



John Hancock's 2019 Elite Athlete Team..... 1

Elite Athlete Bib Assignments, Numerical and Alphabetical ..... 3

Elite Athlete Pronunciation Guide..... 7

Elite Athlete Team Facts..... 9

Elite Men's Team Summary..... 10

Elite Women's Team Summary..... 11

Top Male Contenders..... 12

Top Female Contenders ..... 13

John Hancock and Boston Marathon Celebrate 34 Years of Partnership..... 14

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**2019 BOSTON MARATHON®**



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

| Athlete Name          | Country       | Personal Best Time             |    |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----|
| Lawrence Cheronu      | Kenya         | 2:04:06 (Amsterdam, 2018)      | CR |
| Sisay Lemma           | Ethiopia      | 2:04:08 (Dubai, 2018)          |    |
| Lemi Berhanu          | Ethiopia      | 2:04:33 (Dubai, 2016)          |    |
| Solomon Deksisa       | Ethiopia      | 2:04:40 (Amsterdam, 2018)      |    |
| Lelisa Desisa         | Ethiopia      | 2:04:45 (Dubai, 2013)          |    |
| Kenneth Kipkemoi      | Kenya         | 2:05:44 (Rotterdam, 2018)      |    |
| Felix Kandie          | Kenya         | 2:06:03 (Seoul, 2017)          |    |
| Wesley Korir          | Kenya         | 2:06:13 (Chicago, 2012)        |    |
| Festus Talam          | Kenya         | 2:06:13 (Eindhoven, 2017)      |    |
| Geoffrey Kirui        | Kenya         | 2:06:27 (Amsterdam, 2016)      |    |
| Philemon Rono         | Kenya         | 2:06:52 (Toronto, 2017)        | CR |
| Hiroto Inoue          | Japan         | 2:06:54 (Tokyo, 2018)          |    |
| Benson Kipruto        | Kenya         | 2:07:11 (Seoul, 2018)          |    |
| Ghirmay Ghebreslassie | Eritrea       | 2:07:46 (London, 2016)         |    |
| Dathan Ritzenhein     | USA           | 2:07:47 (Chicago, 2012)        |    |
| Yuki Kawauchi         | Japan         | 2:08:14 (Seoul, 2013)          |    |
| Zersenay Tadese       | Eritrea       | 2:08:46 (Berlin, 2018)         |    |
| Abdi Abdirahman       | USA           | 2:08:56 (Chicago, 2006)        |    |
| Mohamed El Aaraby     | Morocco       | 2:09:16 (Chicago, 2018)        |    |
| Hayato Sonoda         | Japan         | 2:09:34 (Oita, 2018)           |    |
| Jeffrey Eggleston     | USA           | 2:10:52 (Gold Coast, 2014)     |    |
| Scott Overall         | Great Britain | 2:10:55 (Berlin, 2011)         |    |
| Jared Ward            | USA           | 2:11:30 (Rio de Janeiro, 2016) |    |
| Elkanah Kibet         | USA           | 2:11:31 (Chicago, 2015)        |    |
| Timothy Ritchie       | USA           | 2:11:56 (Sacramento, 2017)     |    |
| Shadrack Biwott       | USA           | 2:12:01 (New York City, 2016)  |    |
| Scott Fauble          | USA           | 2:12:28 (New York City, 2018)  |    |
| Brian Shrader         | USA           | 2:13:31 (Sacramento, 2018)     |    |

