

## 05

**WORLD PARA ATHLETICS MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This year's London Marathon will host the 2019 World Para Athletics world championship marathon races, as it did in 2015 when four world records were broken on the streets of the British capital.

The event will replace the annual World Para Athletics Marathon World Cup, which was first held at the London Marathon in 2013 when races for ambulant para-athletes were added to a Race Day programme that had long included elite wheelchair competitions.

In 2015, the World Cup was replaced by what was then called the IPC Athletics Marathon World Championships. This year's event is called the World Para Athletics Marathon Championships. It includes five races for para athletes – three for ambulant runners and two for wheelchair racers. The World Cup will return in 2020 when London hosts the sixth edition.

Haozhe Gao, Head of World Para Athletics, said: "London has staged top class para athletics marathon events for more than two decades and we are delighted to see the World Marathon Championships return to the city in 2019."

As well as winning World Championship medals, athletes in these races can also earn places on their nation's teams for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. The top four athletes in each medal event will win a place at Tokyo 2020.

**The Events**

There will be five medal events at the 2019 World Para Athletics Marathon Championships, matching the marathon events to be held at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games:

- **T12:** men's and women's (for visually impaired athletes in categories T11 & T12)
- **T46:** men's (for arm amputee athletes in categories T45 & T46)
- **T54:** men's and women's (for wheelchair athletes in categories T52, T53 & T54).
- The T54 wheelchair races will start at 09:05; the T12 and T46 World Para events at 09:10.
- Each national federation was invited to enter a maximum of six athletes into each event provided they made the minimum qualification standard or had been invited directly by World Para Athletics.
- All para athletes in the world championship races will compete in their national vests.

**Preview: Para Athletes to battle for World Championship medals**

More than 80 of the world's best para athletes battle for marathon world championship medals in five contests for ambulant and wheelchair racers. Among them are the reigning London Marathon and Para World Cup champions in all five events, plus a host of world record holders, Paralympic gold medallists and previous world title winners.

Misato Michishita starts as favourite in the women's T12 race for visually impaired athletes. The 42-year-old Japanese runner has dominated recent World Cups, winning here in 2017 and 2018. Her stiffest competition will come from Spain in the shape of two-time World Cup winner Maria Paredes Rodriguez.

Spain have high hopes in the men's race too with last year's World Cup winner, Alberto Suarez Laso, a former Paralympic and world champion, facing Morocco's world record holder, El Amin Chentouf, who's seeking his second world title.

Britain's Derek Rae hopes to repeat his World Cup victory from 12 months ago in the T46 event for arm amputees. But the 33-year-old Scot will have his work cut out against Michael Roeger who smashed the world record at the Melbourne Marathon last October, one of four long-distance global bests now owned by the 30-year-old Australian.

All eyes will be on another British defending champion in the men's T54 wheelchair race when David Weir pushes for his ninth London title against Marcel Hug and Daniel Romanchuk. Manuel Schär is the woman to beat in the women's race with London champion Madison de Rozario and world champion Tatyana McFadden hot on her wheels.

## Ambulant Athletes

### T12 Women

Bib	Name	Country	Class	PB	Age	DoB	Bib name
331	Misato Michishita <i>Guides: Jun Shida / Yuka Aoyama</i>	JPN	T12	2:56:14	42	19/01/77	MICHISHITA
332	Maria Paredes Rodriguez <i>Lorenzo Sanchez Martin</i>	ESP	T12	2:59:22	56	15/01/63	PEREDES RODRIGUEZ
334	Edneusa de Jesus Santos Dorta <i>Antonia Keyla da Silva Barros</i>	BRA	T12	3:03:07	42	28/07/76	SANTOS DORTA
335	Ausra Garunksnyte <i>Linas Balsys</i>	LTU	T12	3:10:21	27	18/06/91	GARUNKSNYTE
336	Yoko Aoki <i>Hiroyuki Takada / Hisayo Kakinuma</i>	JPN	T12	3:13:36	42	28/06/76	AOKI
337	Louzanne Coetzee <i>Godfrey Ramokone / Claus Kempen</i>	RSA	T11	3:13:41	26	18/04/93	COETZEE
338	Hiroko Kondo <i>Hisakazu Kawashima / Taro Kaneko</i>	JPN	T12	3:15:29	56	17/12/61	KONDO
339	Mihoko Nishijima <i>Manabu Mizobuchi / Shuichi Kagi</i>	JPN	T12	3:15:42	63	01/05/55	NISHIJIMA
340	Charlotte Ellis <i>Lucy Niemz</i>	GBR	T12	3:25:55	34	23/05/84	ELLIS
341	Meryem En-Nourhi	MAR	T12	Debut	28	06/11/90	EN-NOURHI
342	Maria Fiuza <i>Nuno Rocha / Luis Ginja</i>	POR	T11	Debut	46	19/12/72	FIUZA

### Biographies

**Misato Michishita:** The 2017 and 2018 Para Athletics World Cup champion, 2016 Paralympic silver medallist and world bronze medallist from 2015. Ranked No.1 in world in 2017 and 2018.

She lost the vision in her right eye after contracting an illness while at school. She took up running to lose weight in her 20s. She lives in Dazaifu.

**Maria Paredes Rodriguez:** She won the World Cup in 2013 and 2014, clocking official world records both times and becoming the first T12 female athlete to dip under three hours. Was third last year and ranked third in the world in 2018.

She was a nurse in Barcelona for 25 years before losing her vision in 2005 at 42 from a degenerative macular condition. She took up running to overcome depression.

**Edneusa de Jesus Santos Dorta:** The Rio Paralympic bronze medallist who was second in the World Cup last year after being disqualified in 2017. Ranked No.2 in world in 2018.

She is a sports teacher and lives in Rio Claro.

**Ausra Garunksnyte:** A former tennis player and track runner who took up marathon running 2017. Aims to be the first Lithuanian woman to compete in the Paralympic marathon. Coached by her guide, Linas Balsys, a marathon bronze medallist from the 2004 Paralympic Games. She holds the Lithuanian record for athletes with visual impairments.

**Yoko Aoki:** Ran her PB in Hofu in December last year and ranked fourth in the world for 2018. Was fourth in the World Cup last year and fourth in Oita this February.

**Louzanne Coetzee:** She ran her PB in Berlin last September.

She was born with Leber's congenital amaurosis, an inherited eye condition.

**Hiroko Kondo:** Fifth at the Rio Paralympics. She ran her PB in Oita this February, taking three minutes from her best as runner-up to Michishita. Was ranked seventh in the world last year.

She was diagnosed with pigmentary degeneration of the retina in 2001.

**Mihoki Nishijima:** Ran her PB in Oita this February and ranked sixth in the world last year. Didn't finish the Paralympic marathon but was fifth at the 2015 World Championships in London.

**Charlotte Ellis:** GB debut for the New Marske athlete who set her PB at the Manchester marathon last April. A former para triathlete who won world and European titles in that sport.

**Meryem En-Nourhi:** The 2015 world silver medallist over 1500m.

**Maria Fiuza:** Three-times European 1500m bronze medallist. Has amblyopia, otherwise known as lazy eye.

## T12 Men

Bib	Name	Country	Class	PB	Age	DoB	Bib name
291	Alberto Suarez Laso	ESP	T12	2:21:47	41	19/12/77	LASO
292	El Amin Chentouf	MAR	T12	2:21:33	37	08/06/81	CHENTOUF
293	Tadashi Horikoshi	JPN	T12	2:26:28	30	19/07/88	HIROKOSHI
294	Gustavo Nieves	ESP	T12	2:26:47	37	09/03/82	NIEVES
295	Yeltsin Jacques	BRA	T12	2:28:11	27	21/09/91	JACQUES
<i>Guides: Rafael Soares Santeramo / Andre Alberi de Santana</i>							
296	Alan Bezerra de Oliveira	BRA	T12	2:28:14	33	14/02/86	DE OLIVEIRA
297	Yutaka Kumagai	JPN	T12	2:29:20	32	14/02/87	KUMAGAI
299	Leonardo Amorim	BRA	T12	2:31:05	32	19/02/87	AMORIM
301	Gabriel Macchi	POR	T12	2:37:23	43	02/10/75	MACCHI
<i>Martim Nunes / Jorge Rodrigues</i>							
302	Nuno Alves	POR	T11	2:39:52	43	24/05/75	ALVES
<i>Jose Oliveira / Joao Pedro Soares Ribeiro</i>							
303	Sandi Novak	SLO	T11	2:40:02	45	16/07/73	NOVAK
<i>Roman Kejzar / Anton Kosmac</i>							
304	Nacereddine Kerfas	ALG	T12	2:40:23	41	07/06/77	KERFAS
<i>Azzeddine Sakhrri</i>							
305	Jorge Pina	POR	T12	2:42:19	43	11/01/76	PINA
<i>Nelson Cruz / Ricardo Abreu</i>							
306	Nicolas Bompard	FRA	T12	2:44:16	37	22/01/82	BOMPARD
<i>Antoine Amiot / Badre Ziouini</i>							
307	Declan Ryan	IRL	T12	2:49:27	39	16/06/79	RYAN
<i>Gerard Forde / Michael O'Connor</i>							
308	Marcin Grabinski	POL	T11	2:51:56	39	04/12/79	GRABINSKI
309	Yap Tien-Fung	GER	T12	2:56:20	28	28/10/90	TIEN-FUNG
<i>Max Kirschbaum</i>							
310	Avi Adhanany Solomon	ISR	T11	Debut	35	12/12/83	SOLOMON
<i>Sisay Berhano</i>							
311	Hicham Hanyan	MAR	T12	Debut	25	20/11/93	HANYAN

## Biographies

**Alberto Suarez Laso:** The London 2012 Paralympic and 2011 world champion who won the Para Athletics World Cup last year. He was second behind Chentouf at the 2015 Worlds in London in 2:21:47, one of the quickest times ever. Diagnosed with macular degeneration in 2008 and took up the sport when he began to lose his vision. He is one of the organisers of the Oviedo Half Marathon in Spain, and serves as president of the Club Maraton Oviedo.

**El Amin Chentouf:** T12 world record holder and 2015 world champion. He won the World Cup in 2013 and 2014 having taken gold in the T12 5000m at the London 2012 Paralympics when he smashed the world record by more than 30 seconds. Was second in London last year behind Laso. Ran 2:25:30 in Chicago last October to rank No.1 in the world. Born in Ksar Lekbir, he took up the sport in 2008 and now lives in Rabat.

**Tadashi Horikoshi:** He was fourth at the Rio Paralympics having clinched bronze at the 2015 Worlds. Third in the 2017 World Cup. He was fifth in the T12 5000m at London 2012 with an Asian record of 14:48.59. Ran marathon PB in Oita this February. An illness at birth led to the removal of his right eye and loss of vision in his left. He lives in Kyotanabe.

**Gustavo Nieves:** The 2013 world 10,000m bronze medalist who collapsed and lost consciousness while leading the Rio Paralympic marathon in 30°C heat. Born in Villalba, he lived in Germany until he was five and took up running aged 17 after losing his sight due to Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy. He lives in Madrid.

**Yeltsin Jacques:** Ranked second in the world last year behind Chentouf with 2:28:11 from Buenos Aires in September. Won world silver and bronze medals on the track in 2013. He was born with a malformation in his retina.

**Alan Bezerra de Oliveira:** Ranked third in world last year with 2:28:14 from Buenos Aires last September. He was diagnosed with glaucoma in 2015 and lost vision in one eye.

**Yutaka Kumagai:** He won the 2016 World Cup by more than three minutes in 2:33:24. Was third last year and fifth in the 2015 Worlds. Ran his PB in Oita last April to rank No.5 in the world. Born without an iris in either eye (a condition known as aniridia), he began running at school and later attended Takaoka University of Law.

**Leonardo Amorim:** Ran his PB at Buenos Aires last September to rank seventh in the world for 2018.

**Gabriel Macchi:** The 2013 world bronze medallist. Second in the 2017 World Cup after placing third in 2013 and 2014 clocking PB in 2013. Sixth at Rio 2016. Argentine-born, he took up running in 2006 aged 31 after developing juvenile glaucoma.

**Nuno Alves:** The 2014 European T11 5000m champion and 2002 world 1500m bronze medallist. Dropped out of the marathon at the 2006 World Championships. Lost his sight as a result of an accident with a firearm aged 18.

**Sandi Novak:** Was eighth at the Rio Paralympics having finished 14th at the 2015 Worlds. He was seventh in the T11 marathon at the 2013 Worlds. His PB was set in Dubai in 2016. Lost his sight due to a brain injury from an accident while celebrating a friend's wedding then devoted himself to running while at a rehabilitation centre.

**Nacereddine Kerfas:** The 2006 world 10,000m champion. Fourth in the World Cup last year in a PB having been disqualified in 2016. Dropped out of the 2012 Paralympic marathon. Nicknamed Samir, he took up athletics in 2001 and his hero is Algeria's middle distance legend, Nouredine Morceli.

**Jorge Pina:** The 2016 World Cup bronze medallist was fourth in 2017. Ran his PB in London three years ago and went on to place seventh at the Rio Paralympics having been disqualified at London 2012 race when his guide crossed the line ahead of him.

A national boxing champion, he became visually impaired aged 30 after suffering retina damage during a sparring bout. He set up the Associacao Jorge Pina to help disadvantaged people.

**Nicolas Bompard:** He ran his PB of 2:44:16 to finish fourth overall at the Orléans Marathon in November 2014 and was close to that time at the 2015 World Championships. He was born in Seoul, Korea, and now lives in Chamalières.

