



Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon
264 The Esplanade / Toronto, ON M5A 4J6
416.944.2765 / STWM.ca

Cam Levins Breaks 43 Year Old Canadian Record in Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon **By Paul Gains**

It took 43 years, but Jerome Drayton's Canadian marathon record was finally beaten today at the 2018 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

Cam Levins of Black Creek, B.C. stuck to his dedicated pacemaker through half way in 64:18, then ran the last ten kilometres of the race virtually alone to cross the line fourth overall with a time of 2:09:25.

Drayton ran 2:10:09 to win the 1975 Fukuoka (Japan) marathon and since then numerous Canadians have targeted his standard.

"I went through the half fast and when I got to the last 10k I knew it was all good," Levins explained. "I tried to hang in as strongly as I could. The reality is that with 3k left I knew I could do it and with a kilometre left I was certain it was going to happen and I was enjoying the moment."

Scotiabank will pay out a bonus of \$43,000 - \$1000 for each year the record has stood.

Levins also took the Canadian championship gold medal as this year's Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon is also the Athletics Canada national marathon championship. Reid Coolsaet ran 2:17:37 to take silver and Aaron Cooper 2:18:00 for the bronze.

"It felt great honestly," Levins added. "I was expecting it to get hard at some point. It started hitting me more that last 7k, but I was thinking this isn't something I have not experienced before in races - that feeling. It's good to know what that is now and to not have any fear of it."

Incredibly, Levins' performance today marks his marathon debut. He finished fourth behind Kenya's Benson Kipruto (2:07:24), Augustino Sulle, who now holds the national marathon record of Tanzania (2:07:46), and Felix Kandie of Kenya (2:08:30) in this IAAF Gold Label race. While runners dealt with cold temperatures (2C at the start) and brisk winds of 20-25km/hr, the elite women's field had clearly targeted the Toronto course record of 2:22:43 jointly held by Koren Yal (Ethiopia) and Sharon Cherop (Kenya). Three pacemakers took four leading women through half way in 70:35. Ethiopia's Amane Beriso and Marta Megra, the defending champion, together with Ruth Chebotek (Kenya) and Mimi Belete of Bahrain ran single file behind the pacers. Eventually it was only Megra hanging on to Belete who pressed in the final seven kilometres.

Incredibly, the first four women scored personal bests with Mimi Belete setting a new course record of 2:22:29, just six seconds ahead of Megra. Chebotek claimed third place in 2:23:29, while Australia's Jess Trengove lowered her personal best to 2:25:59 for fourth.



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While the day belonged to Levins, another Canadian making her debut in Toronto, 25 year old Kinsey Middleton, claimed the women's national title with a superb clocking of 2:32.09 to finish 7th overall. Leslie Sexton, the 2017 Canadian champion was the silver medalist (9th overall) with 2:36:03 and Olympian Krista DuChene next across the line in 2:36:46 (10th overall).

"I feel amazing. It's such an honour to be out here I really had so much fun," said Middleton who lives in Boise, Idaho. "I was hoping to be around 2:32 and so I knew half way we were pretty close to that but the second half of the race, they are not joking when the halfway comes later than the actual halfway point in the race."

More than 25,000 runners took part in the marathon, half marathon and 5km races today. And while the majority of them will be gingerly walking around for the next few days Levins and his wife are found for a four day Caribbean cruise.