CR = Course Record

Field as of March 5, 2019

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

| <b>Athlete Name</b> | <b>Country</b> | <b>Personal Best Time</b>      |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Worknesh Degefa     | Ethiopia       | 2:17:41 (Dubai, 2019) NR       |
| Aselefech Mergia    | Ethiopia       | 2:19:31 (Dubai, 2012)          |
| Edna Kiplagat       | Kenya          | 2:19:50 (London, 2012)         |
| Mare Dibaba         | Ethiopia       | 2:19:52 (Dubai, 2012)          |
| Meskerem Assefa     | Ethiopia       | 2:20:36 (Frankfurt, 2018) CR   |
| Jordan Hasay        | USA            | 2:20:57 (Chicago, 2017)        |
| Belaynesh Oljira    | Ethiopia       | 2:21:53 (Frankfurt, 2018)      |
| Sharon Cherop       | Kenya          | 2:22:28 (Berlin, 2013)         |
| Desiree Linden      | USA            | 2:22:38 (Boston, 2011)         |
| Betsy Saina         | Kenya          | 2:22:56 (Paris, 2018)          |
| Caroline Rotich     | Kenya          | 2:23:22 (Chicago, 2012)        |
| Biruktayit Eshetu   | Ethiopia       | 2:23:28 (Houston, 2019)        |
| Sara Hall           | USA            | 2:26:20 (Ottawa, 2018)         |
| Eva Vrabcová        | Czech Republic | 2:26:31 (Berlin, 2018) NR      |
| Sally Kipyego       | USA            | 2:28:01 (New York City, 2016)  |
| Krista DuChene      | Canada         | 2:28:32 (Toronto, 2013)        |
| Alyson Dixon        | Great Britain  | 2:29:06 (London, 2017)         |
| Lindsay Flanagan    | USA            | 2:29:25 (Frankfurt, 2018)      |
| Becky Wade          | USA            | 2:30:41 (Sacramento, 2013)     |
| Fionnuala McCormack | Ireland        | 2:31:22 (Rio de Janeiro, 2016) |
| Sarah Crouch        | USA            | 2:32:27 (Chicago, 2018)        |
| Sarah Sellers       | USA            | 2:36:37 (New York City, 2018)  |
| Mary Ngugi          | Kenya          | 66:29 (Houston, 2016)          |

NR = National Record

CR = Course Record

Field as of March 5, 2019

## JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE MEN'S TEAM BIB ASSIGNMENTS (NUMERICAL)

| Name                   | Bib number | Bib name      | Country       | PB                             |
|------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Yuki Kawauchi          | 1          | YUKI          | Japan         | 2:08:14 (Seoul, 2013)          |
| Lawrence Cheronu       | 2          | CHERONO       | Kenya         | 2:04:06 (Amsterdam, 2018) CR   |
| Sisay Lemma            | 3          | LEMMA         | Ethiopia      | 2:04:08 (Dubai, 2018)          |
| Lemi Berhanu           | 4          | LEMI          | Ethiopia      | 2:04:33 (Dubai, 2016)          |
| Solomon Deksisia       | 5          | DEKSISA       | Ethiopia      | 2:04:40 (Amsterdam, 2018)      |
| Lelisa Desisa          | 6          | LELISA        | Ethiopia      | 2:04:45 (Dubai, 2013)          |
| Kenneth Kipkemoi       | 7          | KIPKEMOI      | Kenya         | 2:05:44 (Rotterdam, 2018)      |
| Felix Kandie           | 8          | KANDIE        | Kenya         | 2:06:03 (Seoul, 2017)          |
| Wesley Korir           | 9          | KORIR         | Kenya         | 2:06:13 (Chicago, 2012)        |
| Festus Talam           | 10         | TALAM         | Kenya         | 2:06:13 (Eindhoven, 2017)      |
| Geoffrey Kirui         | 11         | KIRUI         | Kenya         | 2:06:27 (Amsterdam, 2016)      |
| Philemon Rono          | 12         | RONO          | Kenya         | 2:06:52 (Toronto, 2017)        |
| Hiroto Inoue           | 14         | INOUE         | Japan         | 2:06:54 (Tokyo, 2018)          |
| Benson Kipruto         | 15         | KIPRUTO       | Kenya         | 2:07:11 (Seoul, 2018)          |
| Ghirmay Ghebreslassie  | 16         | GHEBRESLASSIE | Eritrea       | 2:07:46 (London, 2016)         |
| Dathan Ritzenhein      | 17         | RITZ          | USA           | 2:07:47 (Chicago, 2012)        |
| Zersenay Tadese        | 18         | TADESE        | Eritrea       | 2:08:46 (Berlin, 2018)         |
| Abdi Abdirahman        | 19         | ABDI          | USA           | 2:08:56 (Chicago, 2006)        |
| Mohamed Reda El Aaraby | 20         | EL AARABY     | Morocco       | 2:09:16 (Chicago, 2018)        |
| Hayato Sonoda          | 21         | SONODA        | Japan         | 2:09:34 (Oita, 2018)           |
| Jeffrey Eggleston      | 22         | EGGLESTON     | USA           | 2:10:52 (Gold Coast, 2014)     |
| Scott Overall          | 23         | OVERALL       | Great Britain | 2:10:55 (Berlin, 2011)         |
| Jared Ward             | 24         | WARD          | USA           | 2:11:30 (Rio de Janeiro, 2016) |
| Elkanah Kibet          | 25         | KIBET         | USA           | 2:11:31 (Chicago, 2015)        |
| Timothy Ritchie        | 26         | RITCHIE       | USA           | 2:11:56 (Sacramento, 2017)     |
| Shadrack Biwott        | 27         | BIWOTT        | USA           | 2:12:01 (New York City, 2016)  |
| Scott Fauble           | 28         | FAUBLE        | USA           | 2:12:28 (New York City, 2018)  |
| Brian Shrader          | 29         | SHRADER       | USA           | 2:13:31 (Sacramento, 2018)     |