**Declan Ryan:** He ran his PB of 2:49:27 at the Dublin Marathon in 2017 having broken three hours there for the first time in 2015. Ran 2:49:52 in Berlin last September. He comes from Thurles in County Tipperary where he works as a horse trainer. His visual impairment is a hereditary condition.

**Marcin Grabinski:** Ranked fifth T11 in the world last year with PB 2:51:56 from New York in November.

**Yap Tien-Fung:** He ran 2:57:18 to place ninth in the 2017 World Cup and rank ninth in the world. Was 14th last year. He lives in Mainz and works as a physiotherapist. Also competes in ultra-marathons and ran a 50km PB of 3:35:54 in Berlin in 2017.

**Avi Adhanany Solomon:** The European T11 5000m bronze medallist last year. He started to lose his vision aged six due to glaucoma. Has played for Israel's national goalball team.

**Hicham Hany:** Marathon debut.



Alberto Suarez Laso and El Amin Chentouf go stride for stride in last year's T11 men's race

## T46 Men

Bib	Name	Country	Class	PB	Age	DoB	Bib name
371	Derek Rae	GBR	T46	2:33:24	33	23/10/85	RAE
372	Michael Roeger	AUS	T46	2:23:31	30	14/05/88	ROEGER
373	Alex Pires da Silva	BRA	T46	2:26:44	28	07/05/90	PIRES DA SILVA
374	Abdelhadi El Harti	MAR	T46	2:29:38	36	11/06/82	EL HARTI
375	Efrain Sotacuro	PER	T46	2:30:16	28	09/10/90	SOTACURO
376	Manuel Mendes	POR	T46	2:37:22	48	14/04/71	MENDES
377	Matthew Felton	AUS	T46	2:47:39	29	07/01/90	FELTON
378	Christoph Sommer	SUI	T46	2:56:35	46	27/10/72	SOMMER

## Biographies

**Derek Rae:** Last year's World Cup champion after setting PB to finish third in 2017. Ranked third in the world last year. Was fifth at the 2015 Marathon World Championships but dropped out of the Rio Paralympic marathon.

Formerly a joiner, he lost the use of his right arm in 2010 when his motorcycle crashed into a truck. A member of Fife Athletics Club he was Scottish Athletics' 2018 Para Athlete of the Year.

**Michael Roeger:** Smashed the T46 world record in his debut marathon when he ran 2:23:31 in Melbourne last October, more than three minutes quicker than anyone else in the world in 2018. He placed sixth overall in the men's race. It was his third world record of the year after setting new marks at 5000m and 10,000m. He broke the 1500m world record in 2017 and was 2016 Paralympic bronze medallist at that distance. He was born without the lower half of his right arm. Lives in Canberra and works in IT. Has a twin brother, Chris.

**Alex Pires da Silva:** He won the World Cup title in 2017 after being second to Abderrahman Ait Khamouch at the 2015 World Championships. He ran a PB of 2:26:44 in Buenos Aires last September to rank second in the world last year behind Roeger. Born with his left arm shorter than his right, he took up athletics in 2007.

**Abdelhadi El Harti:** Dropped out of 2016 Paralympic marathon. Was second behind da Silva at 2017 World Cup in PB 2:29:38. Born in Casablanca, he now lives in Paris.

**Efrain Sotacuro:** Ranked third in the world in 2016 with his PB from Seville that February. Went on to place fourth in the Rio Paralympic marathon. Was fifth in the 2017 World Cup.

Had both arms amputated in 2008 after touching a live wire in a high-voltage tower. Nicknamed 'Efrita'.

**Manuel Mendes:** The Paralympic bronze medallist ran a PB of 2:37:22 to finish fourth at the 2016 World Cup. He was fourth in 2017 and second last year in 2:41:29 to rank fourth in the world for 2018. Was eighth at the 2015 World Championships.

He had his left arm amputated at the elbow after an accident with an agricultural machine aged nine. He took up the sport 10 years later.

**Matthew Felton:** Ran his PB to finish third in last year's race having been fifth in 2017. Former Australian record holder whose times were eclipsed last year by Roeger. He is a sports and training manager for the Special Olympics in Western Australia. He trains with the Front Runner Sports team in Western Australia.

**Christoph Sommer:** Was sixth in the Paralympic marathon having placed 11th in 2012. He was fourth at the 1998 Worlds in PB of 2:56:35. His left arm was amputated below the elbow in 1979 after he was involved in an accident.

Wheelchair Athletes

All athletes on the following elite wheelchair entry lists are competing for their countries in the World Para Athletics Marathon Championships (see page 59), while also racing for the prestigious London Marathon wheelchair titles, which have been part of the event every year since 1983.

As usual, there are also a number of 'non elite' British athletes in both races who will not be part of the World Marathon Championships but will race as individuals. The names of all those athletes will be available from the media office during Race Week.

Wheelchair Awards

Athletes in the wheelchair events will receive prize money from the London Marathon as follows:

	Men	Women	Britons outside top 10		
			1st	Men	Women
1st	\$25,000	\$25,000	1st	\$200	\$200
2nd	\$14,000	\$14,000	2nd	\$100	\$100
3rd	\$10,500	\$10,500	3rd	\$50	\$50
4th	\$7,500	\$7,500			
5th	\$4,500	\$4,500			
6th	\$3,500	\$3,500			
7th	\$2,250	\$2,250			
8th	\$1,800	\$1,800			
9th	\$1,400	\$1,400			
10th	\$900	\$900			
	\$71,350	\$71,350			

Total: \$142,700

Course record bonus (men and women): \$5,000

The Flying 400

Flying 400 point-to-point sprint bonus (men and women):

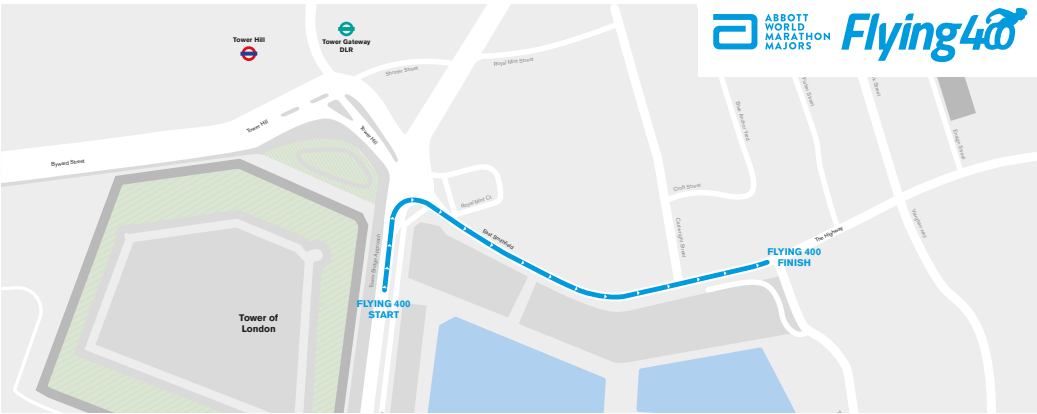
1st	\$10,000
2nd	\$5,000

The 'Flying 400' point-to-point bonus is a new prize awarded to the fastest two wheelchair athletes in the men's and women's races to complete a specified 400 metre 'time trial' section of the course just after 20km (12.58 miles).

The fastest athlete over this section of the course will also gain eight sprint bonus points towards their Abbott World Marathon Majors Series XII total (see p101). Note: these are not the first athletes to reach the 400m finish point, but the quickest in the field between the two points.

The wheelchair men are expected to reach the Flying 400 section at around 09:48.

The wheelchair women are expected to reach the bonus sprint section at 09:52.





## T54 Women

Bib	Name	Country	Class	PB	Age	DoB	Bib name
151	Madison de Rozario	AUS	T53	1:39:22	25	24/11/93	DE ROZARIO
152	Manuela Schär	SUI	T54	1:28:17	34	05/12/84	SCHAR
153	Susannah Scaroni	USA	T54	1:33:17	27	16/05/91	SCARONI
154	Tatyana McFadden	USA	T54	1:35:05	30	21/04/89	MCFADDEN
155	Sandra Graf	SUI	T54	1:35:44	49	09/12/69	GRAF
156	Christie Dawes	AUS	T54	1:37:12	38	03/05/80	DAWES
157	Margriet van den Broek	NED	T54	1:38:33	45	30/03/74	VAN DEN BROEK
158	Zou Lihong	CHN	T54	1:38:44	35	26/02/84	ZOU
159	Tsubasa Kina	JPN	T54	1:39:36	28	18/05/90	KINA
160	Katrina Gerhard	USA	T54	1:40:34	22	13/12/96	GERHARD
161	Arielle Rausin	USA	T54	1:41:26	25	16/09/93	RAUSIN
162	Aline dos Santos Rocha	BRA	T54	1:41:40	28	20/02/91	ROCHA
163	Eliza Ault-Connell	AUS	T54	1:44:13	37	19/09/81	AULT-CONNELL
164	Vanessa Cristina de Souza	BRA	T54	1:45:19	29	20/11/89	DE SOUZA
165	Michelle Wheeler	USA	T54	1:45:22	32	12/09/86	WHEELER
166	Nikita den Boer	NED	T54	1:50:23	28	08/01/91	DEN BOER

## Preview

Australia's Madison de Rozario defends her title against a star-studded field containing the world record holder and reigning Abbott World Marathon Majors champion, Manuela Schär, and four-time London winner Tatyana McFadden, plus China's Paralympic champion, Zou Lihong.

De Rozario made history 12 months ago when she became the first Australian woman to win the London title. It capped a remarkable seven days for the T53 athlete who arrived in the British capital fresh from a double triumph at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, including winning the marathon gold medal.

Schär will be looking for revenge after losing the crown she won in 2017 when smashing the London course record. That performance came just six days after she raced to the quickest time in history at the Boston Marathon.

The Swiss star's disappointing fourth place here in 2018 was still good enough to secure the Abbott World Marathon Majors Series XI title and she bounced back in superb style by taking victory in Berlin last September when she blazed to the official world record.

Further victories in Chicago, New York and Tokyo mean she is already on course to wrap up the Series XII title and will be the woman to beat in London as she seeks to regain the world crown she won in 2013.

McFadden's victory in Boston was her sole win of 2018 and the US star will be keen to regain the London title she won four times in a row between 2013 and 2016.

She came agonisingly close to victory last year when pipped on the line by De Rozario, and knows another triumph would place her just one behind London legend Tanni Grey-Thompson in the women's wheelchair all-time stakes.



McFadden's teammate Susannah Scaroni was in great form last year, and the 27-year-old will be keen to move up the podium after placing third here 12 months ago. With five top three finishes during 2018, and 11 in her career to date, Scaroni is long overdue a first Majors victory.

As for Zou, the Rio 2016 champion will be hoping to improve on 13th place last year as she seeks a world title to add to her Paralympic crown.

Switzerland's 2008 champion and former course record holder, Sandra Graf, will be hoping to hang on to her younger compatriot's tail while the increasingly consistent Dutch racer, Margriet van den Broek, will have an eye on the podium.

Two young Americans, Katrina Gerhard and Arielle Rausin, could also make their mark. There are no Britons in the field this year.

There will be 18 athletes in total in the women's wheelchair race.

## Madison de Rozario (Australia)

### DEFENDING LONDON MARATHON CHAMPION

**Born:** 24 November 1993 Perth

**Marathon best:** 1:39:22 Chicago 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2013- 8th 1:53:44, 2018- 1st 1:42:58

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Chicago: 2017- 4th 1:39:22, 2018- 2nd 1:43:16

New York: 2017- 5th 2:04:28, 2018- 6th 1:58:06

**Marathons in major championships**

Commonwealths: 2018- 1st 1:44:00



#### Career notes

Madison de Rozario became the first Australian woman to win the London Marathon when she clinched victory last year just a week after taking gold in the Commonwealth Games marathon on the Gold Coast. She had earlier won gold in the 1500m.

She went on to place second in Chicago last October where she had set her PB in 2017 when fourth in 1:39:22, good enough to rank third in the world for T53 racers. She ranked first last year thanks to her London time.

De Rozario won the T54 5000m title at the London 2017 World Championships where she also picked up silver in the T53 800m and bronze in the T54 1500m.

She was world T53 800m champion in 2015 and won two T53 silvers at the Rio Paralympics, for 800m and 4x400m. In the relay, Australia were originally third, then disqualified and finally promoted to silver after winning an appeal. She competed in four events at London 2012 finishing fourth in the 800m.

She made her Paralympic debut in 2008 when, aged 14, she was the youngest Australian athlete at the Games.

#### Personal notes

De Rozario contracted transverse myelitis aged four. She first experienced paralysis in her feet and by the time she reached hospital she had lost the ability to move her arms. Doctors reversed the effects from her waist up but she has had paraplegia ever since.

She took up wheelchair racing in 2006 after trying wheelchair basketball and tennis.

Nicknamed 'Bandit', she studies sports science and is coached by Australian wheelchair racing legend, Louise Sauvage.

