NC, Van Ord is an assistant cross country coach at Appalachian State University where she won nine individual conference titles. She comes into the Chevron Houston Marathon having won the Kiawah Half Marathon in South Carolina in December.

2023 ATHLETE BIOS



Kinsey Middleton
Age: 30
Citizenship: Canada
Personal Best: 2:30:09

History in this race: 37th, 2020 (1:12:15, half marathon), 18th, 2018 (1:12:30, half marathon)

Last year, Kinsey Middleton had the hometown crowds going wild as she became the first Canadian woman to win the Tartan Homes International Marathon in 15 years. Her time of 2:30:09 was a new personal best. Middleton went on to represent Canada in the 2022 World Athletics Championship Marathon in Eugene where she finished in 26th place. Middleton, a graduate of the University of Idaho, is a dual citizen. She placed 10th in her most recent race, the B.A.A. Half Marathon in November.



Maegan Krifchin
Age: 34
Citizenship: United States (Atlanta, GA)
Personal Best: 2:29:21 (Sacramento, 2022)

The Chevron Houston Marathon will be Maegan Krifchin's fourth marathon in 10 weeks and sixth since April of last year. In her most recent race, the California International Marathon in December, Krifchin set a new personal best of 2:29:21. Just two weeks earlier, she was the runner-up at the Philadelphia Marathon. A member of Atlanta Track Club Elite, Krifchin has qualified for her third consecutive U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Marathon. She balances her training with her full time job as an occupational therapist at an Atlanta-area hospital.



Dayna Pidhoresky
Age: 36
Citizenship: Canada
Personal Best: 2:29:03 (Toronto, 2019)

History in this race: 16th, 2019 (1:12:59, half marathon)

2020 Olympian Dayna Pidhoresky is coming off a 2022 that three top 10 finishes in three of Canada's biggest marathons including a victory at the BMO Vancouver Marathon in May. Pidhoresky won the 2019 Canadian Olympic Trials in a personal best time of 2:29:03. However, she was exposed to COVID-19 on the way to Tokyo and forced to quarantine for 14 days once she arrived in Japan. Having not trained since arriving in the country, Pidhoresky ran anyways and finished last in 3:03:10.

2023 ATHLETE BIOS

Elissa Legault

Age: 28

Citizenship: Canada

Personal Best: 2:33:27

History in this race: 21st, 2022 (1:13:06)

In just three years, Elissa Legault has taken 17 minutes of her marathon personal best. Five of those minutes came off last May at the Tartan Homes Ottawa International Marathon where Legault qualified for the Canadian National team headed to Eugene for the World Athletics Championship Marathon just seven weeks later. Last fall, Legault ran a new personal best half marathon of 1:11:37 in Valencia, setting a Quebec province record.

Molly Bookmyer

Age: 31

Citizenship: United States (Columbus, OH)

Personal Best: 2:31:39 (Sacramento, 2022)

History in this race: 9th, 2022 (2:33:19), 30th, 2019 (2:44:07)

Molly Bookmyer will race her second marathon in less than six weeks when she lines up for her third Chevron Houston Marathon since 2019. Bookmyer, who lives and trains in Columbus, Ohio is coming off a personal best time of 2:31:19 where she qualified for her second consecutive U.S. Olympic Team Trials Marathon. While a student at Ohio State University, doctors discovered a benign tumor on Bookmyer's brain. She underwent two surgeries in two years to remove the tumor and drain fluid that was causing paralysis. In 2016, she was diagnosed with a condition that causes seizures and nearly walked away from competitive running. 2022 was the best year of her professional career. Besides the new personal best in Sacramento, Bookmyer scored a dominant win in her hometown Columbus Half Marathon in October in a new personal best time of 1:10:51.