CR = Course Record

## JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE WOMEN'S TEAM BIB ASSIGNMENTS (NUMERICAL)

| Name                | Bib number | Bib name  | Country        | PB                             |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Desiree Linden      | F1         | DES       | USA            | 2:22:38 (Boston, 2011)         |
| Worknesh Degefa     | F2         | DEGEFA    | Ethiopia       | 2:17:41 (Dubai, 2019) NR       |
| Aselefech Mergia    | F3         | MERGIA    | Ethiopia       | 2:19:31 (Dubai, 2012)          |
| Edna Kiplagat       | F4         | KIPLAGAT  | Kenya          | 2:19:50 (London, 2012)         |
| Mare Dibaba         | F5         | DIBABA    | Ethiopia       | 2:19:52 (Xiamen, 2015)         |
| Meskerem Assefa     | F6         | ASSEFA    | Ethiopia       | 2:20:36 (Frankfurt, 2018) CR   |
| Jordan Hasay        | F7         | JORDAN    | USA            | 2:20:57 (Chicago, 2017)        |
| Belaynesh Oljira    | F8         | OLJIRA    | Ethiopia       | 2:21:53 (Frankfurt, 2018)      |
| Sharon Cherop       | F9         | CHEROP    | Kenya          | 2:22:28 (Berlin, 2013)         |
| Betsy Saina         | F10        | SAINA     | Kenya          | 2:22:56 (Paris, 2018)          |
| Caroline Rotich     | F11        | ROTICH    | Kenya          | 2:23:22 (Chicago, 2012)        |
| Biruktayit Eshetu   | F12        | ESHETU    | Ethiopia       | 2:23:28 (Houston, 2019)        |
| Sara Hall           | F14        | HALL      | USA            | 2:26:20 (Ottawa, 2018)         |
| Eva Vrabcová        | F15        | VRABCOVÁ  | Czech Republic | 2:26:31 (Berlin, 2018) NR      |
| Sally Kipyego       | F16        | KIPYEGO   | USA            | 2:28:01 (New York City, 2016)  |
| Krista DuChene      | F17        | DUCHENE   | Canada         | 2:28:32 (Toronto, 2013)        |
| Alyson Dixon        | F18        | DIXON     | Great Britain  | 2:29:06 (London, 2017)         |
| Lindsay Flanagan    | F19        | FLANAGAN  | USA            | 2:29:25 (Frankfurt, 2018)      |
| Becky Wade          | F20        | WADE      | USA            | 2:30:41 (Sacramento, 2013)     |
| Fionnuala McCormack | F21        | MCCORMACK | Ireland        | 2:31:22 (Rio de Janeiro, 2016) |
| Sarah Crouch        | F22        | CROUCH    | USA            | 2:32:27 (Chicago, 2018)        |
| Sarah Sellers       | F23        | SELLERS   | USA            | 2:36:37 (New York City, 2018)  |
| Mary Ngugi          | F24        | NGUGI     | Kenya          | 66:29 (Houston, 2016)          |

