

Sand (IT), 08th September 2010

Stage Results, Day 5: Pretttau (IT)– Sand in Taufers (IT)

Today's technical trails benefit category leaders

While many runners will have loathed the exertion that goes along with 34.5 kilometers of technical trail running, others – especially the manifest leaders of the respective race categories – must have loved them. At least the phenomenal times, in which the latter finished, spoke lengths about the fun they had out there. Neither fog, wet trails nor a cumulative vertical gain of 2,098 meters were able to slow them down on their way to Sand in Taufers.

Leading SALOMON TRAIL TEAMS continue winning spree

Andrew Symonds and Tom Owens seem to be unbeatable - no matter what. Once again, they arrived at the finish line (03:38.46) first with quite a bit of time to spare before their closest competitors showed up. However, today's lead was smaller than the time buffers the Britons had managed to accumulate on each of the previous stages. Matthias Dippacher and Christian Stork (ORTHOMOL SPORTS TEAM), the two German runners most likely to threaten their victory spree, just wouldn't let up and came into the finish area less than six minutes after today's leaders. Third and thrilled about their first time on the podium was an Austrian team. Michael Kabicher and Armin Weißenböck-Meer Katz of SPARKASSE NATURPARK HOHE WAND managed to separate from the strong front field of the racers and made exquisite use of their escape by finishing in 03:48.47 hours. The Alaskan team SKINNY RAVEN, regulars on the podium during the last few surprised by arriving only in fifth place today. Surely, they can be reckoned with in the stages to come.

Leadership also seems pretty much settled among the top-ranked Mixed teams at this point. Angela Mudge and Chunky Liston of SALOMON TRAIL TEAM managed to extend their overall lead by more than a quarter of an hour today by covering the trails across the Rieserferner Range in just 03:59.58 hours. All other teams required more than 4 hours with the British TEAM TPC FREIGHT MANAGEMENT (Iona Robertson, Casey Morgan – 04:16.30) coming in second and the Swiss-Austrian duo Seppi Neuhauser and Gaby Steigmeier placing third (04:21.54). The latter two

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teams are currently racing head-to-head with just 4 minutes separating their overall times at the end of this fifth stage. Although the South African TEAM SALOMON / VELOCITY SPORTS LAB have lately lost some ground on the three leading teams, they should be good for a surprise attack yet. South African Linda Doke was tired but elated. "It was hard but absolutely beautiful. We very much look forward to the last three days". Expect some intense competition ahead!

MASTERS of their Game – Thomas Miksch / Philipp Anton rule!

They run like clockwork and don't ever yield an inch to the competition. That about sums it up for the German leaders of the Masters category, TEAM BLT LAUFSPORT SAUKEL-HAGLÖFS. The two veteran victors hoofed it to Sand in 04:01.12 hours today claiming a fifth consecutive stage triumph. Spaniards Chemari Rodriguez Bustillo and Junjo Checa Alonso (TEAM BUFF) gave them some room on the trail but just enough to ensure finishing in second place. After all, the two had to hustle on the home stretch as Austrians Alois Klauser and Armin Hohenadler of DE BERGENER HOCHFELLNER – GAMS'N were literally breathing down their necks. The latter arrived in 04:32.28 hours, which secured third place for them today. Armin Hohenadler was ecstatic about their performance sharing that they "have continually improved with each stage – enough so to land a podium position. We wouldn't mind if it continued along that line!"

Local heroes give it all and live up to hometown expectations

Cheers and thunderous applause erupted in Sand when local TEAM AHRNTAL managed to claim second place in the Senior Master MEN category. Italians Peter Paul Steinhauser and Franz Josef Bergmeister had used their knowledge of the local trails wisely arriving at the finish line only 79 seconds after the stage victors and everlasting leaders in the Senior Master Men category, Germans Gerald Blumrich and Jörg Schreiber of TEAM TRAIL MAGAZIN (04:32.26 hours). Third place went to Alois Puchner and Wolfgang Lugner of TEAM EYBL LINZ GORE-TEX EXPERTS who lost just 8 minutes on the leaders with their time of 04:40.31 hours.