2023 ATHLETE BIOS

Half Marathon Men



Shura Kitata

Age: 26

Citizenship: Ethiopia

Personal Best: 59:47 (Houston, 2020)

History in this race: 2020, 8th (59:47), 2019, 1st (1:00:11); 2018, 4th (1:00:20)

2019 Aramco Houston Half Marathon champion Shura Kitata showed his strength last fall with a runner-up finish on an unseasonably warm and humid day the TCS New York City Marathon. It was one of two top-five finishes in Abbott World Marathon Majors for Kitata after also finishing 5th at the Tokyo Marathon. At the young age of 26, Kitata has three marathon victories to his name: London, Frankfurt and Rome. He also represented Ethiopia at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics although that race was marked as a DNF.



Edward Cheserek

Age: 28

Citizenship: Kenya

Personal Best: 1:00:13 (Valencia, 2022)

Ed Cheserek is just 13 seconds away from breaking the one-hour barrier and hopes his fourth attempt at the distance is when it will happen. Cheserek clocked a 1:00:13 ninth place finish in Valencia last fall. Earlier in 2022, he was the runner up at the United Airlines New York City Half Marathon in 1:00:37. Known by fans as "King Ches," Cheserek was a 17-time NCAA Champion at the University of Oregon. Cheserek hopes to one day become a U.S. citizen. In November, his longtime girlfriend, Sharon Lokedi, was the surprise winner of the 2022 TCS New York City Marathon.



Conner Mantz

Age: 26

Citizenship: United States

Personal Best: 1:00:55 (Hardeeville, SC, 2021)

Conner Mantz made his much-anticipated marathon debut at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon last fall and did not disappoint. The 2020 and 2021 NCAA Cross Country Champion from BYU ran 2:08:16 to finish in 7th place. It's the fastest debut ever by an American-born runner. The transition to road racing has been seamless for Mantz. He's won U.S. titles in the half marathon and 20K and was runner-up at the U.S. 8K Championship. Last summer, he came within one-second of setting the American course record at the historic AJC Peachtree Road Race (10K) in Atlanta. Mantz, who is coached by Olympic marathoner Ed Eyestone, got married six days after his race in Chicago and lives and trains in Utah.

2023 ATHLETE BIOS



Frank Lara

Age: 27

Citizenship: United States (Houston, TX)

Personal Best: 1:01:00 (Valencia, 2021)

History in this race: 2020, 22nd (1:01:30), 2022 (Marathon), 6th (2:11:32)

Some of the loudest cheers from the fans on the streets of Houston will be for hometown favorite Frank Lara. Lara, a Gatorade Texas High School Runner of the Year when he competed for Strake Jesuit College Prep, made his marathon debut here last year placing as the top American finisher in 2:11:32. Now training with the Roots Running Project in Boulder, Colorado, Lara was on pace to run under 2:08 at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon last fall before fading in the final miles to finish in 2:15:57. Lara moved to Houston from Mexico City when he was three years old and has fond memories of riding in the car with his parents along the marathon route and cheering for the runners.

Leul Gebresilase Aleme

Age: 30

Citizenship: Ethiopia

Personal Best: 59:18 (Valencia, 2017)

2022 was a year of runner-up finishes for the Leul Gebresilase Aleme. He took second at the Rotterdam Marathon to Olympic silver medalist Abdi Nageeye and second again at the London Marathon to Amos Kipruto. Gebresilase Aleme, who has a marathon personal best of 2:04:02, is the 2019 Valencia Marathon champion. Houston will be his first attempt at the half marathon distance in more than two years.

Mohamed El Aaraby

Age: 33

Citizen: Morocco

Personal Best: 59:54 (Malaga, Spain 2022)

2022 was a busy year for El Aaraby. He competed and completed four marathons including fourth place finishes in Lima and New York and a personal best of 2:06:55 in Paris. El Aaraby also set his half marathon personal best in Spain just three weeks after the race in Paris. El Aaraby took 11th at the 2020 Olympic Marathon in Japan. He represented Morocco at the 2019 and 2021 World Athletics Championships.

