

Andalo, July 24th, 2009



RACE INFORMATION

Buchli/Stoll extend lead in the battle for the title with second stage win / Team KTM and Rothaus-Cube are on target for title in Master and Women category / Drop-outs in Mixed ranking

Due to their second stage win at the 2009 JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP powered by NISSAN, Switzerland's Lukas Buchli and Thomas Stoll have impressively underlined their ambition to bring home the Transalp crown. The bearers of the Yellow Jerseys from BIXS iXS Pro Team mastered the 74.63 kilometres and 3,007 metres of elevation gain from Kaltern to Andalo in 3:31:05.2 hours. Hannes Genze and Andreas Kugler (SUI) came in second (3:32:14.7). The Multivan Merida Biking Team thus still remains the only serious contender in the battle for the title having summed up a deficit of 3:04 minutes before tomorrow's final stage to Riva del Garda. Carsten Bresser and Volker Ordowski from Rocky Mountain celebrated their week's first podium result as third (3:36:56.0).

The final climb of today's stage up to Andalo – the 2009 Transalp's only real summit finish – was decisive for the victory and the extension of the lead in the race for the title. Right in the beginning of the ascent, the 2008 Swiss Champion and the 2006 European Champion broke off and rode away gaining a lead throughout the last 800 metres of elevation gain of more than one minute on Genze/Kugler.

It was a planned attack, which Lukas Buchli had announced the evening before. "It's a very good feeling that we were able to achieve what we had in mind for today. That's amazing." However, the 30-year-old who participates in the JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP powered by NISSAN for the first time also knows that it's not over yet. "A defect can always show up. So, it's the most important thing to choose the right equipment for tomorrow. But we hope that we will be able to bring home the lead and celebrate in Riva del Garda."

Compliments from competitors

Despite a bitter defeat which enlarged the deficit in the battle for the 2009 Transalp crown, Multivan Merida Biking Team member Andreas Kugler showed some class giving out props for the winners. The 2005 European Championships runner-up stated: "At the moment, both are simply the best in the climbs. In addition, they had some very good support along the flat parts of the course at this very hot day. I think this was the decisive factor."

However, the 29-year-old doesn't think that it's over and done with: "We will see what happens tomorrow. But if you have a technical problem you can lose a lot of time. A lot of things can happen."

Team KTM with another stage win

Ekkehard Doerschlag and Heinz Zoerweg have also dominated the seventh day. The title winners in the master category of 2006, 2007 and 2008 secured their fifth stage win in 3:46:59.7 hours. Shortly behind of the bearers of the Blue Jerseys from Team KTM Italy's Silvano Janes and Stephan Unterthurner from Petrovilla Bergner Bau RTRR followed as second (3:48:20.6). About 50 seconds later, Walter Platzgummer (ITA) and Johann Grasegger from Scott-Adidas followed in a time of 3:49:09.9 hours.



Injuries and capitulations whirled mixed classification

The sixth consecutive stage win of team Rocky Mountain with Alison Sydor (CAN) and Daniel Gathof, who crossed the finish line as first mixed pairing in 4:22:51.2 hours was darkened by the fact that Anita Steiner had to be brought to hospital due to an injury which she had suffered in a crash. Besides the Swiss rider from Stoeckli Craft/Fischli Bikes, who was sitting in second position of the mixed ranking together with her partner Sepp Fischli, Steffi Hadraschek of so far fourth ranked duo Sebamed had also to strike her flag due to a cold. The team mate from Martin Jochem explained very disappointed: "I simply can't ride anymore. It doesn't make any sense."

Because of the prominent drop-outs today's second and third placed duos Daniela Storch and Alexander Stark from Scott Genius-Generation (4:30:17.3) as well as Switzerland's Margrit Joerg and Roland Abaecherli from Giant-Swiss-Mixed are now ranked third and second in the mixed classification respectively.

Rothaus-Cube ladies don't show any weakness

The bearers of the Pink Jerseys have once again proved that the ladies' Transalp win shall be a plain sailing for the Rothaus-Cube duo. Milena Landtwing (SUI) and her Danish partner Kristine Noorgard needed 4:29:01.0 hours for the second to last stage of the 2009 Transalp. 6:45 minutes later, Peggy Klose and Claudia Till from Zwillingcraft 1 followed as second ladies team (4:35:46.4). Kerstin Brachtendorf and Danièle Troesch (FRA) from Fiat-Rotwild rounded the podium as third (4:44:39.5).

Ganser/Niggel first senior masters in the finish

Like the days before, the pairing Ferdinand Ganser and Georg Niggel from Jeantex RSC Logwin Kempten extended their winning streak to six in a row! The dominating riders in the class of the teams with a total age of more than 100 years crossed the finish line in 4:22:48.6 hours. About 15 minutes behind of the bearers of the Green Jerseys, Ueli Schuermann and Hanspeter Hunziker from the Swiss team Long Time Bikers V-sport.ch came in (4:37:48.4). Australia's Craig Peacock and Hans Dielacher from Merida Flight Centre secured the third spot on the podium (4:42:23.3).

Preview final stage: Andalo (ITA) – Riva del Garda (ITA)

Short and very nice: The last stage from Andalo to Riva del Garda, which is hosting for the tenth time now the final finish, is something for bikers with top riding skills. And normally everyone is flying to Lake Garda on the last 60.60 kilometres and 1,451 metres of altitude of the week daring to get the precious finisher jersey.

After the passage to the wonderful Molveno Lake and the last climb of the race – the Passo San Giovanni – it's time for the culminating part of the tour: on a difficult meadows trail the participants head towards the finish.

Tomorrow's stage profile can be seen here:

www.bike-transalp.de/download/profile2009/JBT2009_08.pdf

More information can be found on www.bike-transalp.de. Or contact:

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