

St. Vigil (IT), 09<sup>th</sup> September 2010

## Stage Results, Day 6: Sand in Taufers (IT) – St. Vigil (IT)

### Men's top-ranked carve up territory



With only two stages to go, it would seem that short of disaster very little could shake up the ranking among the top three Men's teams. Day after day, Andrew Symonds and Tom Owens of SALOMON TRAIL TEAM MEN have set the time to beat without meeting a serious challenge yet. Second-ranked ORTHOMOL SPORT TEAM (Matt Dippacher and Christian Stork) manages to cling on to the leaders on the uphill but lose some valuable

seconds on the descents. However, "losing time" is a relative term in this context as the latter two athletes still clock phenomenal times that would make most grown men weep. TEAM SKINNY RAVEN around Americans Brandon Newbould and Brenton Knight seem to run their own pace - lagging somewhat behind the aforementioned teams - but still furiously fast on the technical trails and well ahead of the pack.

This synopsis of the past five stages also sums up today's race action on a course that started out dead flat but packed a sustained climb to the summit of famous Kronplatz ski area, followed by a vicious technical descent into St. Vigil. SALOMON TRAIL TEAM MEN finished work 03:25.21 hours into the race, whereas ORTHOMOL SPORT TEAM called it a day roughly five minutes later after 03:30.37 hours on the trail. TEAM SKINNY RAVEN weren't to be outdone by much and started their regeneration in beautiful St. Vigil after 03:33.48 hours. Hustling paid off for the two Alaskans since it also advanced them to third place in the overall ranking. They thereby displaced the infamous Master's team BLT LAUFSPORT SAUKEL-HAGLÖFS who had held claim to that coveted position for the last three consecutive stages.

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Honorable mentions on this 6<sup>th</sup> stage of the 2010 GORE-TEX® TRANSALPINE-RUN would have to be Patrick Costabiei and Markus Winkler of local TEAM SAN VIGILIO. The two locals ran on familiar territory to a respectable 9<sup>th</sup> place in a time of 03:53.41 hours. During an interview the two resident athletes confided that they preferred to ski on the local slopes rather than run. "However, we've never been as fast as today, something I wouldn't have believed but good teamwork and sharing the lead off and on got us ahead" Patrick shared. Great work, that also advanced them to 13<sup>th</sup> position in the overall ranking!

**Master leaders win stage but loose preliminary podium ranking overall**

Thomas Miksch and Anton Philipp (BLT LAUFSPORT SAUKEL-HAGLÖFS, 03:45.02) once again won big in their category but had to yield important psychological ground on today's course. The two Germans dropped to fourth place overall, a position with which the two uber-athletes are unlikely satisfied. Without a doubt, they will crank it tomorrow in order to regain an overall podium ranking. In the process, they should meet much resistance from the bold U.S. team that will want to defend that newly-won ground.

Fresh faces graced second position on the Master's podium today as Anton Frommelt and Emmerich Hermann of FROMMELT TEAM managed to sneak ahead of ever-second Spanish TEAM BUFF. The two runners from Liechtenstein ran a formidable race (04:11.48 hours), which also advanced them in the overall ranking to 23<sup>rd</sup> position.

TEAM BUFF, relegated to an unusual third position with a time of 04:15.41 hours, can also be expected to attack tomorrow to regain lost podium territory.

**Break-away race for Angela Mudge and Chunky Liston**

It has become clear that British SALOMON TRAIL TEAM MIXED is quite comfortable running with a different pack than their own. The whirlwind victory time of 03:54.05 hours placed them in sixth overall position on today's stage – well ahead of their closest pursuers and smack in the upper echelons of all-male teams. Rather than looking forward, second-placing TEAM TPC FREIGHT MANAGEMENT around Iona Robertson and Casey Morgan seem intently focused on keeping

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ahead of TEAM SALOMON who stick to their heels like glue. So far, the former have managed to maintain an edge over the Swiss-Austrian team as evidenced by today's time of 04:01.54 hours. However, Gaby Steigmeier and Seppi Neuhauser of TEAM SALOMON (04:04.01) can be expected to challenge them for second place overall during the last two stages with just six minutes to catch up on. Gaby claimed that today seemed to her to be the hardest of all stages to date. "I was done for after coming down from Kronplatz. But we'll rest up now and should be fine for the last couple of days" she shared with trademark understatement.

