

Kaltern, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009



## RACE INFORMATION

### Team Bulls 2 clinches masses sprint / First stage triumph for Dietsch and Boehme / Rocky Mountain lucky mixed winners

Thomas Dietsch (FRA) and Tim Boehme from Team Bulls 2 have won the sixth stage of the 2009 JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP powered by NISSAN, which led over 77.40 kilometres and 3,173 metres of elevation gain from Sarnthein to Kaltern, in a time of 4:00:09.8 hours. The bearers of the Yellow Jersey, Lukas Buchli and Thomas Stoll (both SUI) from BiXS iXS Pro Team (4:00:10.1) and the runner-ups in the elite category Hannes Genze and Andreas Kugler (SUI) from Multivan Merida Biking Team (4:00:11.6) sprinted to second and third rank respectively.

But before, it didn't seem to work out for their first Transalp stage win as Thomas Dietsch and Tim Boehme had some serious problems in the final downhill section. About Matschatsch, shortly before their team's third food station, the third ranked bikers in the elite table had lost more than one minute on the top two pairings of this year's Alps crossing adventure due to a flat tyre.

It looked like another race catastrophe for the Bulls squad after a technical defect had buried Team Bulls 1 hopes for the stage win yesterday. But in contrary to the title defenders Karl Platt and Stefan Sahn, who had to quit the race this morning, the day ended with a happy end for the racing team. "About five kilometres before our food station I had a flat tyre and pedalled on without any air" Thomas Dietsch remembered. "It was so slippery that I'm really glad nothing serious happened."

On the last kilometres the French-Germany pairing hit the pedal to the metal. "We didn't have anything to lose anyway" Dietsch said. His team partner Tim Boehme added: "It's a nice compensation for the whole team after Karl (Platt) had to give up due to his injury. We dedicate this win to him." However, it was a "very nice feeling" for the 27-year-old "to win this stage. Especially as I wasn't sure if I could start this year at all because I was ill on Tuesday before the Transalp start was scheduled" explained the three-time Transalp participant after his first ever stage win.

#### Duel for title remains a close one

Their phenomenal hunt to catch up was also supported by the fact that the two top pairings in front, which are still battling it out for the title, were busy with themselves. "At the end we kind of enjoyed the trails" Thomas Stoll said. But the BiXS iXS Pro Team member also stated "that we were in control of the race until the second climb. We raced true to the motto that attack is the best form of defence. This worked out pretty well."

However, the both Swiss athletes in the Yellow Leader Jerseys also had to handle a moment of shock when Hannes Genze, part of the so far – with a deficit of only 1:53 minutes – second ranked Multivan Merida Biking Team, took over the work in front. It seems that the 2005 European Champion has coped with his yesterday's crash the best possible way as the 27-year-old presented himself self-confident again: "I wanted to show that I'm back to business again and that both have to fear us again. It's not over yet!"

Due to this challenging declaration of war the last two stages from Kaltern via Andalo into the finish at Lake Garda, which is traditionally hosted in Riva, promise to keep everyone on the edge of their seat.



### Mixed leaders with blessing in disguise

Although they have added another triumph to their 2009 winning streak (4:51:48.6), the Rocky Mountain riders Alison Sydor (CAN) and Daniel Gathof were lucky that things didn't turn out worse as they clinched their fifth victory in an unusual manner. About two kilometres before the finish line in Kaltern 26-year-old Gathof had lost his right pedal: "I crashed pretty pointy-headed in the pushing section and rode one very one-sided in the downhill. I guess the pedal became slack there. Thus I had to run uphill to the finish."

And Gathof did this right fast enough as Switzerland's Anita Steiner and Sepp Fischli from Stoeckli Craft/Fischli Bikes followed very close with a deficit of less than one minute (4:52:44.2). Swiss Margrit Joerg and Roland Abaecherli from Giant-Swiss-Mixed rounded came in third in a time of 5:05:06.6 hours thus relegating so far third ranked mixed-pairing Sebamed consisting of Steffi Hadraschek and Martin Jochem by only 31 seconds out of the top-3 in the table.