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Field as of March 5, 2019

## JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE MEN'S TEAM BIB ASSIGNMENTS (ALPHABETICAL)

| Name                  | Bib number | Bib name      | Country       | PB                             |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Abdi Abdirahman       | 19         | ABDI          | USA           | 2:08:56 (Chicago, 2006)        |
| Shadrack Biwott       | 27         | BIWOTT        | USA           | 2:12:01 (New York City, 2016)  |
| Lawrence Cherono      | 2          | CHERONO       | Kenya         | 2:04:06 (Amsterdam, 2018) CR   |
| Solomon Deksisa       | 5          | DEKSISA       | Ethiopia      | 2:04:40 (Amsterdam, 2018)      |
| Jeffrey Eggleston     | 22         | EGGLESTON     | USA           | 2:10:52 (Gold Coast, 2014)     |
| Mohamed El Aaraby     | 20         | EL AARABY     | Morocco       | 2:09:16 (Chicago, 2018)        |
| Scott Fauble          | 28         | FAUBLE        | USA           | 2:12:28 (New York City, 2018)  |
| Ghirmay Ghebreslassie | 16         | GHEBRESLASSIE | Eritrea       | 2:07:46 (London, 2016)         |
| Hiroto Inoue          | 14         | INOUE         | Japan         | 2:06:54 (Tokyo, 2018)          |
| Felix Kandie          | 8          | KANDIE        | Kenya         | 2:06:03 (Seoul, 2017)          |
| Elkanah Kibet         | 25         | KIBET         | USA           | 2:11:31 (Chicago, 2015)        |
| Kenneth Kipkemoi      | 7          | KIPKEMOI      | Kenya         | 2:05:44 (Rotterdam, 2018)      |
| Benson Kipruto        | 15         | KIPRUTO       | Kenya         | 2:07:11 (Seoul, 2018)          |
| Geoffrey Kirui        | 11         | KIRUI         | Kenya         | 2:06:27 (Amsterdam, 2016)      |
| Wesley Korir          | 9          | KORIR         | Kenya         | 2:06:13 (Chicago, 2012)        |
| Lelisa Desisa         | 6          | LELISA        | Ethiopia      | 2:04:45 (Dubai, 2013)          |
| Lemi Berhanu          | 4          | LEMI          | Ethiopia      | 2:04:33 (Dubai, 2016)          |
| Sisay Lemma           | 3          | LEMMA         | Ethiopia      | 2:04:08 (Dubai, 2018)          |
| Scott Overall         | 23         | OVERALL       | Great Britain | 2:10:55 (Berlin, 2011)         |
| Timothy Ritchie       | 26         | RITCHIE       | USA           | 2:11:56 (Sacramento, 2017)     |
| Dathan Ritzenhein     | 17         | RITZ          | USA           | 2:07:47 (Chicago, 2012) CR     |
| Philemon Rono         | 12         | RONO          | Kenya         | 2:06:52 (Toronto, 2017)        |
| Brian Shrader         | 29         | SHRADER       | USA           | 2:13:31 (Sacramento, 2018)     |
| Hayato Sonoda         | 21         | SONODA        | Japan         | 2:09:34 (Oita, 2018)           |
| Zersenay Tadesse      | 18         | TADESE        | Eritrea       | 2:08:46 (Berlin, 2018)         |
| Festus Talam          | 10         | TALAM         | Kenya         | 2:06:13 (Eindhoven, 2017)      |
| Jared Ward            | 24         | WARD          | USA           | 2:11:30 (Rio de Janeiro, 2016) |
| Yuki Kawauchi         | 1          | YUKI          | Japan         | 2:08:14 (Seoul, 2013)          |

