



MaXi-Race Trail international du lac d'Annecy

du 25 au 27 Mai 2018

Annecey, May 26, 2018

Mimmi Kotka gives the men a run for their money in the Ultra-Race, And in the MaXi-Race, individual victories for couple Grangier/Schide

The early morning light foreshadowed the beautiful day in store for all races scheduled this Saturday, May 26, including the most eagerly-awaited distances: the Ultra-Race (116 km and 7360m vertical gain) and the MaXi-Race (85 km and 5140m vertical gain). Among the 3888 runners (820 women) at the starting line for the day's races (the Ultra-Race, XXL-Race, MaXi-Race, R-Race 2 and 4, XL-Race, Femina-Race, and MaXi-O), 976 (40 women) stood bright eyed at 01:30 in the morning to embark on the long journey that is the Ultra-Race, and 1528 (134 women) set out on the MaXi-Race.

Ultra-Race

For this 2nd edition, race favorites set out in front from the start. The lead group included Yan Longfei (China), Julien Chorier (France), and the latter's countryman, Romain Olivier. Yesterday, during the pre-race presentation of the event's elite runners, talk was a buzz about the weekend's runner to be watched: women's favorite, Swede Mimmi Kotka. Although predictions were made, she came through even stronger than expected, outrunning almost the entire field. In 10th place overall at the first checkpoint, she put her head down to start moving up in the standings kilometer by kilometer. At km 64, she was in 6th place, just 33 minutes behind Romain Oliver, who took the lead at the 23km mark. Francesco Cucco (Italy) was in 2nd place just 14 minutes back, followed by Yan Longfei (China), who decided to throw in the towel in Doussard. At Chalet de l'Aulp, just 28km from the finish, Francesco Cucco took over the lead, with Romain Olivier in 2nd, and Mimmi Kotka in 3rd! *"The course is so long, I simply ran my race without worrying about what place I was in..."* explains Francesco, winner of this 2nd edition.

Today, everyone will remember Swede Mimmi Kotka's incredible performance! Climbing from 9th place, to 7th, 6th, 4th, and in the end she crossed the finish line in 3rd place overall to earn her place on the podium with the men. Mimmi Kotka first made a name for herself in 2016 when she won the CCC®; she won the TDS® in 2017. Today, the Swedish champ pushed beyond her limits, exceeded all expectations, and added an incredible win and performance to her list of achievements. *"Beautiful but really crazy,"* Mimmi explained, *"and typical of races in France, very technical."*

MaXi-Race

Right from the start, Vincent Viet (France), Jordi Gamito (Spain), and Germain Grangier (France) took control of the race, staying in the lead all the way to the finish. After the first few kilometers, Vincent and Jordi started to battle it out for 1st place, each taking turns in the lead. Halfway through the race, Vincent was just 2 minutes in front of the Spaniard. As if preparing an ambush, Germain, 3 minutes back, kept both leaders in his sights. Just 15km from the finish line, the lead group was still together, more than 20 minutes in front of the rest of the pack. It all came down to the final descent for Germain, who prevailed in front of Jordi and Vincent. *"Crafty like a fox, I stayed right behind Vincent and Jordi. After a waiting for 4 hours, I picked up the pace... My goal was to win! I had one difficult half-hour, but after watching them battle back and forth for first place... I decided to be patient and wait, and I won on the final descent."*

A great day for Germain, since his girlfriend, Katie Schide (USA) also placed 1st, running her race in the lead from start to finish. She finished 15th overall, and won the MaXi-Race 37'1" ahead of Camille Bruyas (France). Totally exhausted, after taking a few seconds to catch her breath, the young American runner admitted that, *"I'm so tired... this was a really tough course, I didn't expect it. But, I hope that this is just the beginning."* Maryline Nakache finished 3rd.

MaXi-O

The first edition of the MaXi-O proved an overwhelming success with 200 participants divided into 100 two-person teams. Caroline Chaverot (FR), who won the first edition of the Ultra-Race in 2017, won the first MaXi-O in the mixed-team category!

As of 17.30, no other women had finished the Ultra-Race, so the final results will be sent tomorrow. Next up, the Marathon, another one of the weekend's big races...

For all info: <https://www.maxi-race.net/en/france-home-page/>

Ultra-Race results

Scratch

- 1: Francesco CUCCO (IT) – in 15:01:08
- 2: Fabrice COUCHOUD (FR) – in 15:33:28
- 3: Mimmi KOTKA (SE) – in 15:51:01

MaXi-Race results

Men

- 1: Germain GRANGIER (FR) – in 09:31:13
- 2: Jordi GAMITO (ES) – in 09:38:43
- 3: Vincent VIET (FR) – in 09:46:52

Women

- 1: Katie SCHIDE (USA) – in 11:04:17
- 2: Camille BRUYAS (FR) – in 11:41:18
- 3: Maryline NAKACHE (FR) - in 11:42:28

RACE SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 27, 2018

- 06.30: Start for day 2 of the XL-Race and XXL-Race – Doussard
- 07.30: Start the Marathon-Race – Doussard
- 08.30 – Start for the Short-Race – Menthon-St-Bernard
- 10.00: MaXi-Village opens – Albigney Beach – Annecy-le-Vieux
- 10.00/14.00 Games in the Salomon tent to try to win prizes and Salomon running gifts
- 10.30: Salomon free trail-running workshop, "How to Trail Run"
- 11.00: Start for the kids' Mini-Race
- 14.00: Super drawing/raffle to determine the Salomon Games winner of the day
- 18.30: Final runners finish, races close
- 19.00: MaXi-Village closes

For all race information,
press kits, press releases, and press passes:
www.maxi-race.org

High-resolution photos:
<http://vu.fr/photos-presse-maxirace>
password: presse2018
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