## Manuela Schär (Switzerland)

### BERLIN, CHICAGO, NEW YORK & TOKYO CHAMPION

**Born:** 5 December 1984 Lucerne

**Marathon best:** 1:28:17 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2014- 2nd 1:46:44, 2015- 2nd 1:43:56, 2016- 2nd 1:44:15, 2017- 1st 1:39:57, 2018- 4th 1:43:01

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2013- 1st 1:41:39, 2016- 1st 1:43:00,

2017- 1st 1:40:05, 2018- 1st 1:36:53

Boston: 2014- 4th 1:39:29, 2016- 2nd 1:43:30, 2017- 1st 1:28:17, 2018- dnf

Chicago: 2013- 2nd 1:42:37, 2014- 2nd 1:45:12,

2015- 2nd 1:41:56, 2016- 2nd 1:42:29,

2017- 3rd 1:39:17, 2018- 1st 1:41:38

New York: 2013- 3rd 2:03:53, 2014- 2nd 1:43:25,

2015- 2nd 1:44:57, 2016- 2nd 1:49:28,

2017- 1st 1:48:09, 2018- 1st 1:50:27

Tokyo: 2017- 2nd 1:43:27, 2018- 1st 1:43:25,

2019- 1st 1:46:57

**Marathons in major championships**

Paralympics: 2016- 6th 1:38:46

Worlds: 2013- 1st 1:49:45, 2015- 2nd 1:43:56



#### Career notes

Manuela Schär is the London Marathon course record holder, the Abbott World Marathon Majors Series XI winner, and the reigning champion of the BMW Berlin, Bank of America Chicago, TCS New York and Tokyo Marathons. She won the world title in 2013, became the fastest woman marathon racer of all time when she clocked 1:28:17 in Boston two years ago, beating the previous best by almost six minutes, and last September broke the official world record by more than a minute when she cruised to 1:36:53 for her fourth Berlin title.

She ended a string of three runner-up spots behind Tatyana McFadden in London two years ago when she smashed the course record to become the first woman under 1:40 in the British capital. She won the Tokyo Marathon for a second time in February this year.

She won three track silvers at the 2013 World Championships and 200m silver at London 2017. She has a 200m silver and two bronze medals from Paralympics. She is the European record holder at 200m, 400m and 800m and won four gold medals at the 2014 European Championships.

#### Personal notes

She grew up in Althofen with her brother, Ivo, and parents, Elisabeth and Ireneo. She was injured in an accident in 1993 and started wheelchair sport in 1998 aged 14. She lives in Lucerne where she was born. Her surname means 'scissors' in English.



## Susannah Scaroni (United States)

**Born:** 16 May 1991 Burns, Oregon

**Marathon best:** 1:33:17 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2013- 7th 1:50:47, 2014- 4th 1:51:01, 2015- 5th 1:47:06, 2016- 7th 1:52:50, 2017- 3rd 1:47:37, 2018- 3rd 1:43:00

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2018- 2nd 1:41:44

Boston: 2012- 5th 1:50:44, 2013- 6th 1:53:28, 2014- 3rd 1:38:33, 2015- 3rd 1:57:21, 2016- 4th 1:46:53, 2017- 3rd 1:33:17, 2018- 2nd 2:20:01

Chicago: 2011- 7th 2:02:51, 2012- 2nd 1:56:30, 2014- 7th 1:51:56, 2015- 6th 1:50:10, 2016- 5th 1:52:50, 2017- 7th 1:44:11, 2018- 3rd 1:44:48

New York: 2013- 5th 2:05:07, 2014- 7th 1:57:55, 2015- 5th 1:54:24, 2016- 4th 1:58:16, 2017- 9th 2:11:43, 2018- 7th 1:55:55

Tokyo: 2017- 3rd 1:43:29, 2018- 5th 1:54:02, 2019- 3rd 1:54:32

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2012- 8th 1:58:37, 2016- 7th 1:38:47

Worlds: 2013- 5th 2:00:36, 2015- 5th 1:47:06



### Career notes

Susannah Scaroni has consistently finished in the top 10 in the world's major races, and has made the medal podium six times, including at last year's Boston, London, Berlin and Chicago Marathons, and in Tokyo this March. In Boston in 2017, she clocked the third quickest time ever behind Schär and Amanda McGrory, a personal best by five minutes.

She was runner-up behind Schär in Berlin last year after placing second in McFadden's wake in Boston. She has been third in London for the last two years. She ranked third in the world last year.

She was seventh in the Rio Paralympic marathon having placed eighth in 2012, just ahead of fellow Illinois student McFadden. She was fifth at the 2015 Worlds. She won the Los Angeles Marathon in 2013 and 2014. She raced in the heats of the 800m in Rio and was sixth in the 800m and 1500m at the London 2017 Worlds.

### Personal notes

Scaroni comes from Tekoa in Washington state. She was injured in a car accident aged five and took up wheelchair racing in 2002 aged 11. She joined the University of Illinois wheelchair racing team in 2012 and is coached by Adam Bleakney. She graduated in dietetics in May 2014.

## Tatyana McFadden (United States)

**Born:** 21 April 1989 St Petersburg, Russia

**Marathon best:** 1:35:05 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2011- 4th 1:46:34, 2012- 8th 2:05:38, 2013- 1st 1:46:02, 2014- 1st 1:45:12, 2015- 1st 1:41:14, 2016- 1st 1:44:14, 2018- 2nd 1:42:58

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2018- 9th 2:02:21

Boston: 2013- 1st 1:45:24, 2014- 1st 1:35:06, 2015- 1st 1:52:54, 2016- 1st 1:42:16, 2017- 4th 1:35:05, 2018- 1st 2:04:39

Chicago: 2009- 1st 1:50:47, 2010- 3rd 1:56:11, 2011- 1st 1:45:03, 2012- 1st 1:49:52, 2013- 1st 1:42:35, 2014- 1st 1:44:50, 2015- 1st 1:41:10, 2016- 1st 1:42:28, 2017- 1st 1:39:15, 2018- 7th 1:56:35

New York: 2009- 6th 2:08:05, 2010- 1st 2:02:22, 2011- 3rd 1:52:52, 2013- 1st 1:59:13, 2014- 1st 1:42:16, 2015- 1st 1:43:04, 2016- 1st 1:47:43, 2017- 2nd 1:51:02, 2018- 2nd 1:50:48

Tokyo: 2016- 2nd 1:41:14, 2018- 2nd 1:44:51, 2019- 2nd 1:48:54

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2012- 9th 1:58:47, 2016- 2nd 1:38:44



### Career notes

Tatyana McFadden dominated marathon racing for four years, going undefeated in Boston, London, Chicago and New York from 2012 to 2016, and won 13 races in a row until beaten in Tokyo in 2016. In 2013 she became the first athlete to win all four in one year, and repeated the feat each year until 2017. She has won four London titles, five Boston, seven Chicago and five New York. She held the London course record from 2013 until 2017.

She made her name on the track when she won two Paralympic medals in Athens aged 15. She won four more in Beijing and at London 2012 won golds in 400m, 800m and 1500m. In Rio she added the 5000m, but was beaten on the line by Zou Lihong in the marathon. She has 16 Paralympic medals in all, including a silver at cross country skiing from 2014. She won a record six gold medals at the 2013 Worlds, having won four golds and a silver in 2011. She won four golds at London 2017.

### Personal notes

Born in Russia with spina bifida, McFadden lived in an orphanage for the first six years of her life until adopted by an American family. She grew up in Maryland. Nicknamed 'the Beast', she now competes for Illinois Wheelchair Racers. Her campaigning led to a disability sports equality law being named after her. Her sister Hannah is also a wheelchair racer.

## Sandra Graf (Switzerland)

**Born:** 9 December 1969 Appenzell

**Marathon best:** 1:35:44 Padua 2008

**London Marathon record:** 2008- 1st 1:48:04, 2009- 2nd 1:50:40, 2010- 2nd 1:52:34, 2011- 3rd 1:46:33, 2012- 7th 1:54:43, 2013- 3rd 1:48:01, 2015- 4th 1:46:27, 2016- 6th 1:52:49, 2018- 6th 1:47:57

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2006- 1st 1:42:48, 2009- 1st 1:39:31, 2010- 2nd 1:46:16, 2011- 2nd 1:45:21, 2012- 1st 1:46:19, 2017- 2nd 1:45:24, 2018- 3rd 1:42:55

Boston: 2001- 3rd 2:04:00, 2004- 3rd 1:42:13, 2005- 3rd 1:51:46, 2007- 3rd 2:02:30, 2013- 2nd 1:46:54, 2015- 5th 1:59:18, 2018- 3rd 2:26:32

Chicago: 2014- 5th 1:46:15, 2017- 6th 1:44:03, 2018- 4th 1:47:35

New York: 2004- 2nd 1:53:37, 2005- 6th 2:03:04, 2006- 5th 1:56:29, 2007- 5th 1:58:10, 2008- 6th 2:20:34, 2009- 5th 2:04:42, 2010- 5th 2:13:03, 2014- 5th 1:52:40, 2015- 3rd 1:52:05, 2018- 8th 2:00:00

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2000- 5th 1:59:54, 2004- 5th 1:59:09, 2008- 3rd 1:40:01, 2012- 3rd 1:46:35

Worlds: 2006- 2nd 1:44:23, 2011- 2nd 1:48:24, 2013- dnf, 2015- 4th 1:46:27



### Career notes

Graf destroyed the 11-year-old London course record by more than a minute in 2008, picked up a bronze medal at the Paralympics in Beijing, and set a world half marathon record of 50:11 in Lisbon. She added another Paralympic bronze at London 2012, while she was eighth in Rio where she was her country's flag bearer. She has silver medals from the 2006 and 2011 Worlds, although she did not finish in Lyon 2013 and was fourth in London in 2015.

She has won the Berlin Marathon three times, and broke the course record there in 2009. In London she was just beaten by McGrory in 2009 and by Wakako Tsuchida in 2010, and has never finished lower than seventh. She was quicker than her own course record in 2011 when third behind McGrory and Woods, and was third again in 2013 six days after finishing second in Boston.

She won handcycling time trial gold at London 2012.

### Personal notes

Graf lives in Gais, Switzerland, with her husband and coach, Martin, and daughters, Melanie and Mara. She broke her spine in 1991 falling from gymnastics rings. She's been racing for 19 years.

## Christie Dawes (Australia)

**Born:** 3 May 1980

**Marathon best:** 1:37:12

**London Marathon record:** 2009- 5th 1:50:43, 2013- 4th 1:50:43, 2014- 5th 1:51:01, 2015- 6th 1:56:20, 2016- 9th 1:56:46

### Other World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2003- 6th 1:55:12

Boston: 2003- 5th 2:16:33, 2013- 5th 1:52:20

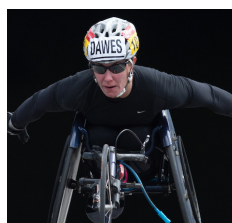
Chicago: 2009- 5th 1:50:50, 2011- 2nd 1:47:04, 2013- 5th 1:49:31, 2014- 6th 1:51:50

New York: 2007- 7th 2:12:46, 2008- 3rd 2:16:09, 2009- 4th 1:58:37, 2011- 4th, 2013- 6th 2:06:17, 2014- 6th 1:52:41, 2015- 4th 1:53:48, 2018- 11th 2:06:10

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2004- 8th 2:08:11, 2012- 6th 1:49:37, 2016- 9th 1:42:59

Worlds: 2015- 6th 1:56:20



### Career notes

Christie Dawes has competed at the last six Paralympic Games, starting in Atlanta 1996 when she was 16 and awarded the Young Paralympian of the Year Award.

She picked up a silver medal in the 4x100m relay in 2008 and in the 4x400m event in 2016. She also claimed 5000m bronze at London 2012 when she was also sixth in the marathon on two months training following multiple operations. She was ninth in the marathon in Rio.

She placed sixth at the London Marathon in 2015 having been fifth, fourth and fifth on her three previous London Marathon outings. She was ninth on her last appearance in 2016. She was third in New York in 2008 and second in Chicago in 2011 just six months after giving birth to her son. She was 11th in New York last November.

Dawes was involved in a brutal crash in the Paralympic 5000m final in Beijing. She emerged unscathed but the race was re-run, causing huge controversy.

### Personal notes

She became paraplegic in 1990 aged 10 as the result of a car accident and started racing after watching Louise Sauvage at the 1992 Paralympics. She has a degree in early childhood education. Previously Christie Skelton, she married coach Andrew Dawes in 2002. They have a son, Charlie, born in January 2011, and live in Sydney.

**Margriet van den Broek** (Netherlands)**Born:** 30 March 1974 Tilburg**Marathon best:** 1:38:33 Boston 2017**London Marathon record:** 2017- 4th 1:49:50, 2018- 8th 1:51:43**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2016- 3rd 1:52:05, 2018- 5th 1:47:43

Boston: 2017- 8th 1:38:33

Chicago: 2018- 14th 2:16:34

New York: 2018- 5th 1:57:30

Tokyo: 2019- 4th 1:57:52

**Marathons in major championships:** None**Career notes**

Margriet van den Broek made her marathon debut in Berlin in September 2016, finishing third to Manuela Schär and Sandra Graf in 1:52:05. She improved that time a month later when she clocked 1:45:43 to place second to Tsubasa Kina at the Oita Marathon at the end of October, and again in Boston in 2017 when she clocked 1:38:33 in eighth. She was fourth in London that year and eighth last April. She went on to finish fifth in Berlin and New York last autumn and was ranked seventh in the world last year with 1:44:06. She was fourth in Tokyo this March.

She broke four national records at the 2015 Grand Prix in Notwill, Switzerland, in May 2015 to qualify for the World Championships in Doha where she won bronze medals in the 400m and 800m and made the finals of the 100m, 200m, 1500m and 5000m.

She became European champion over 800m last summer when she also took silvers in the 400m and 5000m, and bronze at 1500m. She made the finals of the 100m, 400m and 800m at the Rio Paralympics.

**Personal notes**

Van den Broek has a displaced hip and used crutches until she was 35. She began using a wheelchair in 2010, and was a wheelchair basketball player before taking up athletics when she was spotted aged 38 at a talent identification day.

She studied occupational therapy and works as a counsellor at a social services organisation in Amsterdam where she lives.

