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## **SKECHERS PERFORMANCE LOS ANGELES MARATHON ANNOUNCES 2017 PROFESSIONAL FIELD**

### ***Former Champions Weldon Kirui and Daniel Limo lead Strong Men's Field***

LOS ANGELES (February 27, 2017) – Conqur Endurance Group today announced the professional field for the 2017 Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon, taking place on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. More than 50 professional runners from 11 countries will run the iconic “Stadium to the Sea” course, including a deep men’s field that features 2016 defending champion **Weldon Kirui** (Kenya) and 2015 titleholder **Daniel Limo** (Kenya).

“We look forward to welcoming such a talented and accomplished group of professionals at this year’s race,” said Tracey Russell, Chief Executive of Conqur Endurance Group. “After hosting the 2015 USA Track & Field Marathon Championships and the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials Marathon, we’re thrilled to keep the momentum going with a strong professional field.”

Leading the men’s professional field is reigning champion **Kirui**, who will look to hold onto his title. With a personal best of 2:09:06, Kirui will be rivaled by fellow Kenyan **Limo**, who finished in third place at last year’s race and boasts a personal best of 2:08:39. Close on the heels of Kirui and Limo will be Peruvian marathon national record holder and 2016 Peru Olympic Team member **Raul Pacheco**. Top runners from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Spain and New Zealand will also join the men’s international professional field.

Defending champion Weldon Kirui stated: “In 2012, I came in second place in Los Angeles and bought two cows with my prize money, one for my family and one for my parents. When I won last year, I built them a house. The people of Los Angeles have been nice and cheerful to me, and now I want to be a two-time champion.”

Nine U.S. men will round out the professional field, including two-time U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier **Jake Schmitt**, three-time National Junior College Athletic Association indoor and outdoor athlete of the year **Benson Langat**, and **Jose Madera**, who finished seventh overall and first among Americans at the 2016 Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon.

The women’s professional field is comprised of a talented group of athletes, headlined by former Olympian **Mestawet Tufa** of Ethiopia, with a lifetime best of 2:24:30 under her belt. Three Kenyan competitors will look to hold off Tufa, including **Sarah Kiptoo**, **Jane Kibii** and **Hellen Jepkurgat**, all with personal best times under 2:32:08. The international field will also include 2016 Olympian **Angela Orjuela** of Columbia, **Kavita Tungar** of India, **Gabriela Trana** of Costa Rica and **Maria Megina Yamin Morales** of Mexico.

An accomplished group of U.S. women will challenge the international competitors. **Lindsey Scherf** is coming off of a second place finish in December 2016 at the Honolulu Marathon, and is the American

junior record holder in the 10km. She recorded her personal best of 2:32:19 at Grandma's Marathon in 2015. **Heithier Lieberg** will return to the "Stadium to the Sea" course in 2017 after a fifth place finish in 2015. **Tori Tyler** and **Joanna Reyes** placed first and second, respectively, in last year's San Francisco Marathon, and are looking to add a Los Angeles podium finish to their records.

"This will be my first ever marathon race in the US, and I'm looking forward to making the trip to Los Angeles," said Mestawet Tufa. "I am fully recovered after running the Dubai Marathon in 2016 next to my personal best in China; my training has been going very well and I hope the Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon will change my marathon career. I've heard many good things about the race and I look forward to competing in California."

For the complete list of the 2017 Skechers Performance Los Angeles marathon professional field and additional information about the race, please visit [www.lamarathon.com](http://www.lamarathon.com).

#### **About Conqur Endurance Group**

Conqur Endurance Group, a subsidiary of McCourt LP, creates world-class experiences that ignite passion in athletes and connect communities through the transformative power of sport. The Skechers Performance Los Angeles Marathon is among the largest marathons in the country with more than 25,000 participants, thousands of volunteers and hundreds of thousands of spectators. The "Stadium to the Sea" course, starting at Dodger Stadium and finishing near the Santa Monica Pier, is one of the most scenic in the world, taking runners on a tour of Los Angeles past every major landmark. In addition to the marquee event, Conqur Endurance Group produces the Santa Monica Classic 5K/10K, the LA BIG 5K and recently added the Pasadena Half Marathon & 5K at the Rose Bowl, with the inaugural event slated for January 22, 2017. For more information, please visit [www.goconqur.com](http://www.goconqur.com).

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