

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 25 June 2009

Half marathon winner returns for Inaugural Marathon

Ethiopian-born runner Gemechu Woyecha was last year's Perth City to Surf Half Marathon winner and will again be participating in this year's Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ event. Last year he set the course record of 21.1 kilometres in 1:05:40 in cool and calm conditions.

Event Manager Laura McKelvey commented "We are excited to have such a strong athlete return in 2009 and to participate in the inaugural Marathon event; it shows that the event has proven itself as one athletes enjoy to participate in".

Last month Woyecha, who has been recovering from an achilles injury for the past three months, won the Scody Great Ocean Road half marathon in 1:14:00 which shows he's in good form to challenge in the Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ Marathon.

Woyecha, who trains under Australian marathon icon Rob de Castella in Canberra, said proper preparation was the key to his success. "Nothing secret, do proper training, jump in, just do whatever you want," he said.

Gemechu Woyecha came 8th in the 2008 Nagano Marathon running a time of 2:07:27 and missed out on Olympic selection for Beijing by 1 second.

The Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ is WA's largest community sporting event now in it's 35th year and includes a Marathon, Half Marathon, the blue ribbon Channel Nine 12km Run, 12km Walk, 11km Wheelchair event and a 4km Run/Walk.

Organisers are expecting a field of over 40,000 participants across all events in 2009.

The Rebel Sport City to Surf for Activ raises funds for Activ who provide supported employment opportunities, accommodation, homecare, recreation, respite and transport services for people with disability.

Website: www.perthcitytosurf.com

For additional press information contact Shanti Davie, Event Coordinator

Telephone: (08) 9226 1233

Email: shanti@csports.com.au