### First upset among top Women's teams

It was a first during the 2010 GORE-TEX® TRANSPINE-RUN when Italians Martina Pfeifhofer and Elisabeth Egarter of TEAM SEXTEN SALOMON had to hand over stage victory today to their closest competition – TEAM MOUNTAIN HEROES. Germans Gitti Schiebel and Eva Übelhör were overjoyed with a triumph they had worked so long and hard for. The victorious women from the Northern foothills of the Alps arrived after 04:41.33 hours on the trail – almost 1.5 minutes ahead of the still overall category leaders TEAM SEXTEN SALOMON (04:43.05). Yet, with over an hour lead-time, the overall victory of Martina and Elisabeth seems almost impossible to unhinge even if they were to slow down some more en route to their home town of Sexten. Stefanie Felgenhauer and Regina Lingl of NORDIC SPORTS WOMEN clearly lay claim to what has become a comfortable third position. There is little opportunity for them to move up a rank at this point but also hardly a chance to drop from their current podium position. An enviable and relaxed position to start from on tomorrow's penultimate stage.

### Groundhog Day on Senior Masters Podium

The same teams gracing yesterday's podium ceremony met again today, however, in slightly changed order. Germans Gerald Blumrich and Jörg Schreiber of TEAM TRAIL MAGAZIN claimed first position in a time of 04:24.05 hours and, thus, held on - as is custom by now - to their leader jerseys. Alois Puchner and Wolfgang Luger of EYBL LINZ GORE-TEX EXPERTS regained second place in 04:41.27 hours after

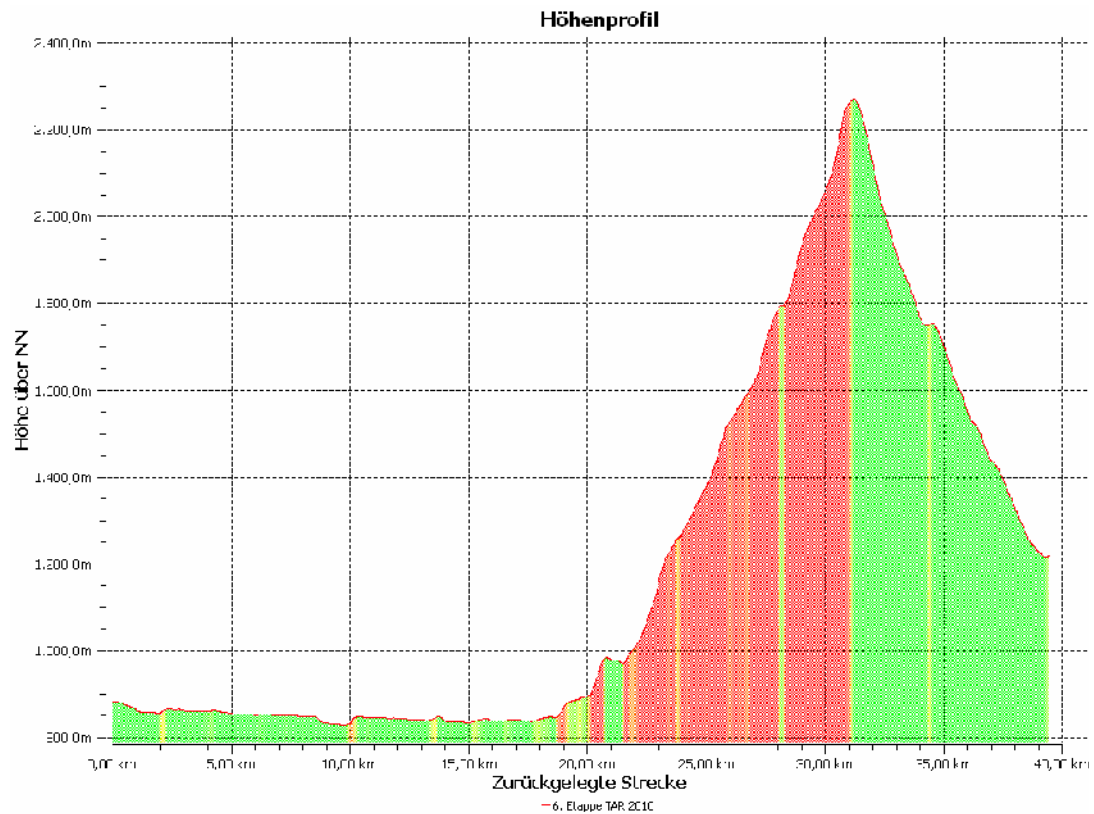
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yesterday's upset by TEAM AHRNTAL. The latter, local team around Peter Steinhauser and Franz Josef Bergmeister still managed to come in third position, trailing by less than two minutes (04:42.52) and advancing to fourth position in their category.

**Today's Trails:**

Horizontal distance: 39.7 km, vertical gain: 1,512 m, vertical descent: 1,193 m.



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