

## PRESS RELEASE

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Hoofddorp, 18th February 2008

### TOKYO MARATHON

#### Double victory for ASICS at the Tokyo Marathon 2008

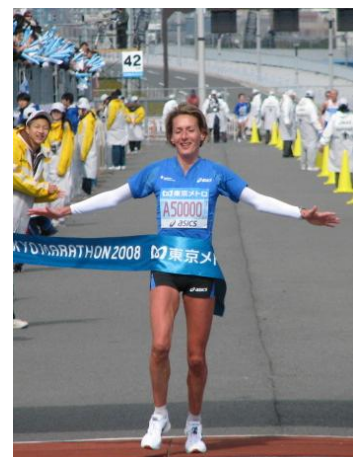
The second of the ASICS-sponsored Tokyo Marathons on Sunday ended with a magnificent double win for the ASICS athletes Viktor Röthlin and Claudia Dreher. Viktor Röthlin delivered a world-class time of 2:07:23, beating his own personal best and also smashing the Swiss record by almost a minute.

Yesterday, at 9:10 am local time, with the temperature at 2 degrees Celsius and approximately 30,000 runners at the starting gate, the marathon in the Japanese metropolis of Tokyo began. In the competitive field of male athletes, the pace was punishing from the start: the European silver medal winner and bronze medal winner at the 2007 World Championships, Viktor Röthlin, covered the first 35 kilometres faster than at any previous time in his career. During the final, critical kilometres, Röthlin managed to distance himself even further from his two remaining competitors, Arata Fujiwara (JAP, 2:08:40h) and Julius Gitahi (KEN, 2:08:57h), and stormed to the finishing line in a fantastic 2:07:23h (10th position on the European all-time best list).

"To win here in Tokyo, in this marathon-crazy country, is absolutely incredible for me," Röthlin said after the race. He beat his own national record, which he established on April 1st last year in Zurich, by exactly 57 seconds. With this performance in Tokyo, Viktor Röthlin has also demonstrated that he is an >



Viktor Röthlin's victory in  
2:07:23h



Claudia Dreher makes it a  
perfect double.

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athlete to be reckoned with at the summit of the sporting year, the Summer Olympics in Beijing.

*"I think I'm on the right track", he said. "A new game begins in Beijing, the cards will be remixed with a lot of other, faster runners. There are 20 or 25 athletes who could end up with a medal. And I'm certainly one of them."*

Ambassador Claudia Dreher triumphed over the female runners and made it a perfect double victory for the ASICS family. In a comparatively weaker field, she had to be her own pacemaker from the beginning, and she triumphantly broke through the finishing tape after 2.35:35. *"After the half marathon point, it was clear to me that today wasn't going to be a fast time, so I changed my strategy and just ran to win. The reception at the end - especially from the ASICS team - was amazing. To win in Japan is an unforgettable highlight in any runner's career,"* said Claudia Dreher, visibly moved.

**[www.asicseurope.com](http://www.asicseurope.com)**

### ABOUT ASICS

**Anima Sana In Corpore Sano** - A Sound Mind in a Sound Body. Nearly 60 years ago, in 1949, Kihachiro Onitsuka founded the forerunner of ASICS, Onitsuka Ltd., introducing its first pair of shoes. Since then a lot has changed, except ASICS' commitment to offer the finest and most innovative sportswear products. Today, ASICS is represented on every continent. In constant dialogue with professional and amateur athletes, ASICS translates technology into sophisticated and functional products for a large number of sports.