

Riva del Garda, July 26th, 2008



MEDIA INFORMATON

Team Bulls defends title and wins last stage / Masters from Team KTM with hat trick / Rocky Mountain top ladies

On the last stage of the 2008 JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP powered by NISSAN which led from Andalo to Riva del Garda, Karl Platt and Stefan Sahm have impressively underlined why they kept hold on their title with good reason. Team Bulls mastered the eight part of this year's Alpes crossing race with its 60.72 kilometres and 1,454 metres of elevation gain in 2:30:03.8 hours. In total, both pros pedalled 29:59:25.6 hours travelling 665.40 kilometres peppered with 21,691 metres of elevation gain and 20 saddles.

Overall runner-ups Martin Kraler and Heinz Verbnjak from Craft and Friends / mountainbiker.at came in second (2:35:04.5). Alexander Pscheidl and Christian Schneidawind were successful in the sprint for third rounding out today's podium (2:37:38.1). But in the overall ranking, Andreas Strobel and Markus Kaufmann from Vaude-Simplon 1 who finished twelfth today claimed the third spot.

Like four times this week before, Team Bulls – due to its outstanding downhill skills – were all alone for a long time at their fifth stage win. But actually “we had not planned to attack. But Karl was getting angry somehow as the pace was so slow” explained Stefan Sahm the change of mind on the track. “We are absolutely stoked. Winning the final stage as the overall leaders is a fantastic feeling. Stage races are made for us” said “Sahmurai”.

The 31-years-old Moessing resident further on: “It was a dream of a stage today although the last downhill was very hard to ride. I really had some problems as my arms cramped a bit.” His team mate Karl Platt, who won his fifth consecutive Transalp, only had to add: “I was looking forward to this downhill but I hardly could hold my handle bar. I had to change fingers in order to pull the breaks.”

Both successful defending champions also received credit by defeated Craft and Friends / mountainbiker.at-team. “We had a lot of bad luck this week, struggling with tyre and chain defects but they were definitely better” said Martin Kraler. “Next year, we will try to beat them.” His partner Heinz Verbnjak stated: “In 2009, we will sound the attack.”

Team KTM with title hat trick

After 2006 and 2007, Ekkehard Doerschlag and Heinz Zoerweg are once again on top of the master podium of the JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP powered by NISSAN who was according to Doerschlag “an ideal Transalp for us.” Team KTM secured also their eighth day victory (2:37:43.7) and therefore won eight out of eight stages keeping a clean slate. As runner-ups followed overall second placed Walter Platzgummer and Johann Grasegger from Scott-adidas-Naturns (2:43:19.2) right ahead of Team Generali consisting of Siegfried Hochenwarter and Georg Koch (2:43:33.8).

Also for 2009, all master pairings will have to face another attempt of the two Austrians as Heinz Zoerweg pointed out: “With a partner like Ekkehard, I will race next year's Transalp for sure.”



Rocky Mountain victorious in ladies' classification

Alison Sydor and Pia Sundstedt are the 2008 Transalp Queens. After 2:59:16.4 hours, the top bikers from Rocky Mountain crossed the finish line by foot after they had stopped racing just a few metres before. No wonder as both world class athletes already had gained a lead of nine minutes until the food station over their chasers Anna-Sofie and Kristine Norgaard who had won yesterday's stage. So, the sisters weren't able to block off the seventh day triumph of the Canadian-Finnish pairing.

But still, the Danes claimed today's second spot (3:09:37.1) as well as the runner-up rank in the overall table. The Giant Swiss Ladies Barbara Merkofer and Margrit Joerg jumped on the day podium for the first time as third (3:17:57.3).

"It was a perfect ending" explained Alison Sydor. "It was a tough and long week with some ups and downs. But we rode very well together and were able to gain a gap almost every day. This was very satisfying" said the Canadian who took home Silver from the 1996 Olympics.

Milena Landtwing and Werner Fischer best mixed pairing

Like in all other categories, the leaders of the mixed classification also claimed victory on the last stage. Institut Ftan/Velo Franz Univega reached Riva del Garda in 2:54.32.3 hours. Team Stoeckli Waedenswil consisting of Anita Steiner and Cornel Bamert who were able to beat the bearers of the Orange Jerseys once rolled in second (3:00:30.5). Today's podium was rounded out by New Zealand's Jon Richardson and Sara MacDonald from R&R Sport (3:17:57.3).

"It was a tough week. I'm pretty exhausted but also very happy" summarised Milena Landtwing. Her partner Werner Fischer added: "There is nothing better. It was just a perfect week."

Eight stage wins for the Green Jerseys

Also on the last stage of the JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP 2008 powered by NISSAN, Ferdinand Ganser and Georg Niggli dominated the senior master classification. The team ept connect needed only 2:57:43.3 hours from Andalo to Lake Garda. "It was a fantastic week. Despite some defects everything went fine. We took a high risk but won everything" said Ganser who had to ride almost today's whole course without a front break. "I just can suggest everyone to do this Transalp with a GPS."

Right after the serial senior master winners Canadians Bill Benson and Don Sissons from Team Syngenta Prairie Boys placed second (3:00:05.4). The Giant Swiss D'Uerner Oldies Walter Ehrler and Marcel Arnold finished third (3:02:39.9).

Please note that photo images free of charge are available soon after each stage finish in the media area on www.bike-transalp.de and <http://media.delius-klasing.de>.

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