2023 ATHLETE BIOS

Half Marathon Women



Emily Sisson

Age: 31

Citizenship: United States (Tucson, AZ)

Personal Best: 1:07:11 (American Record, Indianapolis 2022)

History in this race: 2019, 5th (1:07:11)

The American records in the marathon and half marathon were set in Houston last year. By the fall of 2022, Emily Sisson had broken them both. In May, she ran 1:07:11 to take four seconds off Sara Hall's record at the USATF Half Marathon Championships in Indianapolis. Then, in October Sisson ran 2:18:29 in Chicago to take 43 seconds off the record previously set by Kiera D'Amato. She'll look to lower the half marathon record on a Houston course known for historic performances. A Tokyo Olympian, Sisson was the 2021 U.S. Champion in the 10,000m. As a Providence Friar, Sisson was a three-time NCAA Champion. She still trains under her college Coach Ray Treacy and splits her time between Rhode Island and Arizona.

Hiwot Gebrekidan

Age: 27

Citizenship: Ethiopia

Personal Best: 1:06:47 (Istanbul, 2021)

Hiwot Gebrekidan won her third career marathon in 2021 when she broke the tape at the General Milano Marathon in Italy. Later that fall, she made her Abbott World Marathon Majors debut with a second place finish at the BMW Berlin Marathon. Last year, Gebrekidan set a new personal best marathon time of 2:19:10 when she finished fifth in Tokyo. She's been competing since the age of 17 when she won a silver medal in the 3,000m at the 2012 World Junior Championships.



Jenny Simpson

Age: 36

Citizenship: United States (Boulder, CO)

Personal Best: Debut

One of the most decorated middle distance runners in American history, Jenny Simpson will make her half marathon debut in Houston. After a track career that saw a gold and two silver medals at the World Championships, an Olympic bronze and 11 U.S. titles, Simpson moved to the roads last year winning the Cherry Blossom 10 Miler in Washington D.C. In the fall of 2021, Simpson and her husband Jason were forced to evacuate their home due to devastating wildfires in Colorado. Fortunately, the couple's home was spared. In an Instagram post last fall, Simpson revealed she had spent much of the year recovering from an injury saying, "whatever comes next will be hard fought and precious to me."

2023 ATHLETE BIOS



Molly Huddle

Age: 38

Citizenship: United States (Providence, RI)

Personal Best: 1:07:25 (Houston, 2018)

History in this race: 2020, 12th (1:09:34); 2018, 7th (1:07:25)

Molly Huddle is a 28-time U.S. Champion and while she didn't win any of those titles in 2022, it may have been one of the most exciting years of her decorated career. Huddle released her book "How She Did It" with fellow runner Sarah Slattery in March. The next month, she gave birth to her daughter Josephine. Now, Huddle, a two-time Olympian, is on the comeback trail. In her most recent race, the BAA Half Marathon in November, she finished 12th in 1:13:29, a promising result for a return to form as one of the fastest half marathoners in American history. In 2018, Huddle's time of 1:07:25 in Houston set an American record (now held by her training partner, Emily Sisson). Huddle also holds the American record in the 10,000 meters set when she ran 30:13 at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Dom Scott

Age: 30

Citizenship: South Africa

Personal Best: 1:07:32 (Houston, 2022)

History in this race: 2022, 3rd (1:07:32)

With her third place finish in the Aramco Houston Half Marathon in 2022, Dom Scott let the world know she is a serious contender on the roads. Her time of 1:07:32 came in only her second attempt at the half marathon distance. It is the second fastest time ever run by a South African and set the national 20K record in route. Scott has represented South Africa in two Olympic Games and two World Athletics Championships on the track. However, the five-time NCAA Champion from the University of Arkansas lives and trains with Team Boss in Boulder, CO along with her husband and former Razorback teammate, Cameron Efurud.



Tirunesh Dibaba

Age: 37

Citizenship: Ethiopia

Personal Best: 1:06:50

One of the most decorated runners in history, Tirunesh Dibaba is returning to competition for the first time in more than four years. The three-time Olympic gold medalist and five-time world champion last raced in December of 2018, but recently said she had "unfinished business" on the roads. Dibaba, who is also the 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon Champion and a four-time World Cross Country Champion, is married to Sileshi Sihine, himself a two-time Olympic silver medalist in the 10,000m. The couple lives in Addis Abba, Ethiopia with their two children.



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