



JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE TEAM FACTS

- The 2019 John Hancock Elite Athlete Team includes 51 athletes
- 28 Men and 23 Women
- The top 10 women have run under 2:22:56
- The top 10 men have run under 2:06:27
- 120+ global marathon wins in the following cities:

Amsterdam, Athens, Austin, Beijing, Beirut, Beppu-Oita, Boston, Brighton, Carpi, Chicago, Chitose, Daegu, Des Moines, Dubai, Eindhoven, Eldoret, Eugene, Frankfurt, Gold Coast, Hamburg, Hengshui, Hofu, Honolulu, Houston, Huntsville, Ibusuki, Jakarta, Kitakyushu, Kochi, Kumamoto, Kirobe, Kitakami, Kyoto, Las Vegas, Lima, Ljubljana, London, Los Angeles, Luxor, Marshfield, Matsuyama, Moscow, Mumbai, Nagano, Nagoya, Naha, New York City, Paris, Perth, Pittsburgh, Prague, Rotterdam, Sacramento, Saga, Saitama, Sapporo, San Diego, Seville, Singapore, Sydney, Tallahassee, Tokushima, Toronto, Tsuchiura, Turin, Vienna, Warsaw, Woodlands, Xiachang, Xiamen, Zurich

- 10 Boston Marathon wins: Desiree Linden (2018), Yuki Kawauchi (2018) Edna Kiplagat (2017), Geoffrey Kirui (2017), Lemi Berhanu (2016), Caroline Rotich (2015), Lelisa Desisa (2015, 2013), Wesley Korir (2012), Sharon Cherop (2012)
- Winners of 21 Abbott World Marathon Majors:
 - Desiree Linden: 2018 Boston Marathon
 - Yuki Kawauchi: 2018 Boston Marathon
 - Lelisa Desisa: 2018 New York City, 2015 & 2013 Boston
 - Geoffrey Kirui: 2017 IAAF World Championships, 2017 Boston
 - Edna Kiplagat: 2017 Boston, 2014 London, 2013 & 2011 World Championships, 2010 New York City
 - Lemi Berhanu: 2016 Boston
 - Ghirmay Ghebreslassie: 2015 IAAF World Championships, 2016 New York City
 - Caroline Rotich: 2015 Boston
 - Mare Dibaba: 2015 IAAF World Championships, 2014 Chicago
 - Sharon Cherop: 2012 Boston
 - Wesley Korir: 2012 Boston
 - Aselefech Mergia: 2010 London
- 18 Olympians
- 10 Countries: Canada, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Great Britain, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, United States
- 9 IAAF World Championships Marathon Medals:

Gold: Geoffrey Kirui, 2017; Edna Kiplagat, 2013, 2011; Ghirmay Ghebreslassie, 2015; Mare Dibaba, 2015

Silver: Edna Kiplagat, 2017; Lelisa Desisa, 2013

Bronze: Sharon Cherop, 2011; Aselefech Mergia, 2009

- In 34 years as principal sponsor, John Hancock has invited more than 850 elite athletes from 48 countries.



JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE TEAM MEN'S ELITE SUMMARY

The elites have earned much success in strategic and tactical championship style racing, which will prove critical as they run the world's most historic marathon.

Leading a formidable field of 28 elite men are: 2018 Boston winner **Yuki Kawauchi** of Japan; 2017 Boston and 2017 IAAF World Marathon Champion **Geoffrey Kirui** of Kenya; two-time Boston champion and 2018 TCS New York City Marathon champion **Lelisa Desisa** of Ethiopia; 2016 Boston victor **Lemi Berhanu** of Ethiopia; and 2012 Boston champion **Wesley Korir** of Kenya.

Chasing the champions are 2:04 marathoners **Lawrence Cherono** of Kenya, a two-time Amsterdam, two-time Honolulu, Seville and Prague champion; **Sisay Lemma** of Ethiopia, winner of Carpi, Warsaw, Vienna, Frankfurt and Ljubljana; and **Solomon Deksisa** of Ethiopia, winner of Mumbai and Hamburg.

The Japanese pair of **Hiroto Inoue** and **Hayato Sonoda** also join the team. Inoue won the 2018 Asian Games Marathon and Sonoda was runner up in Beppu-Oita last year.

From Eritrea, 2015 World Championships Marathon gold medalist and 2016 TCS New York City champion **Ghirmay Ghebreslassie** will be in contention, as will countryman **Zersenay Tadese**, a four-time Olympian, former world record holder in the half marathon and winner of six World Championships titles.

The American team includes third place finisher last year, **Shadrack Biwott**; Olympians **Dathan Ritzenhein**, **Abdi Abdirahman**, and **Jared Ward**; as well as **Jeffery Eggleston**, **Elkanah Kibet**, **Timothy Ritchie**, **Scott Fauble** and **Brian Shrader**.

Among those making their Boston debuts are several men who ran their personal best times in 2018: Rotterdam winner **Kenneth Kipkemoi** of Kenya; two-time Toronto champion **Benson Kipruto** of Kenya; and Beirut winner **Mohamed El Aaraby** of Morocco.

Also joining the international field is British Olympian **Scott Overall** and 2:06 Kenyan marathoners **Felix Kandie**, the Athens and Prague champion; **Festus Talam**, a two-time Eindhoven winner; and **Philemon Rono**, a two-time Toronto champion.



JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE TEAM WOMEN'S ELITE SUMMARY

John Hancock has assembled an accomplished field of 23 elite women who will compete in the open division, 10 of whom have personal best times under 2:23:00.

Leading the way is 2018 winner **Desiree Linden** of the United States; two-time World Championships Marathon gold medalist, three-time Abbott World Marathon Majors series winner and 2017 Boston champion **Edna Kiplagat** of Kenya; 2015 Boston, Prague and Las Vegas winner **Caroline Rotich** of Kenya; and 2012 Boston, Hamburg, Toronto, Torino and Singapore winner **Sharon Cherop** of Kenya.

Challenging the Boston champions are 2:19 Ethiopian marathoners **Aselefech Mergia**, a London champion and three-time winner of Dubai; Mare Dibaba, the 2015 World Championships Marathon gold medalist, 2016 Olympic Marathon bronze medalist, Bank of America Chicago Marathon champion, Beijing and two-time Xiamen winner; and **Worknesh Degefa**, the Ethiopian national record holder in the marathon, a Dubai champion and the fourth fastest female marathoner of all time.

Last year's second and third place finishers, **Sarah Sellers** of the United States and **Krista DuChene** of Canada, return to improve their positions. They join Olympic and World Championships silver medalist in the 10,000m, **Sally Kipyego** of the United States; and previously announced U.S. elites: **Jordan Hasay**, third at Boston in 2017; **Sara Hall**, 2017 national champion; **Lindsay Flanagan**; **Becky Wade**; and **Sarah Crouch**.

Joining them will be a trio of Ethiopians: two-time Olympian **Meskerem Assefa**, winner of Rotterdam and Frankfurt course record holder; Olympian **Belaynesh Oljira**, 2015 World Championships 10,000m bronze medalist; and **Biruktayit Eshetu**, a three-time Houston champion.

Rounding out the field and new to the Boston course are Olympian **Betsy Saina** of Kenya, a Paris champion; Olympian **Eva Vrabcová** of the Czech Republic, the bronze medalist in the 2018 European Marathon Championships; three-time Olympian **Fionnuala McCormack** of Ireland; Olympian **Alyson Dixon** of Great Britain; and **Mary Ngugi** of Kenya, the World Championships Half Marathon silver medalist in 2014 and bronze medalist in 2016, who is making her marathon debut.