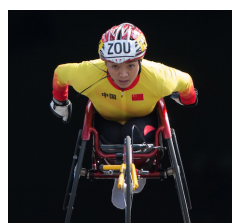
**Zou Lihong** (China)**PARALYMPIC MARATHON CHAMPION****Born:** 26 February 1984 Dali**Marathon best:** 1:38:44 Paralympics 2016**London Marathon record:** 2016- 5th 1:52:42, 2018- 13th 1:58:00**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

New York: 2017- 4th 2:03:20, 2018- 3rd 1:56:14

Tokyo: 2017- 4th 1:44:24

**Marathons in major championships**

Paralympics: 2016- 1st 1:38:44

**Career notes**

Zou Lihong is the reigning Paralympic marathon champion. She beat Tatyana McFadden by a fraction on the line in Rio in what was only the second marathon of her career.

She made her debut in London the previous April where she was fifth in 1:52:42. She was third in New York last November behind Schär and McFadden, having placed fourth there 12 months previously.

She won three golds and a silver on the track at the Doha 2015 World Championships, winning the 800m, 5000m and 4x400m relay and finishing second in the 1500m. She won 400m silver at London 2017 and was a finalist at 100m, 800m and 5000m.

She won an 800m bronze at the London 2012 Paralympics where she was also fourth at 400m and fifth at 1500m.

She won four golds at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia, taking the 400m, 800m, 1500m and relay titles.

**Personal notes**

She was born in Dali, contracted polio as a child and took up para-athletics in 2008 in Shanghai.

She made her international debut the following year and won a gold medal at the 2011 National Para Games in Zhejiang Province.

She was the flag bearer for China at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia.

## Tsubasa Kina (Japan)

**Born:** 18 May 1990

**Marathon best:** 1:39:36 Oita 2018

**London Marathon record:** 2018- 10th 1:52:19

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Tokyo: 2017- 5th 1:46:11, 2018- 3rd 1:46:17

**Marathons in major championships:** None



### Career notes

Tsubasa Kina lowered her PB by five minutes to win the Oita International Wheelchair Marathon for a second time last November, her time of 1:39:36 making her second quickest in the world last year behind Manuela Schär.

She made her London Marathon debut in 2018 after winning her first ever marathon in Oita at the end of October 2016. She clocked 1:44:56 to rank 11th in the world.

She was close to that time in Tokyo in 2017 where she placed fifth in 1:46:11 but did not make it to the London start line.

She was third in Tokyo last year in a very similar time, winning a place on a World Marathon Majors podium for the first time.

She previously competed on the track and made the move up to the marathon in 2016.

### Personal notes

She was a basketball player before she injured herself lifting a barbell during training. She crushed her spine between the barbell and the floor after trying to lift 120kg in a training session.

She works at Mobility Center Okinawa helping wheelchair users find the best adaptability products and to get government support to aid their mobility.

## Katrina Gerhard (United States)

**Born:** 13 December 1996

**Marathon best:** 1:40:34 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2017- 6th 1:54:34, 2018- 12th 1:57:22

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Boston: 2016- 10th 2:01:41, 2017- 9th 1:40:34

Chicago: 2015- 7th 2:01:08, 2016- 6th 1:56:54, 2017- 8th 1:54:18, 2018- 5th 1:51:25

New York: 2016- 5th 2:03:02, 2017- 7th 2:07:27, 2018- 9th 2:00:19

**Marathons in major championships:** None



### Career notes

Katrina Gerhard finished sixth in the London Marathon last year and has been a consistent top 10 finisher in Boston, Chicago and New York over the last few years. She gained her first Majors points in Chicago last October when she was fifth.

She ranked seventh in the world in 2017 after clocking 1:40:34 in Boston, improving her personal best by more than 15 minutes.

She won the Boston half marathon in 2014 when she was 17, and was fourth in the New York half marathon in 2016.

In high school she competed in the 400m, 800m, 1500m, javelin and shot put, and in 2014 was named a US Paralympics Track and Field High School All-American.

### Personal notes

At 14 Gerhard misjudged a back flip while sword dancing (a form of folk dance), landed on her neck and broke her collarbone. Tests showed no damage to her spine but she was eventually diagnosed with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, a condition in the peripheral nerves that leads to a gradual loss of sensory and reflex functions.

She lives in Acton, Massachusetts, and studies medicine at the University of Illinois where she competes for the Track and Road Racing Team.

She took up the sport in high school when her friends dared her to join the school's athletics team.

## Arielle Rausin (United States)

**Born:** 16 September 1993

**Marathon best:** 1:41:26 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2017- dnf, 2018- 11th 1:55:58

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2018- 8th 1:52:01

Boston: 2016- 11th 2:03:04, 2017- 10th 1:41:26, 2018- 5th 2:32:24

Chicago: 2017- 10th 1:59:03, 2018- 10th 1:57:50

New York: 2016- 7th 2:13:07, 2017- 10th 2:12:29, 2018- 13th 2:06:13

**Marathons in major championships:** None



### Career notes

Arielle Rausin improved her marathon best from 1:50:42 to 1:41:26 at the 2017 Boston Marathon where she was 10th, good enough to rank eighth in the world at the end of the year.

She dropped out of the London Marathon six days later but notched up two more 10th-place finishes in the autumn, in Chicago and New York.

Last year, she improved to eighth in London and Berlin, after finishing fifth in the howling rain of Boston last April.

She has a half marathon best of 54:44.

She completed the 55-mile Push Across Cayman in February 2016.

### Personal notes

Rausin was paralysed by a car accident in 2003 aged 10 and took up wheelchair in 2012.

Born in Florida, she now lives in Urbana and studies mathematics and computer science at the University of Illinois where she is coached by Adam Bleakney as part of the University of Illinois Racing Team.

She founded Ingenium Manufacturing in 2016, a company using 3D printers to create wheelchair racing gloves for athletes.

Her mother, Krista Dondero, is an author. She has published two children's fantasy books whose main protagonists are young girls who use wheelchairs.

## Aline dos Santos Rocha (Brazil)

**Born:** 20 February 1991

**Marathon best:** 1:41:40 Duluth 2016

**London Marathon record:** 2016- dq, 2018- 9th 1:51:44

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2018- 4th 1:46:13

Boston: 2018- 4th 2:31:18

Chicago: 2018- 6th 1:54:00

New York: 2018- 12th 2:06:10

**Marathons in major championships**

Paralympics: 2016- 10th 1:43:01



### Career notes

Aline Rocha set her personal best to win the Grandma's Marathon in Duluth in 2016 on her final attempt to qualify for the Rio Paralympics in her home country. She made the team and finished 10th in the Rio marathon. She also competed in the 1500m and 5000m in Rio.

She had tried for the qualifying time at the 2016 London Marathon that April but was disqualified after crossing the line in 10th place.

An emerging presence on the World Marathon Majors scene last year, she notched up two fourth place finishes in Berlin and Boston, and was in the top 10 in London and Chicago.

She represented Brazil in para cross-country skiing at the 2017 World Cup and became the first Brazilian woman to compete at a Winter Paralympics when she raced the 1.1km, 5km, 12km and relay events at the Pyeongchang 2018 Games.

### Personal notes

Born in Pinhão, she was paralysed by a car accident in 2006, aged 15. She had not been interested in sport before her accident but soon took up para-athletics.

Her husband Fernando Orso is a coordinator at the Regional Association of Athletes with an Impairment in Joacaba, Brazil. He is also her coach.

She was flag bearer for Brazil at the 2018 Winter Paralympics.



## Eliza Ault-Connell (Australia)

**Born:** 19 September 1981 Paddington  
**Marathon best:** 1:44:13 Commonwealths 2018  
**London Marathon record:** None  
**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**  
New York: 2018- 4th 1:57:00  
**Marathons in major championships**  
Commonwealths: 2018- 2nd 1:44:13



### Career notes

Eliza Ault-Connell won world and Commonwealth medals on the track before quitting the sport after the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. She made her comeback in 2017 and a year ago won a Commonwealth silver in the marathon behind teammate Madison de Rozario.

She returned for the Gold Coast Marathon last July and was again second behind her friend in 1:51:22 before placing fourth in New York last November.

### Personal notes

Born Eliza Stankovic, she married Australian Paralympian Kieran Ault-Connell and they have two daughters and a son.

She had both legs amputated at 16 after nearly dying from meningococcal disease. She started running on prosthetic legs a year later but soon moved to a wheelchair. She is now the director of Meningococcal Australia.

Coached by Paul Angel, she competes for Albury Athletics Club.

## Vanessa Cristina de Souza (Brazil)

**Born:** 20 November 1989  
**Marathon best:** 1:45:19 Oita 2018  
**London Marathon record:** None  
**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**  
Boston: 2018- 6th 2:57:31  
**Marathons in major championships:** None



### Career notes

Vanessa Cristina de Souza was just outside the Majors points in Boston last year and went on to place fourth at the prestigious Oita International Wheelchair Marathon in November in 1:45:19, beating her personal best by more than 15 minutes.

She finished just behind her compatriot Aline dos Santos Rocha and ahead of former London Marathon winner Amanda McGrory.

### Personal notes

She is coached by Eduardo Leonel.

**Michelle Wheeler** (United States)**Born:** 12 September 1986**Marathon best:** 1:45:22 Oita 2018**London Marathon record:** None**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Chicago: 2016- 8th 2:14:41, 2018- 9th 1:57:33

New York: 2018- 10th 2:06:10

**Marathons in major championships:** None**Career notes**

Michelle Wheeler won the Los Angeles Marathon title in March last year in 2:16:36 despite competing with injured ribs. She pushed the last three miles with one hand.

She went on to clinch top 10 places in Chicago and New York and to finish fifth in Oita where she lowered her personal best by more than 12 minutes to rank 12th in the world.

**Personal notes**

She suffered a spinal cord injury as a one-year-old baby due to physical abuse, and spent time in three foster homes before she became one of six children adopted by Joan and Bill Wheeler, four of whom compete in para sports. She was adopted at nine.

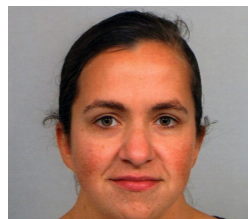
She is now a single mother with a nine-year-old daughter, Eva. She is studying for a master's degree in mental health and rehabilitation counselling at Penn State University where she trains.

She races for the Global Abilities Wheelchair Racing Team in Philadelphia, and has been competing for just three years.

She works from home for a care provider based in New Jersey where she lived before moving to Pennsylvania.

**Nikita den Boer** (Netherlands)**Born:** 8 January 1991**Marathon best:** 1:50:23 Berlin 2018**London Marathon record:** None**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2018- 6th 1:50:23

**Marathons in major championships:** None**Career notes**

Nikita den Boer was sixth in Berlin last year where she lowered her personal best to rank 15th in the world for T54s. Her PB at the start of 2018 was 2:04:30.

She finished just behind compatriot Margriet van den Broek and ahead of four-time London Marathon winner Tatyana McFadden.

In January last year she won the 10km race at the Disney World Marathon Weekend.

**Personal notes**

She has spina bifida and lives in Haarlem.

In 2014 she became an ambassador for the Johan Cruyff Foundation.

## T54 Men

Bib	Name	Country	Class	PB	Age	DoB	Bib name
186	David Weir	GBR	T54	1:26:17	39	05/06/79	WEIR
187	Marcel Hug	SUI	T54	1:18:04	33	16/01/86	HUG
188	Ernst van Dyk	RSA	T54	1:18:04	46	04/04/73	VAN DYK
189	Josh Cassidy	CAN	T54	1:18:25	34	15/11/84	CASSIDY
190	Hiroyuki Yamamoto	JPN	T54	1:19:32	52	31/05/66	YAMAMOTO
191	Heinz Frei	SUI	T53	1:20:14	61	21/01/58	FREI
192	Hiroki Nishida	JPN	T54	1:20:28	35	11/03/84	NISHIDA
193	Joshua George	USA	T53	1:21:47	35	18/03/84	GEORGE
194	Rafael Botello Jimenez	ESP	T54	1:22:09	40	23/02/79	BOTELLO JIMENEZ
195	Aaron Pike	USA	T54	1:22:09	32	04/05/86	PIKE
196	Jordi Madera	ESP	T53	1:22:10	39	19/01/80	MADERA
197	Tomoki Suzuki	JPN	T54	1:24:00	24	14/06/94	SUZUKI
198	James Senbeta	USA	T54	1:24:27	32	19/11/86	SENBETA
199	Simon Lawson	GBR	T53	1:25:06	36	07/06/82	LAWSON
200	Daniel Romanchuk	USA	T54	1:26:26	20	03/08/98	ROMANCHUK
201	Brian Siemann	USA	T53	1:26:46	29	07/10/89	SIEMANN
202	Patrick Monahan	IRL	T53	1:29:11	33	14/01/86	MONAHAN
203	Brent Lakatos	CAN	T53	1:29:41	39	06/01/80	LAKATOS
204	JohnBoy Smith	GBR	T54	1:29:44	29	27/11/89	SMITH
205	Tristan Smyth	CAN	T54	1:29:53	32	31/05/86	SMYTH
206	Badir Abbas Alhosani	UAE	T54	1:30:18	33	24/09/85	ALHOSANI
207	Alex DuPont	CAN	T54	1:31:27	33	03/09/85	DUPONT
208	Jose Jiménez	CRC	T54	1:31:36	36	02/07/82	JIMENEZ
209	Francisco Sanclemente	COL	T54	1:32:57	31	21/04/88	SANCLEMENTE
210	Zhang Yong	CHN	T54	1:33:20	26	25/05/92	ZHANG
211	Dai Yungqiang	CHN	T54	1:36:08	28	20/07/90	DAI

## Preview

David Weir will go for an incredible ninth men's wheelchair title in his 20th successive year at the London Marathon when he takes on the best racers in the world over the streets of the British capital.

