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Neukirchen / Austria, 06<sup>th</sup> September 2010

## Stage Results, Day 3: Kitzbühel – Neukirchen am Großvenediger

### Tough stage taxes racers to the max



Today's stage was to be both the longest and most grueling in terms of distance and vertical gain of the eight race days of the 2010 GORE-TEX® TRANSALPINE-RUN. As such, it was an apt test for all teams attempting to cross the High Divide on tomorrow's 4<sup>th</sup>

stage.

The racers started their day with an early morning ascent of the world-renowned Hahnenkamm World Cup downhill ski course. However, that incredibly steep climb served only as a warmup to what would later test even the best racers. The climb continued up the Pegelstein, dropped deep into a valley before heading up to the Stangenjoch, traversing below the rock faces of Wildkogel (2,186m) before descending a brutal downhill bike trail o Neukirchen am Großvenediger. After all was said and done, the runners had put 46,9 km and 2,252 m of vertical gain behind them.

### In a league of their own



The leading teams of all race categories seem to be sharing one commonality this year: they appear to be untouchable to their peers. Among the competing Men's teams Tom Owens and Andrew Symonds of SALOMON TRAIL TEAM MEN

once again managed to outpace their closest rivals Matthias Dippacher and Christian Stork. By the time they reached the finish line at Neukirchen (04:39.34 hours) their lead had increased to nine minutes over



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ORTHOMOL SPORT TEAM (04:48.34), and thus a cumulative overall lead of 33 minutes with less than half the race behind them. Neither of the two teams seemed to experience difficulties with snow banks on the trail at elevation – something one would also have assumed – by default – of TEAM SKINNY RAVEN / ALASKA. As such, it seemed not surprising that Americans Brenton Knight / Brandon Newbould secured the coveted third podium position with a time of 04:57.37 hours.

**Mixed leaders almost ¾ hours ahead of competition by now**

Similarly strong as the Men’s leaders are their British team colleagues SALOMON TRAIL TEAM MIXED around Angela Mudge and Chunky Liston. They ran a formidable race today coming into Neukirchen (05:03.22) as only the fifth team overall. Their fellow countrymen Iona Robertson and Casey Morgan (TEAM TPC FREIGHT MANAGEMENT) managed to claim second place with their time of 05:15.30 hours, whereas podium regulars Linda Doke and Ryan Sandes of South Africa (SALOMON / VELOCITY SPORTS LAB) had to resort to third place today. As such, a fierce competition between the second-and third-placing teams is evolving over the overall rank in their category with only 35 seconds between them after three tough days of racing.

**Women’s leaders claim third consecutive victory**

Martina Pfeifhofer and Elisabeth Egarter of TEAM SALOMON SEXTEN (06:07.48) underlined their dominance by staying out of reach and sight for their immediate competition on today’s uber-stage. After their most immediate rivals of TEAM LATSCH had to give up due to injury, they were able to increase their lead to a comfortable 6.5 minutes over trailing TEAM MOUNTAIN HEROES (Gitti Schiebel and Eva Übelhör, 06:14.15). New to the podium today were Stefanie Felgenhauer and Regina Lingl of TEAM NORDIC SPORTS WOMEN (06:33. 08) who claimed third place after being stuck in fourth place on the previous two stages.

**Leading Master’s live up to their reputation**

Anton Philipp and Thomas Miksch (BLT LAUFSPORT SAUKEL-HAGLÖFS) seem to be in their element – muddy trails, snow and difficult technical descents. Experience and tenacity once again earned them first place in



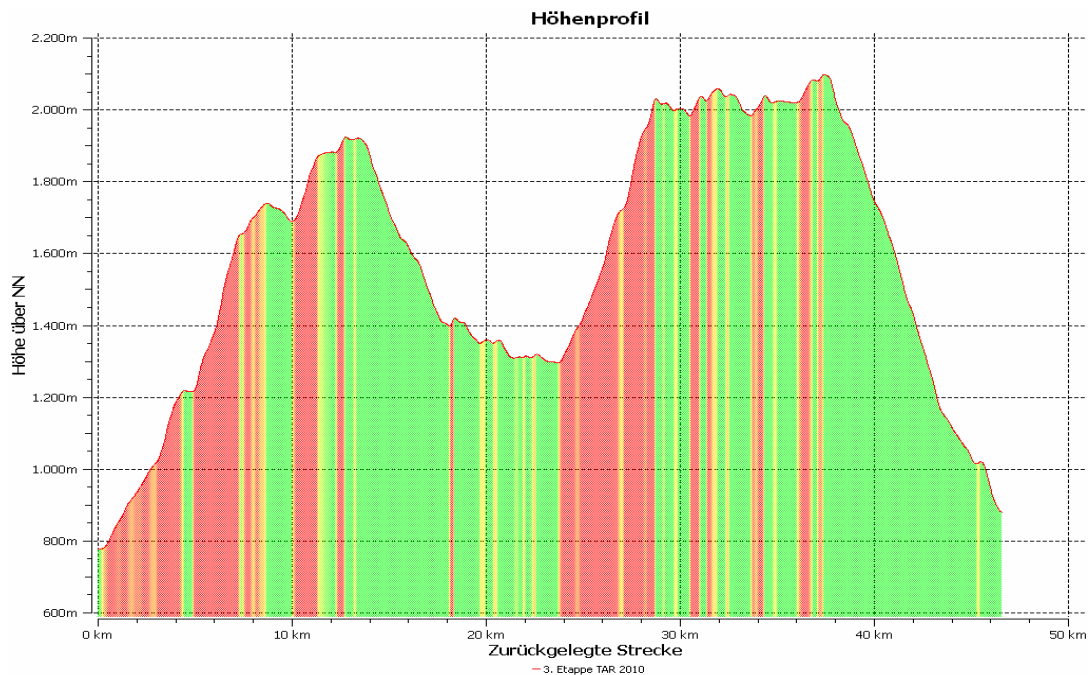
their age category after 04:55.22 hours on the trail, also the third-fastest time overall in today's race. It would be over 50 minutes before the next Masters team arrived in Neukirchen – TEAM BUFF around Chemari Rodrigo Bustillo and Juanjo Checa Alonso (05:43.32). Third on the podium were Roland Schindele and Holger Schulze (TEAM SENSOR TECHNIK WIEDEMANN PLATTE) who ran up to form with a time of 05:46.00 hours.

### Leaders of the Senior Masters unstoppable

Germans Gerald Blumrich and Jörg Schreiber of TEAM TRAIL MAGAZIN (05:43.47) showed their competition who's the boss out on the trail. With a lead of almost 25 minutes today and an overall lead of 53 minutes they can probably start to run strategy by now. Second to cross the finish in Neukirchen were Austrians Alois Puchner and Wolfgang Luger (EYBL LINZ-GORE-TEX-EXPERTS, 06:09.33). Over the course of today's stage they managed to gain over ten minutes on Italian TEAM AHRNTAL (Paul Steinhauser and F.-J. Bergmeister (06:19.48) who climbed to third position on the podium today.

### Today's Trails

Horizontal distance: 46.90 km, vertical gain: 2,252 m, vertical descent: 2,130 m.



Further information and a current image gallery of today's stage is posted at [www.transalpine-run.com](http://www.transalpine-run.com). For more detail, contact:



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