### Team KTM unstoppable in the master category

With their fourth stage win, Ekkehard Doerschlag and Heinz Zoerweg have underlined once again their outstanding position in the classifier for the teams with a total age between 80 and 100 years. The two Austrians mastered the stage from Sarnthein to Kaltern in 4:11:51.8 hours, 8:30 minutes ahead of the second best team in the master category Scott-Adidas with Walter Platzgummer (ITA) and Johann Grasegger (4:20:22.5). Italy's Silvano Janes and Stephan Unterthurner from Petrovilla Bergner Bau RTTR rounded out the podium as third (4:23:16.0).

Due to their performance today, Doerschlag/Zoerweg extended their overall lead to 25 minutes and thus aim for the Transalp four-peat! Especially as their tactic worked out fine and both were able to control their contenders. "We had planned to attack at the second climb. We did so and just broke off in our own pace" Heinz Zoerweg said. In addition, the 46-year-old pointed out that "if we don't have a major technical problem on the course or one of us goes down badly I guess we wrap things up in Riva."

### Rothaus-Cube ladies keep their clean slate

On the ladies' side, Milena Landtwing (SUI) and Kristine Noorgard (DAN) have also claimed victory on the sixth stage (5:06:16.3). About five minutes later than the strongest women team in the field Peggy Klose and Claudia Till from Zwillingcraft 1 secured the second spot (5:11:03.3). Another seven minutes later, Susann Oehring and Katrin Neumann from Fi'zi:k Ti:m finished the race as third (5:18:10.0).

### Ganser/Niggli with fifth stage win in senior master category

In the classification for the teams which have a total age between 80 and 100 years, the Green jerseys gave another prove of their strength. Ferdinand Ganser and Georg Niggli mastered the sixth out of eight race days in 4:54:20.8 hours. As second senior master pairing Craig Peacock and Hans Dielacher from Merida Flight Centre rolled in the finish (5:12:12.5). Switzerland's Ueli Schuermann and Hanspeter Hunziker from Long Time Biker V-Sport.ch placed third (5:27:22.6).



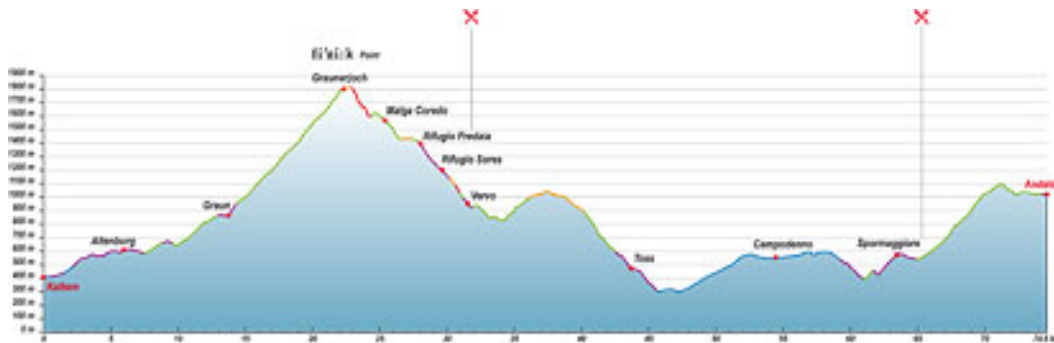
### Preview 7<sup>th</sup> stage: Kaltern (ITA) – Andalo (ITA)

The second to last stage might not be the longest one but is peppered with a lot of metres of elevation gain again due to two climbs. A total of 74.63 kilometres and 3,007 metres of elevation gain have to be mastered on the course from Kaltern to Andalo, a true summit finish.

Thus, it's the fourth time – and also the last time – that a stage came along with more than 3,000 metres of altitude. However, this time it's technically not as demanding as the last days. From the start on, the routing leads up to 1,800 metres where the Graunerjoch offers a very nice scenery and outstanding panorama views in the South Tyrolean Lowlands.

After a smooth trail down to Vervo some soft forest roads bring the peloton into the Valle di Non. At the end, a steep 800 metres of altitude climb up to Andalo, the week's only summit finish, has to be conquered.

### Tomorrow's stage profile:



More information can be found on [www.bike-transalp.de](http://www.bike-transalp.de). Or contact:

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