Weir won an eighth men's crown in 2018 when he sprinted clear of Swiss superstar Marcel Hug to retain the title he'd won for a record seventh time 12 months earlier.

With his sights now set firmly on contesting the marathon at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, the 39-year-old will need to be at full 'Weirwolf' speed to hold off Hug and the in-form American Daniel Romanchuk, who beat Switzerland's 'Silver Bullet' in both Chicago and New York last autumn.

Hug has been a dominant presence on the marathon circuit since 2016, winning Series X and XI of the Abbott World Marathon Majors as he mopped up titles around the world. But defeat to Weir, Romanchuk and Canada's Brent Lakatos last year exposed a few chinks in his armour.

Romanchuk was a surprise presence on the podium when he placed third in London last April, but the 21-year-old has come of age since with two arm-pumping victories on home soil last year.

Other than Berlin, where he placed fifth, Romanchuk made the podium in every race he entered in 2018 and was second behind Hug in Tokyo this year as the pair battled it out for supremacy yet again.

Ten-time Boston winner Ernst van Dyk will also be in the mix here, the South African looking for his first London victory on his 14th appearance.

Others likely to challenge for medals include the 2015 world champion, Joshua George, the veteran world record holder, Heinz Frei of Switzerland, and a talented group of Japanese racers including Hiroyuki Yamamoto, who won the Tokyo Marathon last February, Tomoki Suzuki, who was second in that race, and Hiroki Nishida.

Lakatos cannot be discounted either as the multi-world track champion gains increasingly valuable experience on the roads.

Britain's rising star, JohnBoy Smith, could also feature after taking third in Berlin last September behind Lakatos, his first podium place.

There will be 40 wheelchair athletes in total in the men's race.

**David Weir** (Great Britain & NI)**DEFENDING LONDON MARATHON CHAMPION****Born:** 5 June 1979 Carshalton, Surrey**Marathon best:** 1:26:17 Boston 2016**London Marathon record:** 2000- 4th 1:47:11, 2001- 3rd 1:50:55, 2002- 1st 1:39:44, 2003- 2nd 1:34:48, 2004- 2nd 1:36:56, 2005- 3rd 1:36:03, 2006- 1st 1:29:48, 2007- 1st 1:30:49, 2008- 1st 1:33:36, 2009- 2nd 1:28:57, 2010- 3rd 1:37:01, 2011- 1st 1:30:05, 2012- 1st 1:32:26, 2013- 5th 1:31:31, 2014- 2nd 1:32:42, 2015- 2nd 1:31:32, 2016- 3rd 1:35:21, 2017- 1st 1:31:06, 2018- 1st 1:31:15**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2015- 1st 1:27:36, 2018- 12th 1:29:55

Boston: 2016- 4th 1:26:17

Chicago: 2018- 3rd 1:31:43

New York: 2005- 6th 1:36:48, 2010- 1st 1:37:29, 2018- 3rd 1:36:23

**Marathons in major championships**

Paralympics: 2008- dns, 2012- 1st 1:30:20

Worlds: 2006- dnf, 2011- dns, 2015- 2nd 1:31:32

**Career notes**

Weir became the most successful elite athlete in the history of the London Marathon when he clinched his seventh men's wheelchair title two years ago, finally surpassing Tanni Grey-Thompson's long-standing record after he'd won his sixth in 2012.

He added an eighth title 12 months ago when he again beat Marcel Hug in a sprint for the line.

This year Weir will race his 20th consecutive London Wheelchair Marathon since he made his debut in 2000. In his 19 races to date he has built up an astonishing record of eight wins, five second places and four thirds. Only twice in that time has he finished outside the top three – on his debut in 2000 when he was fourth, and in his 'post-Paralympic dip year' of 2013 when he was fifth.

Weir's relationship with the London Marathon goes back even further, however, for he won the Mini London Marathon seven times as a junior athlete before his full marathon debut and he is still the only male athlete, wheelchair or able-bodied, to win both mini and senior events.

He first broke the British wheelchair marathon best in Los Angeles in 2000. He shaved 10 seconds off that to win the 2015 Berlin Marathon and was another minute quicker at the 2016 Boston Marathon when he was fourth in 1:26:17. Although his marathon racing career has largely focused on London, he has won the New York Marathon twice while he also broke the world half marathon record in Lisbon in March 2012.

He is a six-time Paralympic gold medalist. At the 2008 Games he won golds in the 800m and 1500m, silver at 400m and bronze at 5000m. He won three golds at the 2011 World Championships, then at the London 2012 Paralympics went one better, adding the marathon title to complete a celebrated quartet of golds.



Meanwhile he gained the nickname 'Weirwolf' for his howling victory scream as he crossed the line.

He won a 1500m silver at the 2015 Worlds in Doha, but returned from the Rio 2016 Paralympics empty handed from five events.

He holds UK bests at all track distances to 5000m and at 10km, half marathon and marathon on the roads. He made history at the Vitality Westminster Mile in 2016 when he became the first wheelchair athlete ever to break the three-minute barrier for the One Mile.

He has taken an active part in Series XII of the Abbott World Marathon Majors, finishing third in both Chicago and New York after a below-par performance in Berlin.

He won the second Vitality Big Half in London this March in 51:12 after losing out to Hug in 2018.

**Personal notes**

Weir is coached by Jenny Archer and together they run the Weir Archer Academy in Surrey where they nurture many of the country's up-and-coming wheelchair athletes.

He was awarded an MBE in 2009 and an OBE in 2013. He has two daughters, Ronie and Tillia Grace, and two sons, Mason and Lenny.

He was born with a severed spinal cord and took up wheelchair racing aged eight.

## Marcel Hug (Switzerland)

### PARALYMPIC & TOKYO MARATHON CHAMPION

**Born:** 16 January 1986 Lucerne

**Marathon best:** 1:18:04 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2010- 2nd 1:36:07, 2011- 11th 1:35:35, 2012- 2nd 1:32:27, 2013- 2nd 1:31:29, 2014- 1st 1:32:41, 2015- dnf, 2016- 1st 1:35:19, 2017- 2nd 1:31:07, 2018- 2nd 1:31:15

#### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2005- 2nd 1:28:33, 2006- 2nd 1:29:35, 2007- 3rd 1:32:22, 2008- 3rd 1:39:01, 2010- 3rd 1:35:58, 2011- 1st 1:29:31, 2012- 1st 1:29:43, 2013- 2nd 1:31:03, 2016- 1st 1:29:51, 2017- 1st 1:29:03, 2018- 2nd 1:36:22  
Boston: 2013- 4th 1:28:19, 2014- 4th 1:24:39, 2015- 1st 1:29:53, 2016- 1st 1:24:06, 2017- 1st 1:18:04, 2018- 1st 1:46:26  
Chicago: 2015- 2nd 1:30:48, 2016- 1st 1:32:57, 2017- 1st 1:29:23, 2018- 2nd 1:31:35  
New York: 2008- 7th 1:49:21, 2009- 3rd 1:40:43, 2011- 5th 1:38:42, 2013- 1st 1:40:14, 2014- 18th 1:37:32, 2015- 3rd 1:30:54, 2016- 1st 35:49, 2017- 1st 1:37:21, 2018- 2nd 1:36:22  
Tokyo: 2017- 2nd 1:28:01, 2019- 1st 1:30:44

#### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2008- dnf, 2012- 2nd 1:30:21, 2016- 1st 1:26:16  
Worlds: 2006- 4th 1:29:57, 2011- dnf, 2013- 1st 1:28:44, 2015- dnf



#### Career notes

Hug is the reigning Paralympic and double Abbott World Marathon Majors champion, and a two-time London Marathon winner. He won every AWMM race in 2016 and in Boston in 2017 he clocked the fastest time in history. He was just beaten by Weir in London six days later and narrowly lost to the Briton last April too. After winning in Berlin, Chicago and New York in 2017, he had to settle for three runner-up spots in those races last autumn before clinching the Tokyo title this March.

At the 2011 World Championships he won the 10,000m title and added World golds at 400m, 1500m, 5000m and marathon in 2013. He won silver and bronze at the 2015 Doha Worlds having taken three golds at the 2014 Europeans, and clinched another triple at the London 2017 Worlds in the 800m, 1500m and 5000m. He won Paralympic 800m and marathon titles in Rio.

#### Personal notes

Hug was born with spina bifida and grew up on a farm in Pfyn, Thurgau. He started competing at 10. Nicknamed the 'Silver Bullet' due to his helmet.

## Ernst van Dyk (South Africa)

**Born:** 4 April 1973 Ceres, Western Cape

**Marathon best:** 1:18:04 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2000 2nd- 1:41:53, 2006- dnf, 2007- 4th 1:33:46, 2008- 6th 1:34:25, 2009- 3rd 1:28:58, 2010- 6th 1:44:11, 2012- 11th 1:36:20, 2013- 3rd 1:31:30, 2014- 3rd 1:32:42, 2015- 5th 1:31:38, 2016- 4th 1:35:23, 2017- 4th 1:31:08, 2018- 24th 1:44:49

#### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2016- 2nd 1:29:53  
Boston: 2001- 1st 1:25:12, 2002- 1st 1:23:19, 2003- 1st 1:28:32, 2004- 1st 1:18:27, 2005- 1st 1:24:11, 2006- 1st 1:25:29, 2007- 3rd 1:37:10, 2008- 1st 1:26:49, 2009- 1st 1:33:29, 2010- 1st 1:26:53, 2011- 3rd 1:18:51, 2012- 6th 1:24:23, 2013- 2nd 1:27:12, 2014- 1st 1:20:36, 2015- 2nd 1:36:27, 2016- 2nd 1:24:06, 2017- 2nd 1:18:04, 2018- 2nd 1:47:14  
Chicago: 2013- 1st 1:30:37, 2014- 3rd 1:32:13, 2015- 4th 1:30:50, 2016- 6th 1:33:02, 2017- 12th 1:31:02  
New York: 2005- 1st, 2013- 2nd 1:40:14, 2014- 2nd 1:30:56, 2015- 1st 1:30:54, 2016- 4th 1:40:08, 2017- 4th 1:39:56, 2018- 12th 1:51:09  
Tokyo: 2016- 2nd 1:26:01, 2017- 9th 1:30:15, 2018- 3rd 1:31:30, 2019- 3rd 1:34:41  
**Marathons in major championships**  
Paralympics: 2000- 4th 1:31:44, 2004- 18th 1:41:59, 2008- 3rd 1:23:17, 2016- 6th 1:30:11  
Worlds: 2015- 5th 1:31:38



#### Career notes

Ernst van Dyk won six Boston Marathons in a row to 2006, and in 2004 clocked what was then the fastest marathon ever. He lowered that to 1:18:04 when he was runner-up to Hug in Boston in 2017. He has won 10 Boston titles altogether, and claimed victories in Chicago and New York. He is yet to win in London in 13 appearances although he has made the podium four times.

At the Athens Paralympics van Dyk won two silvers and a bronze while in Beijing he won marathon bronze having taken gold in the handcycle road race two days before, a title he regained in Rio.

#### Personal notes

Born without lower legs because of congenital birth defects, van Dyk was a swimmer before he took up wheelchair racing. He competed in both sports at the 1992 Paralympics. He is a Paralympic ambassador and owns a para-sports equipment company. He lives in Paarl with wife Suzanne and daughters, Lexi and Sunei.



## Josh Cassidy (Canada)

**Born:** 15 November 1984 Ottawa

**Marathon best:** 1:18:25 Boston 2012

**London Marathon record:** 2010- 1st 1:35:21, 2011- 5th 1:30:56, 2012- 9th 1:33:54, 2013- dnf, 2014- 20th 1:41:58, 2015- dnf, 2016- dnf, 2017- 22nd 1:34:46, 2018- 9th 1:31:41

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Boston: 2009- 8th 1:39:48, 2012- 1st 1:18:25, 2013- 9th 1:30:54, 2014- 13th 1:27:24, 2015- 14th 1:38:24, 2017- 14th 1:26:03, 2018- 6th 1:57:07

Chicago: 2003- 1st, 2004- 1st, 2006- 1st,

2011- 4th 1:29:24, 2012- 1st 1:32:58,

2013- 5th 1:33:30, 2014- 8th 1:32:20,

2016- 11th 1:36:59, 2017- 15th 1:31:51

New York: 2006- 12th 1:51:36, 2007- 13th 1:49:29,

2008- 10th 1:53:09, 2009- 6th 1:40:46,

2010- 7th 1:42:48, 2011- 8th 1:39:30,

2013- 16th 1:52:57, 2017- 9th 1:41:08,

2018- 10th 1:47:02

Tokyo: 2019- 5th 1:36:22

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2012- 12th 1:33:06

Worlds: 2006- 40th 1:47:08, 2013- dnf, 2015- dnf



### Career notes

Cassidy rode what was then the quickest wheelchair marathon ever at Boston in 2012, clocking 1:18:25 and regained the Chicago title that October, his fourth in all. He became London Marathon champion when he came from behind to beat Weir on his London debut in 2010. Cassidy was fifth in 2011 but did not finish in 2013 after colliding with Ethiopia's Tiki Gelana at a drinks station.

He holds Canadian records for every distance from 1500m to the marathon and claims to have more than 75 international medals. He represented Canada at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Paralympics. He did not win a medal in London when he had a flu bug, but made the final of the T54 800m and 1500m before finishing 12th in the marathon. He was 10th at 5000m in Rio but went out in the heats of the 800m and 1500m. He won 1500m bronze at the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

### Personal notes

The eldest of 10 siblings, Cassidy was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, cancer of the spine and abdomen, weeks after he was born, and given a low chance of survival.

