

ELITES RUNNING IN THE 2011 BMO VANCOUVER MARATHON

Men's Marathon:

Thomas Omwenga (Ngong, Kenya)

The three time Champion Returns to the BMO Vancouver Marathon. Thomas is 31 years old and has travelled and competed in marathons all over the world. He made his debut in Mexico in 2003, winning the Guadalajara Marathon in 2:17:18, and then following this up in 2004 with a win again in Mexico in the LaLa Torreon Marathon, running 2:11:38 and then in the fall of 2004 he ran his PB, 2:10:44 to take fourth in JoongAng Seoul International Marathon in Korea. His successes within Canada include two wins in the Vancouver International Marathon, 2007 and 2008, plus a win last year in the "Around the Bay 30K" and a win in the 2007 Montreal Half Marathon. Thomas is very kind and humble athlete and has become an adopted son of Vancouver. Thomas is determined to take down the course record with a good field around him.

Women's Marathon:

Hellen Cherono Kosgei (Nakuru, Kenya)

Hellen is making her first trip to Vancouver, Canada. Returning to running after her first child Hellen has posted world class times of 2:29:33 in Seoul and has the potential to lower the current Vancouver Marathon event record.

Men's Half Marathon

Hosea Kibet Rutto (Baringo, Kenya)

Hosea is one of the foremost athletes running in Canada this year. Hosea's results this year indicate he is a force to be reckoned with. Against some of the world's best runners, Hosea has run 28:12 for 10K and 48:00 for 10 miles. Although only 23, Hosea has high aspirations and courageous goals. He hopes to compete at the 2012 Olympic Games, as well as earning enough money to send to his brothers and sisters back home. He believes he is at the start of a long journey but one that ends when he becomes one of the worlds best. Kibet has made many friends in Canada since spending some time her the last few years. Running is fast lead pack the Men's Half Marathon record should fall in 2011.

Kip Kangogo (Lethbridge, AB)

Nobody has dominated Western Canadian Running like Kip Kangogo. Kip is a two time champions of the BMO Half marathon and this year is back for more. Kip trains with his brother Ed, at times in California at Texas Christian university with coach Patrick Cunniff and represents Running Room Athletics Club. Kip dreams of representing Canada in the marathon in the 2012 Olympic Games.

Jim Finlayson (Victoria, BC)

Jim is a two-time Canadian marathon champion (with a personal best of 2:18:21) and a three-time National cross-country team member. He comes into this race having won three of the last five editions of the Vancouver Half Marathon including a previous course-record win of 1:05:50. He lives and trains in Victoria where he is also developing his coaching business. Jim is a legend in Canadian road racing circuit where he consistently runs the best times in the country. Jim is the Canadian favourite in the race and has always run well in Vancouver.