CR = Course Record

## JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE WOMEN'S TEAM BIB ASSIGNMENTS (ALPHABETICAL)

| Name                | Bib number | Bib name  | Country        | PB                             |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Meskerem Assefa     | F6         | ASSEFA    | Ethiopia       | 2:20:36 (Frankfurt, 2018) CR   |
| Sharon Cherop       | F9         | CHEROP    | Kenya          | 2:22:28 (Berlin, 2013)         |
| Sarah Crouch        | F22        | CROUCH    | USA            | 2:32:27 (Chicago, 2018)        |
| Worknesh Degefa     | F2         | DEGEFA    | Ethiopia       | 2:17:41 (Dubai, 2019) NR       |
| Desiree Linden      | F1         | DES       | USA            | 2:22:38 (Boston, 2011)         |
| Mare Dibaba         | F5         | DIBABA    | Ethiopia       | 2:19:52 (Xiamen, 2015)         |
| Alyson Dixon        | F18        | DIXON     | Great Britain  | 2:29:06 (London, 2017)         |
| Krista DuChene      | F17        | DUCHENE   | Canada         | 2:28:32 (Toronto, 2013)        |
| Biruktayit Eshetu   | F12        | ESHETU    | Ethiopia       | 2:23:28 (Houston, 2019)        |
| Lindsay Flanagan    | F19        | FLANAGAN  | USA            | 2:29:25 (Frankfurt, 2018)      |
| Sara Hall           | F14        | HALL      | USA            | 2:26:20 (Ottawa, 2018)         |
| Jordan Hasay        | F7         | JORDAN    | USA            | 2:20:57 (Chicago, 2017)        |
| Edna Kiplagat       | F4         | KIPLAGAT  | Kenya          | 2:19:50 (London, 2012)         |
| Sally Kipyego       | F16        | KIPYEGO   | USA            | 2:28:01 (New York City, 2016)  |
| Fionnuala McCormack | F21        | MCCORMACK | Ireland        | 2:31:22 (Rio de Janeiro, 2016) |
| Aselefech Mergia    | F3         | MERGIA    | Ethiopia       | 2:19:31 (Dubai, 2012)          |
| Mary Ngugi          | F24        | NGUGI     | Kenya          | 66:29 (Houston, 2016)          |
| Belaynesh Oljira    | F8         | OLJIRA    | Ethiopia       | 2:21:53 (Frankfurt, 2018)      |
| Caroline Rotich     | F11        | ROTICH    | Kenya          | 2:23:22 (Chicago, 2012)        |
| Betsy Saina         | F10        | SAINA     | Kenya          | 2:22:56 (Paris, 2018)          |
| Sarah Sellers       | F23        | SELLERS   | USA            | 2:36:37 (New York City, 2018)  |
| Eva Vrabcová        | F15        | VRABCOVÁ  | Czech Republic | 2:26:31 (Berlin, 2018) NR      |
| Becky Wade          | F20        | WADE      | USA            | 2:30:41 (Sacramento, 2013)     |

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Field as of March 5, 2019

## JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE MEN'S TEAM PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

| <b>Athlete</b>         | <b>Pronunciation</b>          | <b>Speaks English?</b>        | <b>Country</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Abdi Abdirahman        | AB-di AB-dir-ah-man           | yes                           | USA            |
| Lemi Berhanu           | Leh-ME Ber-HAHN-new           | some, translator accompanying | Ethiopia       |
| Shadrack Biwott        | SHAD-rack BE-watt             | yes                           | USA            |
| Lawrence Cherono       | Law-rence Che-row-no          | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Solomon Deksis         | Sol-o-mon Dek-sis-ah          | some, translator accompanying | Ethiopia       |
| Lelisa Desisa          | Le-LEE-sa DEH-see-sa          | yes                           | Ethiopia       |
| Jeffrey Eggleston      | Jeff-rey Egg-uhl-stuhn        | yes                           | USA            |
| Mohamed El Aaraby      | Mo-HAHM-ed El AIR-a-bee       | some, translator accompanying | Morocco        |
| Scott Fauble           | Scott Faub-le                 | yes                           | USA            |
| Ghirmay Ghebresslassie | Ghir-may Gheb-reh-see-lass-ee | some, translator accompanying | Eritrea        |
| Hiroto Inoue           | Hir-oh-to I-no-u-e            | some, translator accompanying | Japan          |
| Felix Kandie           | FEE-lix KAN-DA                | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Yuki Kawauchi          | YOO-kee KA-wa-oo-chee         | some, translator accompanying | Japan          |
| Elkanah Kibet          | EL-kah-nah Ki-bet             | yes                           | USA            |
| Kenneth Kipkemoi       | Ken-neth Kip-kee-moi          | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Benson Kipruto         | Ben-son Kip-ru-toe            | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Geoffrey Kirui         | JOFF-ree KEY-roo-ee           | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Wesley Korir           | WES-lee KOR-ear               | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Sisay Lemma            | Sis-AY LEM-ma                 | yes                           | Ethiopia       |
| Scott Overall          | Scott O-ver-all               | yes                           | Great Britain  |
| Timothy Ritchie        | Tim-oh-thee Rit-chee          | yes                           | USA            |
| Dathan Ritzenhein      | DAY-Thun RITZ-in-hein         | yes                           | USA            |
| Philemon Rono          | Phil-eh-mon Ro-no             | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Brian Shrader          | Bry-an Shray-der              | yes                           | USA            |
| Hayato Sonoda          | Hay-AH-to So-no-da            | some, translator accompanying | Japan          |
| Zersenay Tadese        | ZARE-sen-aye Tad-ES-ah        | yes                           | Eritrea        |
| Festus Talam           | Fes-tus Tal-um                | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Jared Ward             | JAIR-uhd WARD                 | yes                           | USA            |



## JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE WOMEN'S TEAM PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

| <b>Athlete</b>      | <b>Pronunciation</b>        | <b>Speaks English?</b>        | <b>Country</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Meskerem Assefa     | Mes-ka-rem Ah-sef-ah        | some, translator accompanying | Ethiopia       |
| Sharon Cherop       | Sha-RON Che-ROP             | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Sarah Crouch        | SA-rah CROUCH               | yes                           | USA            |
| Worknesh Degefa     | Work-nesh De-ge-fa          | some, translator accompanying | Ethiopia       |
| Mare Dibaba         | MAR-ee Dee-BAA-baa          | yes                           | Ethiopia       |
| Alyson Dixon        | Al-lee-son Dix-on           | yes                           | UK             |
| Krista DuChene      | Kris-ta Do-shane            | yes                           | Canada         |
| Biruktayit Eshetu   | Bir-uk-tay-it Esh-a-tu      | some, translator accompanying | Ethiopia       |
| Lindsay Flanagan    | LIND-say FLAN-a-gan         | yes                           | USA            |
| Sara Hall           | Sa-rah HALL                 | yes                           | USA            |
| Jordan Hasay        | JOR-dan HA-say              | yes                           | USA            |
| Edna Kiplagat       | ED-nah KIP-la-gat           | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Sally Kipyego       | Sal-lee Kip-yeh-go          | yes                           | USA            |
| Desiree Linden      | DES-uh-ray LIN-den          | yes                           | USA            |
| Fionnuala McCormack | Finn-uu-La Mc-Cor-mack      | yes                           | Ireland        |
| Aselefech Mergia    | A-sell-eh-fech Muir-ghee-ah | some, translator accompanying | Ethiopia       |
| Mary Ngugi          | Mar-ee Gu-gi                | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Belaynesh Oljira    | Bell-ay-nesh Ol-jir-ah      | some, translator accompanying | Ethiopia       |
| Caroline Rotich     | CAR-oh-line ROW-tish        | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Betsy Saina         | Bet-see Say-nah             | yes                           | Kenya          |
| Sarah Sellers       | Sa-rah Sell-ers             | yes                           | USA            |
| Eva Vrabcová        | Ee-vah Rab-co-vah           | yes                           | Czech Republic |
| Becky Wade          | Beck-key Wade               | yes                           | USA            |

## 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 **Hirotu 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.

## JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE TEAM TOP TEN CONTENDERS: MEN

**Yuki Kawauchi, Japan (2:08:47):** Last year Kawauchi prevailed through freezing rain and gusting wind to become the first Japanese champion of the race in 31 years. Winner of over 30 marathons, Kawauchi has competed on several Japanese national teams, including three IAAF World Marathon Championships.

**Geoffrey Kirui, Kenya (2:06:27):** The champion of the 2017 Boston Marathon and 2017 IAAF World Championships Marathon, Kirui returns after finishing runner-up in Boston last year and sixth in Chicago.

**Lelisa Desisa, Ethiopia (2:04:45):** Desisa has recorded seven podium finishes in Abbott World Marathon Majors. This year he returns to claim an unprecedented third Boston title after winning in 2013 and 2015. He is the only Ethiopian man to have won the Boston Marathon twice.