He is a professional graphic designer and illustrator with an applied arts degree from Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario. In 2015 he worked as a stuntman on the movie 'Suicide Squad' which was filmed in Toronto. He lives in Guelph, Ontario.

## HiroYuki Yamamoto (Japan)

**Born:** 27 October 1979 Kitakyushu

**Marathon best:** 1:19:32 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2010- 13th 2:16:39, 2011- 13th 1:43:39, 2012- 8th 1:33:00, 2013- 8th 1:31:33, 2014- 12th 1:36:45, 2015- 18th 1:43:29, 2016- dnf, 2017- 9th 1:31:10

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2013- 3rd 1:34:28, 2018- 16th 1:36:42

Boston: 2013- 1st 1:25:32, 2014- 8th 1:25:15,

2015- 7th 1:39:36, 2016- 7th 1:28:16,

2017- 3rd 1:19:32, 2018- 16th 2:44:04

New York: 2013- 9th 1:45:23, 2014- 9th 1:33:53,

2018- 9th 1:45:15

Tokyo: 2011- 3rd 1:30:15, 2012- 1st 1:29:26,

2013- 2nd 1:29:07, 2014- 1st 1:30:43,

2015- 7th 1:37:01, 2016- 7th 1:29:13,

2017- 8th 1:28:23, 2018- 1st 1:26:23,

2019- 9th 1:43:08

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2008- 6th 1:23:22, 2012- 22nd 1:40:54,

2016- 12th 1:30:14

Worlds: 2006- dnf, 2011- 21st 1:42:31,

2015- 18th 1:43:29



### Career notes

The three-time Tokyo champion was ranked third in the world last year among T54 racers after finishing third in Oita in 1:24:01. He added last year's Tokyo title to those he won in 2012 and 2014 after beating Tomoki Suzuki in a thrilling sprint finish.

He has not had good luck in London. He finished 13th on his first two attempts, getting flat tyres in both 2010 and 2011. On his debut, he punctured twice. He got a flat again in 2011, dropped out at half way in 2016 and was ninth in 2017.

At the Beijing Paralympics he was just five seconds behind gold medallist Kurt Fearnley in sixth place, but he could only finish 22nd at London 2012 and 12th in Rio.

He was 10th over 5000m at London 2012 but did not make the final of the 1500m. He broke the Japanese half marathon record in Hokkaido in 2015.

### Personal notes

Yamamoto injured his spinal cord in a motorcycle accident at 20. He took up wheelchair marathons at 30. He is married and has one son. They live in Fukuoka.

His nickname is 'Hiro-san'. He always eats a specially made Italian pizza before leaving Japan for a race.

## Heinz Frei (Switzerland)

**Born:** 21 January 1958 Oberbipp

**Marathon best:** 1:20:14 Oita 1999 (world record)

**London Marathon record:** 1992- 3rd 1:51:58,

1995- 1st 1:39:14, 1998- 1st 1:35:18,

1999- 1st 1:35:27, 2008- 5th 1:34:03,

2009- 5th 1:30:15, 2011- 2nd 1:30:07,

2012- 5th 1:32:30, 2013- 7th 1:31:32,

2014- 7th 1:35:05, 2015- 9th 1:33:23,

2017- 15th 1:31:12, 2018- 18th 1:36:10

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 1st 20 times, 2011- 2nd 1:29:32,

2012- 2nd 1:29:48, 2013- 1st 1:31:00,

2014- 2nd 1:36:12, 2016- 5th 1:29:54,

2017- 4th 1:32:45, 2018- 7th 1:29:50

Boston: 2013- 12th 1:33:07

Chicago: 2010- 1st 1:26:56, 2011- 2nd 1:29:23,

2013- 4th 1:30:41, 2014- 10th 1:32:22

New York: 2011- 4th 1:37:24, 2014- 13th 1:34:31

**Marathons in major championships**

Paralympics: 1984- 1st 1:58:52, 1988- 4th 1:48:20,

1992- 1st 1:30:15, 1996- 3rd 1:32:42,

2000- 3rd 1:29:29, 2004- 7th 1:32:04,

2008- 14th 1:25:43, 2012- 11th 1:33:06,

2016- 17th 1:40:29

Worlds: 1994- 1st, 1998- 1st 1:32:25,

2002- 1st 1:27:58, 2006- 2nd 1:28:17,

2011- 2nd 1:31:09, 2013- 4th 1:32:27,

2015- 9th 1:33:23



### Career notes

Heinz Frei has won more than 100 marathons in his long career, including 20 in Berlin and 14 in Oita, where he broke the official world record 20 years ago. He won the London Marathon three times in the 1990s and was second to Weir in 2011 by two seconds. Now 61, he ranked third in the world for T53s in 2018 thanks to his sub-1:30 time in Berlin.

Rio 2016 was his ninth Paralympics. He won the marathon title in 1984 and 1992, was third in 1996 and 2000, and 17th in 2016. He was world champion three times from 1994 to 2002.

Frei has broken numerous world records from 400m to marathon, and recorded a world best for 100km in 1998. He has won 15 Paralympic gold medals (35 medals in all) in 32 years – 11 in athletics, three as a handcyclist and one in cross country skiing.

### Personal notes

Frei was paralysed from an accident in 1978 while running in the mountains. He took up wheelchair racing in 1980 but now concentrates on handcycling and winter sports. He lives in Oberbipp, is married to Rita and his children are Jan and Tamara.

## Hiroki Nishida (Japan)

**Born:** 3 November 1984 Izumi

**Marathon best:** 1:20:28 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2015- 17th 1:41:48,

2016- 6th 1:35:32, 2017- 13th 1:31:11,

2018- 7th 1:31:25

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2016 - 3rd 1:29:53, 2017- 6th 1:32:47,

2018- 6th 1:29:47

Boston: 2016- 9th 1:32:34, 2017- 5th 1:20:28,

Chicago: 2017- 10th 1:30:35, 2018- 4th 1:33:27

New York: 2016- 11th 1:40:16

Tokyo: 2015- 6th 1:33:23, 2016- 6th 1:26:43,

2017- 7th 1:28:12, 2018- 6th 1:31:31

**Marathons in major championships**

Worlds: 2013- 10th 1:37:34, 2015- 17th 1:41:48



### Career notes

Hiroki Nishida lowered his personal best by five minutes when he was fifth at the 2017 Boston Marathon in 1:20:28, good enough to rank fifth in the world for 2017. He ranked third last year.

He was seventh in London last year, the top placed Japanese racer, and went on to place sixth in Berlin and fourth in Chicago, making him one of the strongest Japanese contestants on the circuit.

His one podium finish at a World Marathon Majors race came in 2016 when he was third in Berlin behind Marcel Hug and Ernst van Dyk.

He finished sixth at the Tokyo Marathon in 2015, 2016 and 2018.

He was 10th at the 2013 World Championships in 1:37:34 and 17th two years later.

### Personal notes

He injured his spinal cord in a bicycling accident in 2004 leaving him paralysed in both legs. He began wheelchair racing in 2006.

He is nicknamed 'Doka' because, before his accident, he was a baseball catcher and resembled Dokaben, a famous anime baseball character.

He lives in Izumi where he was born.

## Joshua George (United States)

**Born:** 18 March 1984 Fairfax, Virginia

**Marathon best:** 1:21:47 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2008- 7th 1:34:46, 2010- 9th 1:46:57, 2012- 14th 1:39:56, 2013- 17th 1:39:10, 2014- 10th 1:35:08, 2015- 1st 1:31:31, 2016- 17th 1:38:40, 2017- 8th 1:31:10, 2018- 4th 1:31:24

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Boston: 2007- 10th 2:02:58, 2009- 5th 1:38:23, 2010- 8th 1:35:44, 2013- 18th 1:37:41, 2014- 6th 1:24:49, 2015- 6th 1:38:15, 2016- 10th 1:34:19, 2017- 6th 1:21:47

Chicago: 2002- 4th 1:56:49, 2003- 1st 1:41:01, 2004- 1st 1:36:13, 2005- 5th 1:40:30, 2006- 1st 1:38:31, 2008- 7th 1:38:59, 2010- 9th 1:42:47, 2011- 3rd 1:29:33, 2012- 3rd 1:36:06, 2013- 3rd 1:30:38, 2014- 1st 1:32:12, 2015- 3rd 1:30:48, 2016- 3rd 1:32:59

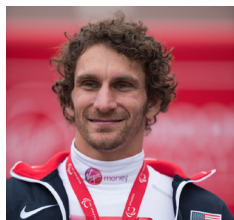
New York: 2007- 6th 1:38:06, 2008- 11th 1:54:30, 2009- 10th 1:44:22, 2011- 7th 1:39:02, 2013- 10th 1:46:43, 2014- 7th 1:33:09, 2015- 2nd 1:50:55, 2016- 3rd 1:39:01, 2018- 8th 1:41:36

Tokyo: 2017- 5th 1:28:03

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2008- 17th 1:30:29, 2012- 20th 1:39:56, 2016- dnf

Worlds: 2013- 5th 1:32:28, 2015- 1st 1:31:31



### Career notes

George won the 2015 London Marathon and took his first world title with it, beating Weir to the line. He was fourth last year, just eight seconds outside the medals. He won his hometown Chicago Marathon four times between 2003 and 2014. In 2017 he lowered his personal best by a minute when he clocked 1:21:47 placing sixth in Boston to rank No.1 T53 in the world. He ranked fifth last year.

He broke the Paralympic T53 100m record to become the 2008 champion. He also took 800m silver in Beijing. He competed in six events at London 2012, winning bronze in the T53 800m, his fifth Paralympic medal, and in five events in Rio. He won four T53 golds at the 2006 Worlds and was fifth in the marathon in Lyon 2013.

### Personal notes

George became disabled at four when he fell more than 36m (120 feet) out of a 12th floor window. He landed on his feet but was paralysed from the waist down. He was described as a 'living miracle' by doctors. He won wheelchair basketball gold at the 2008 ParaPan Games. He works for wheelchair component manufacturer Intelliwheels in Champaign where he lives.

## Rafael Botello Jimenez (Spain)

**Born:** 23 February 1979 Vic, Barcelona

**Marathon best:** 1:22:09 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2008- 9th 1:37:26, 2009- 8th 1:37:38, 2010- 12th 2:14:22, 2012- 15th 1:40:01, 2013- 21st 1:45:27, 2014- 13th 1:36:45, 2015- 29th 1:54:23, 2016- 11th 1:38:35, 2017- 5th 1:31:09, 2018- 17th 1:36:10

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2005- 8th, 2006- 7th, 2012- 3rd 1:32:54, 2016- 8th 1:34:15, 2017- 19th 2:20:04, 2018- 19th 1:46:11

Boston: 2009- 6th 1:38:52, 2010- 6th 1:31:12, 2011- 5th 1:25:14, 2012- 12th 1:36:56, 2013- 13th 1:35:28, 2014- 12th 1:26:57, 2015- 13th 1:44:27, 2017- 8th 1:22:09, 2018- 13th 2:23:45

Chicago: 2009- 4th 1:39:56, 2010- 3rd 1:28:46, 2012- 3rd 1:28:46, 2013- 6th 1:33:40, 2014- 19th 1:49:57, 2015- 11th 1:30:59, 2016- 11th 1:37:21, 2017- 5th 1:30:27, 2018- 22nd 1:56:15

New York: 2006- 10th, 2007- 9th, 2008- 12th 1:57:21, 2009- 8th 1:43:42, 2010- 9th 1:47:39, 2011- 10th 1:42:30, 2013- 11th 1:46:43, 2015- 11th 1:39:22, 2016- 12th 1:46:44, 2017- 7th 1:40:01, 2018- 15th 1:53:11

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2008- 11th 1:23:53, 2012- 9th 1:33:05  
Worlds: 2006- dnf, 2011- 13th 1:34:27, 2015- 29th 1:54:23



### Career notes

Botello finished fifth in London in 2017, his best place in 10 appearances. That performance came just six days after he had shaved nine seconds from his PB in Boston. He is the third fastest European ever on a 'legal' course behind Swiss pair Heinz Frei and Marcel Hug. He notched up two top 10 WMM finishes in 2017, but was out of form last year, ranking 25th in the world. He was 11th at the Beijing Paralympic marathon and ninth at London 2012 but did not race in Rio. He won the Paris Marathon in 2016.

He holds Spanish records for the mile and 10,000m on the track, and at 5km, 10km and marathon on the road.

### Personal notes

'Rafa' Botello lives in Manlieu. He has a spinal cord injury as a result of a bicycle accident in 2002. He began wheelchair athletics in 2003 and entered his first official competition that year. He also competes for Spain at triathlon and cycling. He organises the Lanzarote Marathon and the Cali half in Colombia.

## Aaron Pike (United States)

**Born:** 4 May 1986 Park Rapids, Minnesota

**Marathon best:** 1:22:09 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2013- 20th 1:44:24, 2015- 26th 1:50:47, 2016- 7th 1:35:33, 2017- 7th 1:31:10

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Boston: 2009- 10th 1:47:10, 2010- 11th 1:38:17, 2011- 8th 1:29:52, 2012- 10th 1:32:45,

2013- 19th 1:39:13, 2015- 17th 1:46:26,

2016- 8th 1:28:35, 2017- 7th 1:22:09

Chicago: 2009- 8th 1:48:31, 2010- 6th 1:36:04,

2011- 6th 1:38:56, 2014- 7th 1:32:19,

2015- 7th 1:30:54, 2016- 5th 1:33:01,

2017- 17th 1:39:01, 2018- 6th 1:34:03

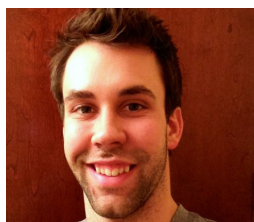
New York: 2014- 20th 1:39:27, 2015- 8th 1:36:45,

2016- 8th 1:43:40, 2018- 4th 1:40:22

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2012- 16th 1:36:26, 2016- 10th 1:30:13

Worlds: 2011- 19th 1:40:53



### Career notes

Pike followed Joshua George under the Grandma's Marathon course record in Duluth in 2012 to qualify for London 2012, where he was 16th. He made his London Marathon debut in 2013 and finished 20th. He was seventh in 2016 and 2017.