Women's leaders prefer keeping a distance – ahead of the others!

As was expected, TEAM SALOMON SEXTEN managed to run a most solid race today arriving in first place in Sand after 04:49.37 hours. That time

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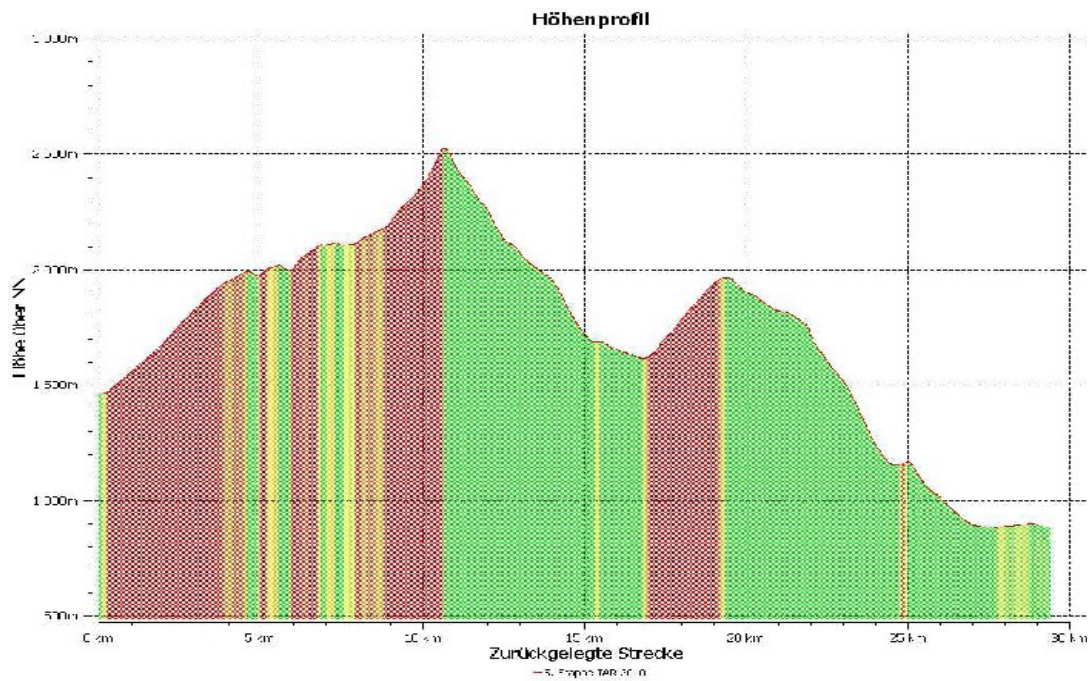


gained Martina Pfeifhofer and Elisabeth Egarter a ten-minute lead on second-placing TEAM MOUNTAIN HEROES and extended their overall lead to more than one hour. With TEAM LATSCH around Irene Senfter and Edeltraud Thaler racing out of competition due to injuries sustained a couple of days ago, the leaders probably feel a little less under duress and can concentrate on a safe and sane home run. TEAM LATSCH still felt compelled to demonstrate their dexterity. After a rest day and removed from the official ranking, they yet gave a taste of their running skills by racing to Sand in the fastest time today - 04:42.33 hours.

Gitti Schiebel and Eva Übelhör of TEAM MOUNTAIN HEROES were thrilled about their time of 04:59.58 hours affording them a podium position next to the leaders. Third were Stefanie Felgenhauer and Regina Lingl (TEAM NORDIC SPORTS WOMEN) who spent 05:11.48 hours on the trail.

Today's Trails:

Horizontal distance: 34.50 km, vertical gain: 1,813 m, vertical descent: 2,408 m.



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