**Lawrence Cherono, Kenya (2:04:06):** Winner of six marathons and the fastest man in the 2019 Boston Marathon field, Cherono brings both speed and strength to his Boston debut. His personal best was earned with a course record win at the 2018 Amsterdam Marathon. He also won Honolulu twice, Zurich and Prague.

**Lemi Berhanu, Ethiopia (2:04:33):** Berhanu, the 2016 Boston Marathon champion, returns to win another title. He has also won Zurich, Dubai, Warsaw, Hengshui and Xiamen.

**Shadrack Biwott, USA (2:12:01):** Shadrack Biwott broke through at Boston last year, in freezing wind and driving rain, to earn a podium spot. His third place improved on his fourth-place finish in 2017. With experience on his side and strong tactical skills, Biwott seeks a top spot.

**Zersenay Tadese, Eritrea (2:08:46):** Tadese, a three-time Olympian, is the most accomplished Eritrean athlete of all time. He's an Olympic Games bronze medalist in the 10,000m, a four-time IAAF World Half Marathon gold medalist, a World Championships 10,000m silver medalist, an All-African gold medalist and the world half marathon world record holder from 2010-2018.

**Dathan Ritzenhein, USA (2:08:37):** Ritzenhein is the fourth fastest U.S. marathoner of all time, behind Khalid Khannouchi, Ryan Hall and Galen Rupp. A three-time Olympian, Ritzenhein has finished top-ten on the track and roads in World and Olympic championships. After being sidelined with injury last year, Ritzenhein is ready to tackle Boston.

**Hiroto Inoue, Japan (2:06:54):** The 2018 Asian Games Marathon gold medalist, Inoue's win was the first for Japan in the event in 32 years. Inoue was top Japanese and eighth at the 2017 Tokyo Marathon and then was fifth at the race in 2018.

**Ghirmay Ghebreslassie, Eritrea (2:07:46):** A 19-year-old, Ghebreslassie won the 2015 IAAF World Championships Marathon, the first for Eritrea. The following year he proved his championship style, running with a fourth at the 2016 Olympic Games Marathon and ten weeks later winning the TCS New York City Marathon.

## JOHN HANCOCK'S 2019 ELITE TEAM TOP CONTENDERS: WOMEN

**Desiree Linden, USA (2:22:38):** Linden, a two-time Olympian and one of the fastest American marathoners of all time, won the 2018 Boston Marathon in driving rain, wind and near freezing temperatures. Her win marked the first time in 33 years that an American woman earned the coveted olive wreath. Linden had previously run the Boston Marathon on five different occasions, narrowly missing the title in 2011 by two seconds, running 2:22:38.

**Edna Kiplagat, Kenya (2:19:50):** The 2017 Boston Marathon champion, Kiplagat is a two-time IAAF World Championships gold medalist and a past champion of the London, New York City and Los Angeles Marathons. She has won the Abbott World Marathon Majors Series three times. In Berlin last year, she ran her second fastest career marathon, so Kiplagat knows how to prepare to race.

**Asseftech Mergia, Ethiopia (2:19:31):** Mergia is one of Ethiopia's most talented marathon runners. A former national record holder in the marathon, she has won the Dubai Marathon three times and won the 2010 Virgin London Marathon.

**Worknesh Degefa, Ethiopia (2:17:41 NR):** Degefa set the Ethiopian national marathon record with her 2:17:41 second place finish in Dubai this January. With that result she became the fourth fastest women's marathoner in history. Historically a half marathon specialist, Degefa's top ten half marathon times (2013-2016) were run with an average time of 67:30.

**Jordan Hasay, USA (2:20:57):** Hasay finished third in Boston in 2017 in a women's debut record. She followed by improving her time at the 2017 Bank of America Chicago Marathon to 2:20:57 (third place), the second fastest time ever recorded by an American woman. After a year off due to injury, Hasay is motivated for another breakthrough performance.

**Mare Dibaba, Ethiopia (2:19:52):** A two-time Olympian, Dibaba is one of Ethiopia's most accomplished marathon runners, earning an Olympic marathon bronze medal, a World Championships gold medal and 11 marathon podium finishes, including a win at the 2014 Bank of America Chicago Marathon. Dibaba knows the Boston course, finishing second in 2015 and third in 2014.