He also finished seventh in Boston in 2017 when he took two minutes from his PB to rank equal sixth in the world. He has been in the top 10 five times in Boston and seven times in Chicago, while he almost made the podium in New York last year, placing fourth.

He competed in four events at the London 2012 Paralympics – the 1500m, 5000m, marathon and 4x400m relay. He competed at 1500m and marathon in Rio.

### Personal notes

Pike suffered a spinal cord injury in December 1999 at 13 when he was accidentally shot during a deer-hunting trip in Virginia. He was introduced to wheelchair racing by Ironman triathlete Carlos Moleda.

He took up para-Nordic skiing in 2012 and competed in biathlon and cross country skiing at two Winter Paralympics and two world championships. His partner Oksana Masters won two Paralympic golds at cross-country skiing in 2018.

Born in Park Rapids, Minnesota, he has a sociology degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he now lives. He has also competed internationally at wheelchair basketball.

## Jordi Madera (Spain)

**Born:** 19 January 1980 Granollers

**Marathon best:** 1:22:10 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2011- 10th 1:34:41,

2012- 13th 1:36:56, 2013- 11th 1:36:34,

2014- 6th 1:35:05, 2015- 8th 1:33:22,

2017- 14th 1:31:12, 2018- 6th 1:31:24

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2011- 12th 1:46:46, 2018- 4th 1:29:45

Boston: 2010- 7th 1:33:08, 2013- 8th 1:30:54,

2014- 5th 1:24:42, 2015- 9th 1:41:40,

2017- 9th 1:22:10, 2018- 10th 2:06:38

Chicago: 2013- 6th 1:33:40, 2015- 6th 1:30:53,

2017- 3rd 1:30:25, 2018- 5th 1:33:57

New York: 2013- 12th 1:46:44, 2014- 10th 1:34:08,

2015- 7th 1:35:38, 2018- 7th 1:41:13

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2008- 8th 1:23:26, 2016- 8th 1:30:12

Worlds: 2006- 12th, 2011- 15th 1:36:40,

2015- 8th 1:33:22



### Career notes

Madera equalled his highest finish in seven London Marathon appearances last year, finishing sixth in 1:31:24, his quickest London time so far.

He smashed his personal best to place ninth in Boston in 2017 in 1:22:10. He went on to place third in Chicago in 1:30:25, a first ever podium place at a World Marathon Majors race. Last year he picked up points for fourth in Berlin and fifth in Chicago.

He was 15th at the 2011 World Championships, more than five and a half minutes behind the winner, having finished eighth at the Paralympics in 2008 in what was then his PB. He was eighth again in Rio in 1:30:12. He also competed over 5000m in Rio.

He was 14th over 5000m at the Paralympics in Beijing, but did not compete at London 2012 or the 2013 Worlds. He was 12th at both 1500m and 5000m at the 2015 Worlds and 13th at both distances at the London 2017 Worlds.

His first international was the European Championships in 2005 when he also competed in the Mediterranean Games.

### Personal notes

His full name is Jorge Madera Jimenez. He is one of four children. He injured his back in a work accident when he was a child and started para-athletics in 2002. He was born in Granollers and lives in Les Franqueses del Vallès.

## Tomoki Suzuki (Japan)

**Born:** 14 June 1994

**Marathon best:** 1:24:00 Oita 2018

**London Marathon record:** 2017- 16th 1:31:12, 2018- 8th 1:31:25

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2018- 11th 1:29:54

Chicago: 2017- 7th 1:30:31

New York: 2017- 8th 1:40:38, 2018- 6th 1:40:28

Tokyo: 2016- 5th 1:26:11, 2017- 3rd 1:28:02,

2018- 2nd 1:26:24, 2019- 6th 1:36:50

**Marathons in major championships:** None



### Career notes

Tomoki Suzuki was the second quickest T54 wheelchair racer in the world last year after finishing runner-up behind Marcel Hug in Oita in 1:24:00.

His best performance at a World Marathon Majors race so far was in 2018 when he placed second at the Tokyo Marathon, losing a dramatic sprint finish to Hiroyuki Yamamoto after the pair had broken clear of the pack early in the race.

He was eighth in London last year, his second appearance here, and went on the finish 11th in Berlin and sixth in New York.

He won a gold medal for Japan in the 4x400m relay at the London 2017 World Championships when he was also a finalist in the T54 800m and 1500m. He made the semi-finals of the T54 800m at the 2015 Worlds in Doha and was 22nd in the 5000m.

### Personal notes

He injured his spine in a traffic accident when he was eight months old, resulting in paraplegia.

He took up para-athletics in primary school in Chiba where he still lives. He was introduced to the sport by wheelchair marathon racer Nobukazu Hanaoka.

He studied information management at Josai International University and is now an office worker.

## James Senbeta (United States)

**Born:** 19 November 1986 Philadelphia, PA

**Marathon best:** 1:24:27 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2014- 11th 1:36:45, 2016- 5th 1:35:24, 2017- 11th 1:31:11

### Other World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2016- 9th 1:39:02

Boston: 2013- 23rd 1:44:41, 2014- 9th 1:25:23,

2015- 8th 1:40:56, 2016- 5th 1:26:19,

2017- 12th 1:24:27, 2018- 11th 1:24:23

Chicago: 2014- 15th 1:44:10, 2015- 13th 1:32:59,

2016- 7th 1:33:08

New York: 2014- 14th 1:36:17, 2015- 10th 1:38:39,

2016- 9th 1:44:27

Tokyo: 2015- 6th 1:39:01

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2016- dnf



### Career notes

Senbeta finished fifth in Boston and London in 2016 within the space of six days. He also placed seventh in Chicago and ninth in New York and ranked 13th in the world at the end of that year, although he dropped out of the Rio Paralympic marathon.

He set his PB in Boston two years ago when he was 12th in 1:24:27. He was 11th in London a few days later.

He made his marathon debut at the Grandma's Marathon in Duluth in 2013 when he was 13th, before finishing 23rd in Boston. He went on to place fifth in Los Angeles. He returned to Duluth in 2014 and took the title, his first big race victory. He now has eight top 10 finishes in World Marathon Majors races to his name.

On the track he competed in the 800m and 5000m heats in Rio and was 17th in the 5000m at the 2015 World Championships in Doha.

### Personal notes

An agricultural and bio-engineering student at the University of Illinois in Champaign, he is coached by Adam Bleakney and competes for the University of Illinois Wheelchair Racing Team.



## Simon Lawson (Great Britain & NI)

**Born:** 7 June 1982

**Marathon best:** 1:25:06 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2011- 12th 1:43:19, 2013- 18th 1:40:54, 2014- 19th 1:39:42, 2015- 10th 1:34:21, 2016- 10th 1:37:02, 2017- 24th 1:36:57, 2018- 13th 1:33:36

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2015- 5th 1:33:48, 2016- 6th 1:29:57, 2017- 8th 1:32:55, 2018- 14th 1:32:06  
Boston: 2017- 13th 1:25:06  
Chicago: 2015- 9th 1:30:58, 2016- 8th 1:33:12, 2017- 11th 1:30:36, 2018- 14th 1:39:52  
New York: 2014- 11th 1:34:21, 2016- 6th 1:40:12, 2017- 11th 1:43:48, 2018- 11th 1:47:54

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2016- 14th 1:32:15

Worlds: 2015- 10th 1:34:21

Commonwealths: 2018- 3rd 1:31:44



### Career notes

Simon Lawson became the Commonwealth marathon bronze medalist at the Gold Coast Games last April, his first major international honour in seven years of wheelchair racing.

He lowered his personal best to 1:25:06 at the Boston Marathon in 2017 to become the fastest Briton over 26.2 miles (quicker than Weir) and rank No.2 in the world for T53 racers. He ranked fourth last year when he was 13th. He went on to place 14th in both Berlin and Chicago and 11th in New York.

He placed 14th in the Rio Paralympic marathon as Britain's top finisher. He was 10th in that year's London Marathon for the second year in a row and a week later broke 1:30 for the first time when he clocked 1:29:39 in Seoul. He broke the Silverstone Half Marathon record in 2011, a time eclipsed by Weir in 2012. He was second behind Weir at this year's Big Half in London.

His appearance at the 2015 Marathon World Championships was his first British international and he crowned it with a top 10 finish. He missed the London 2012 Paralympic Games qualifying time by just 60 seconds.

### Personal notes

Lawson injured his spine racing motocross in 2001 on his home track in Maryport, Cumbria. A former British junior speedway champion, he is the son of former professional Steve Lawson. His brother Richard rides motocross for the Peterboro Panthers. He works as a motorcycle mechanic and is coached by Ian Thompson and Paula Dunn.

## Daniel Romanchuk (United States)

### CHICAGO & NEW YORK MARATHON CHAMPION

**Born:** 8 March 1998 Baltimore

**Marathon best:** 1:26:26 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2017- 26th 1:39:43, 2018- 3rd 1:31:16

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Berlin: 2018- 5th 1:29:45  
Boston: 2017- 16th 1:26:26, 2018- 3rd 1:50:39  
Chicago: 2016- 17th 1:45:31, 2017- 9th 1:30:33, 2018- 1st 1:31:34  
New York: 2016- 15th 1:48:07, 2018- 1st 1:36:21  
Tokyo: 2019- 2nd 1:34:26

**Marathons in major championships:** None



### Career notes

With two victories and two third places in the last 12 months, 21-year-old Daniel Romanchuk has become the new young star of wheelchair marathon racing, challenging Marcel Hug at the top of the Abbott World Marathon Majors standings.

After placing third in Boston and London last April, Romanchuk went on to beat both Hug and David Weir to take the Bank of America Chicago and TCS New York City titles last autumn. He is the first American ever to win the New York wheelchair crown and the youngest ever wheelchair champion. It's quite a rise for the man who only started marathon racing in 2016.

He lowered his personal best by nine minutes at the superfast 2017 Boston Marathon when 16th in 1:26:26. He placed 26th on his London Marathon debut six days later and went on to grab his first top 10 finish in Chicago that October, ninth in 1:30:33. He ranked 11th in the world in 2018.

He competed in the heats of five track events at the Rio 2016 Paralympics – the T54 100m, 400m, 800m, 1500m and 5000m – and was seventh in the 800m final at the London 2017 Worlds.

He raced in the 800m and 1500m at the 2015 World Championships in Doha, aged 17, and won gold in the T54 5000m at the 2015 ParaPan American Games in Toronto.

### Personal notes

He was born in Baltimore with spina bifida and now lives in Urbana and is a member of the University of Illinois Wheelchair Racing Team. He is coached by Adam Bleakney. He has competed in para-swimming and para-triathlon at national level, and played wheelchair basketball and ice sledge hockey for the Bennett Blazers in Baltimore.

## Brian Siemann (United States)

**Born:** 7 October 1989 Brooklyn, New York

**Marathon best:** 1:26:46 Boston 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2016- 22nd 1:53:42, 2017- 27th 1:39:44, 2018- 25th 1:45:05

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Boston: 2015- 25th 1:56:24, 2016- 15th 1:42:46, 2017- 17th 1:26:46

Chicago: 2015- 20th 1:45:18, 2016 - 13th 1:38:43,

2017- 19th 1:39:02, 2018- 24th 1:57:29

New York: 2011- 18th 1:52:39, 2013- 21st 2:02:13,

2014- 23rd 1:44:29, 2015- 9th 1:36:59,

2016- 16th 1:51:06, 2017- 12th 1:44:18,

2018- 20th 2:05:34

**Marathons in major championships**

Paralympics: 2012- 25th 1:54:51



### Career notes

Brian Siemann ranked third in the world in 2017 among T53 racers after lowering his personal best by eight minutes in Boston to 1:26:46.

He was 27th on his second appearance in London the following weekend and was 25th last year. He has completed 11 Chicago Marathons, nine in Boston and seven in New York.

He made the final of three events at the Rio 2016 Paralympics, finishing fourth in the 800m, fifth at 400m and seventh at 100m. At London 2012, he was sixth at 400m and eighth at 800m. He was knocked out in the heats of the 200m and came 25th in the marathon.

He has also competed on the track for USA at the 2011, 2013 and 2015 World Championships, finishing fourth at 400m and 800m in Doha. He competed in five finals at the London 2017 Worlds, finishing fifth in the 800m.

### Personal notes

Born in Brooklyn, New York, he was paralysed from the waist down due to complications during birth. He was born a quadruplet with sisters Amanda, Maria and Jessica.

He took up athletics at school thanks to high school coach Joe McLaughlin, and now lives in Champaign, Illinois, where he is a teaching assistant. He is coached by Adam Bleakney at the University of Illinois.

He took part in the Push Across Cayman event in February 2015 in the Cayman Islands. He travelled 55 miles around the island in his racing chair to raise awareness of people with an impairment. He was joined by fellow US para-athletes Ryan Chalmers, Susannah Scaroni, Aaron Pike and Tatyana McFadden.

