

Riva del Garda, July 25th, 2009



RACE INFORMATION

Buchli/Stoll clinch Transalp title / Genze/Kugler victorious on final stage / Landtwing/Noorgard fastest women pairing

Lukas Buchli and Thomas Stoll have won the 2009 JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP powered by NISSAN. Although the two BiXS iXS Pro Team riders lost about 11.6 seconds on the winners of the last stage from Andalo to Riva del Garda, Hannes Genze and Andreas Kugler (SUI) from Multivan Merida Biking Team, who had needed 2:33:10.1 hours for the 60.60 kilometres and 1,451 metres of elevation gain, the bearers of the Yellow Jerseys were the ones to finally triumph with a lead of 2:53 minutes in the overall ranking. The 2009 Transalp title holders mastered the total distance of 528 kilometres and 18,808 metres of elevation gain in the time of 23:42:28.6 hours. Thomas Dietsch (FRA) and Tim Boehme from Team Bulls 2 rounded out the overall podium as third after they had finished today's stage as fifth behind of the duos from Full Dynamix and Vaude Simplon.

In contrary to cycling stage races, where normally no one attacks the leader jerseys on the last race day anymore, Lukas Buchli and Thomas Stoll had to fight hard on the last kilometres of an exhausting race week. Their main contenders for the title didn't leave out any chance to start some powerful attacks.

Thus, the 2008 Swiss National Champion and the 2006 European Champion had to let go in the climb up to the last saddle of the week, the Passo San Giovanni. "We went full speed in the climb and broke of pretty quickly. But unfortunately I couldn't hold the pace throughout the whole ascent" Multivan Merida pilot Hannes Genze said.

Tough battle pays off

According to this, the two Swiss riders – who both had painted their helmets yellow so they fit the leader jerseys – were more than just glad. "They tried everything", Lukas Buchli said. "It was brutal. I'm so happy that it worked out. It's a fantastic feeling." His team mate Stoll added: "We fought tooth and nail. I haven't realised yet that we really did it. I guess I have to calm down my emotions a little bit."

Rothaus-Cube secures ladies' title

With their seventh consecutive stage win Milena Landtwing (SUI) and Kristine Noorgard (DAN) have impressively underlined their outstanding role in the ladies' competition. The Rothaus-Cube duo crossed the finish line at Lake Garda after 3:11:27.0 hours, about twelve minutes ahead of overall third ranked team Fi'Zi:k Ti:m consisting of Susann Oehring and Katrin Neumann (3:23:05.8). Today's third Kerstin Brachtendorf and Danièle Troesch from Fiat Rotwild (3:26:10.7) placed second in the overall ladies' ranking.

After their triumphing ride-in on the home straight, which was lined by many spectators, 2008 mixed title winner Milena Landtwing stated: "It is a different win but always nice although I have to get used to a new partner each year trying to find a rhythm."

A comment, which Kristine Noorgard could also have brought on the table. The Danish rider, who had finished in 2008 as runner-up in the women category with her sister Anna-Sofie explained: "It's weird to not race with my sister. But a race is a race. And you want to win it for sure!"



Team KTM clinches four-peat in the master category

Ekkehard Doerschlag and Heinz Zoerweg have secured their fourth consecutive Transalpe title in the master category. Austria's Team KTM, which rolled across the finish line as third today (2:46:13.1) thus claiming the title ahead of today's stage winners from Scott-Adidas (2:46:06.6) Walter Platzgummer (ITA) and Johann Grasegger as well as today's runner-ups from Italy Silvano Janes and Stephan Unterthurner who represent Petrovilla Bergner Bau RTTR (2:46:09.4)

"Our consistency was the key to success this year. We rode in a steady pace and never had a weak day" Ekkehard Doerschlag said pretty exhausted. He also added: "This victory is something very special as I never had to fight that much before. I never suffered that much."

Rocky Mountain wins mixed title

With a lead of 1.5 hours over the second ranked mixed duo in the table, Rocky Mountain riders Alison Sydor (CAN) and Daniel Gathof claimed their first joint title. Also both didn't secure their seventh stage win in a row at the 2009 JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP due to a deficit of 15 seconds (3:11:30.6) both were all smiles.

"It's a great feeling to ride in as champions. In order to make this happen we aimed for security today. We didn't take a risk at all and pedalled absolutely focused. We wanted to bring home this title" Daniel Gathof said right after the final stage which was won by Daniela Storch and Alexander Stark from Scott Genius-Generation (3:11:15.0). The two German young guns who celebrated their first Transalpe stage win also jumped on the overall podium as third – right behind of runner-ups from Switzerland Margrit Joerg and Roland Abaecherli from Giant-Swiss (3:18:27.2) who came in third today.

Senior Masters defend their title

Ferdinand Ganser and Georg Niggli kept hold on their 2008 title in an outstanding way. The two riders from Jeantex RSC Logwin Kempten grabbed victory on each stage needing only 3:08:06.8 hours for the last one. The bearers of the Green Jerseys were followed today by Per Kristian Greve and Bjarne Lien from Norway's Team Replica (3:14:47.6). Ueli Schuermann and Hanspeter Hunziker from Long Time Bikers V-Sport.ch rounded out the podium (3:21:12.9). The two Swiss oldies also placed third in the senior master category behind of Australia's Craig Peacock and Hans Dielacher from Merida Flight Centre.

"This year's title was definitely harder to achieve although the competition was not as strong as in 2008" explained Georg Niggli. "But the 2008 title is the more precious one as it was the first time ever we won at the Transalpe."

But those who would have thought that today would bring an easy ride to glory for the two riders from Germany were mistaken. "On the downhill from Passo San Giovanni the quick release opened and I lost my back wheel. Luckily we gained so much lead already throughout the whole week that we were relaxed enough to fix the problem. If it would have been a closer thing I bet we would have been frantic" Ferdinand Ganser pointed out.

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

Oliver Kraus
Press speaker JEANTEX BIKE TRANSALP powered by NISSAN
Cell: +49.172.8482114
Email: presse@bike-transalpe.de

