

Orte

St. Ulrich, 04. September 2010

Stage Results, Day 1: Ruhpolding (GER) – St Ulrich (AUT)

Repeat performance by Andrew Symonds and Tom Owens

British racers Andrew Symonds and Tom Owens of "SALOMON TRAIL TEAM" clocked in after 02:48.29 hours at the finish line on this first of eight days of grueling running. Handily winning the first stage, the two athletes repeated last year's feat by laying down the line once again with upping an already blistering pace towards the end. Tom Owens shared that "despite it being a hard day, we felt good and didn't have any problems with the technical sections". His teammate Andrew added that "it was good weather for running. The rain stopped eventually and it was pleasant not to be sweating much". The next days will show whether they were able to intimidate their most immediate competition with their inaugural performance. After all, there is a strong field of runners on their heels and second-ranking Matthias Dippacher and Christian Stork ("ORTHOMOL SPORT TEAM) managed to reach St. Ulrich in only 02:56.25 hours. Losing less than eight minutes on the leaders gained the German team a comfy position on the podium. Third in place were newcomers Brenton Knight and Brandon Newbould (TEAM SKINNY RAVEN, USA, 03:00.14 hours) who spent little more than three hours on the trail.

Well known faces lead the Masters

Last year's victors of the Master category Thomas Miksch and Philipp Anton of "BLT LAUFSPORT SAUKEL-HAGLÖFS" also managed to distance themselves from their closest contenders today with a winning time of 03:05.05 hours. Their lead of 20 minutes ahead of the Spaniards Juanjo Checa Alonso und Rodriguez Bustillo of "TEAM BUFF" (03:25.52) will allow them to start from a relatively comfortable position tomorrow morning. Nonetheless, the Spanish team definitely has to be reckoned with and today's third-ranking team MTP-Hersbruck around Sven Guis and Werner Haas (03:29.33) could also put a sizeable dent into the leader's headway.

Angela Mudge claims top position with new teammate

She was the fastest woman in 2009 on the trail, beat countless men's teams along the way and started off today on the 2010 GORE-TEX®



Orte



TRANSALPINE-RUN without beating an eye at the strong competition. Angela Mudge and her new running partner Chunky Liston, members of the British "SALOMON TRAIL TEAM", clearly didn't have any intention of dilly-dallying along today's wet trails. Their winning time of 03:09.34 hours gave them a lead of over 20 minutes on the strong, second-placing South Africans Linda Doke and Ryan Sanders (SALOMON / VELOCITY SPORTS LAB, 03:20.02). Not exactly right on their backs but close enough to be a worry were Seppi Neuhauser and Gaby Steigmeier (TEAM SALOMON, both old hands at this race, who ran to third place in 03:21.35 hours and will be a definite force to be reckoned with.

Familiar Italian Faces win Women's Category

Martina Pfeifhofer and Elisabeth Egarter of TEAM SEXTEN SALOMON (03:47.58), overall winners of the race in 2009, claimed victory on this first stage – a familiar position for the two veteran runners at the GORE-TEX® TRANSALPINE-RUN. Nonetheless, the two had some serious competition to contend with. Fellow Italians Irene Senfter and Edeltraud Thaler (03:51.27) remained a proverbial pain in the neck for the leaders allowing for no lull in an already brutally high pace. Although they lost over three minutes on the leaders, they secured second place by staying nearly six minutes ahead of the third arrivals at the finish line. Germans Gitti Schiebel and Eva Übelhör (TEAM MOUNTAIN HEROES) ended the day as the third team on the podium with their respectable time of 03:57.17 hours.

No slouches among the Senior Master Men

Age certainly is no detriment in running as the Senior Master Men demonstrated today. With a cumulative age of at least a century, the leaders in this newly introduced category not only brought experience but also phenomenal speed to the stage. Germans Gerald Blumrich and Jörg Schreiber of TEAM TRAIL MAGAZIN put on a blistering pace, winning in 03:39.49 hours and dusting many peers half their age. Close on their heels was TEAM EYBL LINZ-GORE-TEX EXPERTS (Alois Puchner and Wolfgang Lugner), two Austrian whirlwinds who took only 03:34.47 hours on today's 33 kilometer-long stage. Spaniards Francisco Perez and Mariano Ruiz Fernandez (TEAM AVIENTU 3, 03:46.59) claimed third place.



Orte

Today's Trails

Horizontal distance: 36.30 km, vertical gain: 1,223 m, vertical descent: 1,034 m.

The inaugural stage of the 2010 GORE-TEX® TRANSPINE-RUN was "an apt warm-up" for the challenges ahead, according to Trail Director Wolfgang Pohl. His prediction that today's "ideal temperatures" would allow the leading teams to cover the distance and vertical gain in no more than three hours proved to be correct. The leaders' times were all the more impressive since heavy rains had drenched the trails rendering the odd technical section along the way to be quite challenging. However, runners were able to salt away much-needed energy for tomorrow's stage, which will be quite a bit more demanding in terms of vertical gain.