## Patrick Monahan (Ireland)

**Born:** 14 January 1986 Kildare

**Marathon best:** 1:29:11 Seoul 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2015- 23rd 1:46:47, 2016- 15th 1:38:38, 2017- 19th 1:33:41, 2018- 19th 1:36:10

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2015- 7th 1:39:52, 2017- 13th 1:46:24

Chicago: 2015- 15th 1:38:57, 2016- 12th 1:37:22,

2018- 11th 1:36:35

**Marathons in major championships**

Paralympics: 2016- 16th 1:40:26

Worlds: 2015- 23rd 1:46:47



### Career notes

Patrick Monahan steadily improved over three years from 2015 to 2018, slicing time from his personal best in almost every race he entered.

His pre-2015 best was set in October 2014 when he broke the Dublin Marathon course record in 1:52:43. Then he was 24th at the 2015 London Marathon in 1:46:47. He lowered his PB again at that September's Berlin Marathon, where he was seventh in 1:39:52, and yet again in Chicago a few weeks later when he was 15th in 1:38:57.

He took a few more seconds off in London three years ago when he clocked 1:38:38 in 15th place, and just a week later was almost nine minutes faster when he recorded 1:29:45 in Seoul. He returned to Seoul in 2017 and shaved another few seconds away to rank fifth in the world for T53s with 1:29:11. He ranked eighth last year after placing 19th in London.

He was 16th in the Rio Paralympic marathon and raced for Ireland over 800m and 1500m at the London 2017 World Championships.

### Personal notes

He first used a racing chair in August 2013, six years after being paralysed when his car overturned on a patch of ice.

After just two months in the chair he placed third in the 2013 Dublin Marathon, despite doing an extra two miles because he was misdirected. In May 2014 he won the Belfast Marathon in 2:06:21.

He comes from Naas in county Kildare and trains at Mondello Park International Racing Circuit to avoid potential accidents on public roads. His father, Mick Monahan, refereed the 2005 All Ireland Gaelic football final between Tyrone and Kerry.

## Brent Lakatos (Canada)

### BERLIN MARATHON CHAMPION

**Born:** 6 January 1980 Dorval

**Marathon best:** 1:29:41 Berlin 2018

**London Marathon record:** 2018- 10th 1:33:24

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2017- 7th 1:32:55, 2018- 1st 1:29:41

Tokyo: 2019- 14th 1:50:50

**Marathons in major championships:** None



#### Career notes

Brent Lakatos lowered his personal best by three minutes to win the BMW Berlin Marathon last September, beating Marcel Hug in the process. His time of 1:29:41 was the second quickest in the world by a T53 racer in 2018.

Lakatos was seventh on his marathon debut in Berlin 12 months earlier, following a hugely successful career on the track where he won one Paralympic and 11 world titles. He went on to place 10th in London last year.

He was one of the most successful athletes at the London 2017 World Championships when he claimed four gold medals from 100m to 800m and was fifth in the 1500m. He won three golds and a silver at the Doha 2015 Worlds, plus four golds and a silver in 2013. In all, he has 16 world medals to his name.

He won the Paralympic 100m title in 2016 and has eight Paralympic track medals in all from London 2012 and Rio.

#### Personal notes

Born in Dorval, he injured his spine in a skating accident aged six and began para-athletics at 15 when introduced to the sport by Canadian Paralympic champion Andre Vige. He also played wheelchair basketball for the University of Texas and helped the team win the 2002 national title.

He now trains in Loughborough where he lives with his wife, Stefanie Reid, a British para athlete who won Paralympic long jump silvers at the 2012 and 2016 Games and World gold in London in 2017. At the London 2012 Games the pair made a friendly bet that whoever won a gold medal would not have to wash the dishes. They each won silver medals.

He works from home as a software engineer for a US-based company.

## JohnBoy Smith (Great Britain & NI)

**Born:** 27 November 1989 Sale, Manchester

**Marathon best:** 1:29:44 Berlin 2018

**London Marathon record:** 2015- 20th 1:46:17,

2016- 18th 1:38:40, 2017- 17th 1:33:40,

2018- 11th 1:33:24

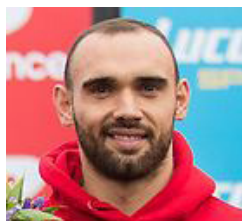
**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2017- 5th 1:32:45, 2018- 3rd 1:29:44

New York: 2015- 14th 1:40:36, 2017- 2nd 1:39:40

**Marathons in major championships**

Worlds: 2015- 20th 1:46:17



#### Career notes

JohnBoy Smith made a breakthrough to the top ranks of wheelchair racing in 2017 when he picked up his first ever World Marathon Majors points finishing fifth in Berlin in a personal best, then a remarkable second behind Marcel Hug in New York. He made the podium again in Berlin last September when he was third, knocking three minutes from his best with 1:29:44.

That meant he ranked 10th in the world last year, moving up from 26th in 2017, the highest ranked Briton for the distance.

He was 20th in London in 2015, the third Briton behind Weir and Lawson, clocking 1:46:17. He improved a year later to place 18th in 1:38:40, was 17th in 2017 exactly five minutes quicker, again third Briton, and 11th last year, two places ahead of Lawson.

He won the highly-prized Dubai Marathon in January 2016 in 1:35:56. He reduced his PB still further in Seville that February when he was second to Jordi Madera in 1:35:25, and the improvement continued at the end of April when he clocked 1:35:04 in Seoul, just a week after the 2016 London Marathon.

#### Personal notes

He was born into the Romany Gypsy community in Sale, Manchester, and now lives in Gravesend. Formerly a boxer, he was paralysed in 2006 at 16 when a local gamekeeper mistook Smith and his friends for poachers and shot Smith in the back.

He took up powerlifting and broke two British records. Then he watched the London 2012 Games on TV and started doing shot put, javelin and discus. His javelin event was withdrawn from the Rio 2016 Games so he switched to wheelchair racing in April 2015 and within weeks was third Briton in the London Marathon.

He started training with David Weir and is now coached by Weir and Jenny Archer.

**Tristan Smyth (Canada)****Born:** 31 May 1986**Marathon best:** 1:29:53 Berlin 2018**London Marathon record:** None**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Berlin: 2018- 10th 1:29:53

Chicago: 2018- 10th 1:36:23

**Marathons in major championships**

Commonwealths: 2018- 4th 1:31:44

**Career notes**

Tristan Smyth broke the 1:30 barrier for the first time when he was 10th at the Berlin Marathon last September just five months after finishing fourth in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games marathon when he was in a three-way tussle for second.

He went on to place 10th in Chicago last October when he hit "every wall you could think of" 10km from home.

He made his international debut in 2015 and raced on the track for Canada at the 2015 and 2017 World Championships, placing eighth in the 1500m in London.

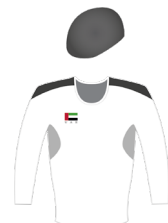
He competed in the 1500m at the Rio 2016 Paralympics and won a bronze in the 4x400m relay.

**Personal notes**

Smyth became paraplegic in January 2011 after crashing into a parked car while skateboarding.

He studied forestry at British Columbia Institute of Technology and was a forestry technician before his accident.

Smyth is now coached by former Paralympic silver medallist Kelly Smith.

**Badir Abbas Alhosani (United Arab Emirates)****Born:** 24 September 1985**Marathon best:** 1:30:18**London Marathon record:** None**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors:** None**Marathons in major championships:** None**Career notes**

Badir Abbas Alhosani competed for his country at the London 2017 World Championships, racing in the 800m, 1500m and 5000m.

Last year he competed at the Asian Para Games, finishing seventh in the 5000m.

**Personal notes**

His impairment is a result of spinal cord injuries.

He races for the Althiqah Club in Sharjah.

His full name is Badir Abbas Yaseen Ali Al Hawasin but his 'preferred name' is Badir Abbas Alhosani.

## Alex DuPont (Canada)

**Born:** 3 September 1985

**Marathon best:** 1:31:27 Chicago 2017

**London Marathon record:** 2017- dnf,  
2018- 20th 1:36:54

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Chicago: 2016- 10th 1:33:40, 2017- 13th 1:31:27,  
2018- 8th 1:35:56

Tokyo: 2019- 11th 1:43:21

**Marathons in major championships:** None



### Career notes

Alexandre DuPont finished the London Marathon for the first time last April when he was 20th, having dropped out before half way in 2017.

He placed eighth in Chicago last October, his highest finish yet, having recorded his PB there a year before, second quickest Canadian after Josh Cassidy.

He has represented his country on the track at two Paralympic Games and four World Championships, winning three relay medals – a 4x400m relay gold at the 2013 Worlds, bronze at the 2011 Worlds and bronze in Rio following a re-run final after the Canadian team had been assigned to the wrong lane.

He also competed in the heats of the 400m, 800m and 1500m in Rio. He won a 1500m bronze medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

### Personal notes

DuPont's right leg was amputated after he was involved in a motorcycle accident at 17. He took up wheelchair racing a year later after watching it on television.

His wife, Ilana, won a silver and bronze medal in para-athletics at the 2015 ParaPan American Games in Toronto. They have a daughter, Amelia, and live in Saint-Georges-de-Clarenceville in Quebec.

He owns Revolution Sport Equipment, a company that manufactures specialist equipment for wheelchair racers, including many of his own competitors.

Before his accident he worked as an electrician.

## Jose Jiménez (Costa Rica)

**Born:** 2 July 1982

**Marathon best:** 1:31:36 Duluth 2015

**London Marathon record:** 2016- 16th 1:38:38,  
2017- 30th 1:44:24, 2018- 26th 1:45:45

### Other Abbott World Marathon Majors

Boston: 2018- 12th 2:23:45

Chicago: 2013- 19th 1:43, 2014- 14th 1:44,

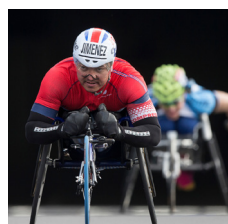
2015- 18th 1:42:17, 2016- 14th 1:38:47,

2017- 18th 1:39:01, 2018- 17th 1:46:18

New York: 2015- 21st 2:06:40, 2016- 23rd 2:02:32

### Marathons in major championships

Paralympics: 2016- 15th 1:35:58



### Career notes

Jiménez was 16th on his London Marathon debut in 2016 but hasn't been able to improve since then.

He was 15th at the Rio Paralympics and went on to place 14th in Chicago and 23rd in New York. He was 17th in Chicago last October.

He ranked 33rd in the world last year.

He competed over 100m and 400m at the 2011 World Championships.

He is Costa Rica's national champion at 100m, 400m, 800m, 1500m and marathon.

### Personal notes

His full name is Jose Jiménez Hernandez. He injured his spinal cord in an accident and started competing in 2002. He lives in Orotina.

He has focused on the marathon since 2013.

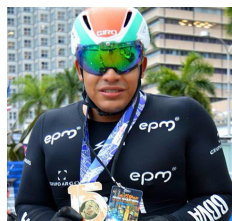
He was flag bearer for Costa Rica at the opening ceremony of the 2015 ParaPan American Games in Toronto.



**Francisco Sanclemente** (Colombia)**Born:** 21 April 1988**Marathon best:** 1:32:57 Duluth 2018**London Marathon record:** None**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

Chicago: 2018- 23rd 1:56:16

New York: 2018- 16th 1:53:22

**Marathons in major championships:** None**Career notes**

Francisco Sanclemente won the Buenos Aires Marathon in 2016, South America's most prestigious marathon.

He was eighth in last year's Grandma's Marathon in Duluth in 1:32:57, a personal best.

He went on to race at two Majors last autumn, finishing 16th in New York. He ranked 37th among T54s last year.

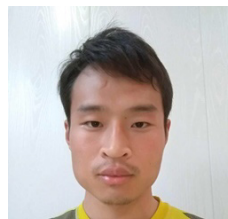
**Personal notes**

A schoolboy goalkeeper, he contracted transverse myelitis when he was 18 and took up wheelchair racing after watching the Beijing 2008 Paralympics.

He lives in Guadalajara.

**Zhang Yong** (China)**Born:** 25 May 1992 Shangluo**Marathon best:** 1:33:20**London Marathon record:** 2018- dnf**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

New York: 2017- 15th 1:50:51

**Marathons in major championships:** None**Career notes**

Zhang was one of four athletes from China who took part in the 2017 New York Marathon for the first time. He placed 15th in the men's race in 1:50:51.

He started last year's London Marathon but dropped out.

He won four medals at the Asian Para Games last year, including golds in the 400m and 800m.

**Personal notes**

He was born in Shangluo with an impairment to his feet and took up the sport in 2010 in Shaanxi when he was 18.

## Dai Yungqiang (China)

**Born:** 20 July 1990 Qingdao

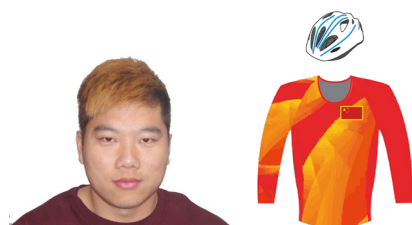
**Marathon best:** 1:36:08 London 2018

**London Marathon record:** 2018- 15th 1:36:08

**Other Abbott World Marathon Majors**

New York: 2017- dnf

**Marathons in major championships:** None



### Career notes

Dai was one of four athletes from China who took part in the 2017 New York Marathon for the first time. He dropped out at 40km when he got a flat tyre.

He fared better in London last year when he was 15th in a personal best of 1:36:08.

### Personal notes

He was born in Qingdao with an impairment to his lower limbs. He began training full-time in 2009 aged 19 after his father took him to a sports school.