**Sally Kipyego, United States (2:28:01):** The 2012 Olympic silver medalist in the 10,000m, Kipyego was runner-up in her 2016 marathon debut in New York City. She won the NCAA Division I cross country national title three years in a row. After having a baby, she's returning to action.

**Meskerem Assefa, Ethiopia (2:20:36):** Two-time Olympian Assefa has made the podium 11 times in her 15 career marathons. She has won Rotterdam, Houston and Frankfurt twice, including last year where she set the course record and improved her best to 2:20:36.

**Betsy Saina, Kenya (2:22:56):** Winner of the 2018 Paris Marathon, Saina finished fifth in the 10,000m at the 2016 Olympic Games Marathon. She's had a solid training segment leading into Boston and is seeking a podium position.

**Biruktayit Eshetu, Ethiopia (2:23:28):** Three-time Houston Marathon winner, Biruktayit Eshetu is one of the most prolific marathoners in the field with eight career wins and 19 podium finishes. Her experience over the distance may prove the deciding factor for a win in Boston.



## JOHN HANCOCK AND THE BOSTON MARATHON CELEBRATE 34 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP

2019 marks the 34th year of John Hancock's landmark sponsorship of the legendary Boston Marathon. John Hancock's continued support of the Boston Athletic Association, which has directed the race since 1897, ensures the stability of the world's oldest annual marathon.

### REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Each year, John Hancock sponsors community initiatives in coordination with its sponsorship of the Marathon, including the John Hancock Boston Marathon Non-Profit Program, Scholars & Stars in Hopkinton and Marathon on the Road.

The Non-Profit Program affords organizations the opportunity to secure invitational entries into the race. In 2018, John Hancock sponsored more than 1,000 non-profit runners, along with 200 John Hancock and Manulife employees and clients. These groups raised \$13.1 million for charities. Over the past 33 years, the official B.A.A. and John Hancock Non-Profit Programs have combined to raise more than \$333 million for community organizations.

Scholars & Stars in Hopkinton, now in its 27th year, brings John Hancock's elite Kenyan runners together with Hopkinton elementary students for a pre-race pep-rally in the historic town where the Marathon begins. Students study the culture of their running friends throughout the year and are introduced to the athletes during race week.

The Marathon on the Road program leverages John Hancock's Boston Marathon sponsorship by bringing our team of world-class marathoners – including past champions, Olympians and top Americans – to events across America. Last year more than 70,000 people participated in John Hancock-sponsored endurance events.

### HELPING TO KEEP THE RACE RUNNING

As principal sponsor, John Hancock provides substantial financial resources, including the first-ever prize money in 1986, and has funded nearly \$20 million in prize and bonus awards during the past 33 years. That tradition continued this year with a prize purse of \$871,000, plus \$220,000 for performance bonuses.

Each year, John Hancock recruits and sponsors the top distance runners in the world to participate in the race as members of the John Hancock Elite Athlete Team. More than 850 elite athletes from 48 countries have raced on the team, supported by employee-volunteers who ensure the athletes enjoy race week hospitality at the John Hancock Elite Athlete Village.

To support the local, national and international media representatives who cover the race, John Hancock produces the official Boston Marathon print and online media guides; coordinates press events; distributes Marathon materials and credentials, hosts social platforms and supports the operation of Marathon press rooms. On race day, John Hancock provides the use of several facilities in Copley Square, the services of hundreds of employee-sponsored volunteers to assist with race-related tasks, and a giant television screen near the finish line for the public to view the race.

In addition, the Company also contributes a wide range of financial support and services to the eight towns and cities along the Marathon route in appreciation for past and continued support of the race. The eight communities are Hopkinton, Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton, Brookline and Boston.

For more information about John Hancock and its Boston Marathon sponsorship, visit [johnhancock.com/bostonmarathon](http://johnhancock.com/bostonmarathon) or on Twitter at [@jhboston26](https://twitter.com/jhboston26) or [@johnhancockusa](https://twitter.com/johnhancockusa).