

Haile Gebrselassie

Ethiopian long distance track and road running athlete. The marathon world-record holder is considered a legend amongst distance runners



■ **Born:** Apr 18, 1973, in province of Arsi, central Ethiopia

■ **Career:** Since 1989 Gebrselassie has broken 25 world records.

His latest marathon record was set in September 2007 with a time of two hours, four min and 26 sec.

He will not compete in the Beijing marathon due to fears that excessive pollution could damage his health

Olympic gold. 10,000m: 1996, 2000