

Extreme sport stars battle for outdoortrophy

Only ten more days: On August 14, 160 top international athletes will fight for victory at the ninth edition of the outdoortrophy in Lingenau/Vorarlberg (Austria).

Lingenau (August 4, 2010) – The most spectacular extreme sports event of the summer is ten days away: The world elite of outdoor sport will be hosted at the ninth edition of the relay competition outdoortrophy on August 14th in Lingenau (Bregenzerwald, Austria), with events of mountain running, paragliding, whitewater kayaking, and mountain biking. The mountain running world champion Helmut Schiessl (Germany) has registered, and so have: Zermatt Marathon winner Gerd Frick (Italy), serial paragliding winner Markus Prantl (Italy), multiple Venezuelan paragliding national champion Joanna di Grigoli, rafting world champion Thomas Funke (Germany), multiple Austrian kayaking national champion Gerhard Schmid, who also placed third at the world championship, whitewater vice world champion Manuel Filzwieser (Austria), as well as the exceptional mountain biker Jaroslav Kulhavy (Czech Republic), cross-country national champion Hannes Metzler (Austria), Trans Rockies winner Silvio Wietlschnig (Austria), and many more. This year, a total of 40 teams have accepted the epic challenge – including four women-only teams and five company teams.

Unofficial outdoor world championship

The outdoortrophy is known in the outdoor scene as one of the toughest races in the world. The route is immensely challenging: The start is a 15-kilometer mountain run with an altitude gain of no less than 1400 meters that must be overcome. Once the runners reach Niedere, it is action time for the paragliders. After a short running section, they launch themselves downward in the direction of the Andelsbuch power station. They circle around a buoy before they are required to make a precision landing in the target zone. After a four-meter-high cliff start, the third athlete must fight through the Bregenzerache River's rapids, negotiate a waterfall and a slalom with an Eskimo Roll, before athlete number four takes over the last leg on a mountain bike. The bike route also requires unbridled fighting spirit: steep inclines, demanding bike-carrying passages, and rapid downhill alternate with each other. In addition to the pro and amateur rankings (men and women), company teams have their own rankings.

Extreme party

While the 160 athletes, as well as the organizers together with 160 volunteers are involved in their final preparations, people hungry for a party should get ready, too. The now legendary outdoor night at the High 5 Center follows the competition. The big band *Die dicken Kinder* (The Fat Children) will create just the right atmosphere. A shuttle bus will ensure smooth transportation between the Lingenau Käsekeller and the High 5 Center.

Close to the action

For spectators along the course, the outdoortrophy is a very special athletic event. They can be close to the action during all of the outdoortrophy's four events and follow the athletes' unbelievable performances. The starting signal for the outdoortrophy will sound on August 14 at 10:10 a.m. at the village centre of Egg for the first time. Fans can cheer on the athletes not just at the start of the mountain run in Egg, and shortly thereafter along the mountain running course (Ittensberg, Fimmelpe, Guntenalpe, and Niedere), but also at the paragliding landing site and the kayak cliff start at the Fischteich at the Andelsbuch power station (11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.). Another location is the High 5 Center in the old Lingenau train station (handoff of kayak to mountain bike and mountain bike finish from 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.). A new time-tracking system allows sport enthusiasts to precisely follow each athlete's location on plasma screens in the High 5 Center.

Visits to the outdoortrophy are free during the day. It's best to purchase tickets for the outdoor night (10 euros) beforehand. Advance tickets are available at all HYPO Landesbank Vorarlberg branches. For information about the relay competition and outdoor night, see: www.outdoortrophy.com!

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