



Great weather for a Basque victory in the Ultra-Race! Michel Lanne: MaXi-Race 3, 2, and now #1!

Annecy, May 25, 2019

Ultra-Race, twists and turns

The day began early, with the Ultra-Race starting as the clock struck midnight, and it turned out to be a long one for the main pack. Exactly 936 ultrarunners, including 38 women, took to the starting line in the dark hours of the night to run 115km and 7000 total vertical meters beneath menacing skies that alternated back and forth all day long between rays of sun and drops of rain.

During the first few kilometers, race favorites enjoyed a bit of friendly banter, taking advantage of the calm before the storm.

François d'Haene (FRA), Jason Schlarb (USA), Andrea Macchi (ITA), Kazufumi Ose (JPN), Patrick Bringer (FRA), all had what it takes for a spot on the podium. Starting off together at a fast pace for the first part of the course, the big surprise came at 06:00 in the morning when François d'Haene dropped out of the race. François quickly posted a reassuring update on Facebook, *"The first part of the race was going really well, I felt good, but I probably took the first big descent a bit too fast and my ankle gave out... I don't think it's badly sprained, but it hurt way too much to consider running the remaining 70km. I pushed a dozen or so kilometers further to see if my ankle improved, since I really don't like dropping out of a race – especially when I am in the lead- but it was too painful and too much of a gamble for the rest of my season. Sorry to cut things short like this, and my apologies to staff and race organizers who provided us with their unwavering support throughout the night..."*

Jason Schlarb (USA) and Unai Dorronsoro (ESP) took advantage of the situation as the two lead runners to build a huge lead. However, at one point organizers noticed an error on the course, a shortcut that saved them 15 minutes. To rectify the mistake and make the situation fair for everyone, the two runners agreed to a fifteen-minute Stop & Go at the 2nd aid station in Giez. In spite of it all, their considerable lead allowed them to remain in front. At Pas de l'Aulp (km 92), Unai led Jason by 5 minutes, and continued to increase his lead all the way to the finish line. *"I started slowly to conserve energy, letting the others run out ahead. At one point, when Jason slowed down, I was able to attack on the descent... I like the mud – I'm Basque – the mountains, and beautiful landscapes, so I felt just great."*

At 15:00 this Saturday, the battle continues for the top spot among the women. An international group of three runners - Ildiko Wermescher (HUN), followed by Denise Zimmermann (SUI) and Sandrine Béranger (FRA) - is in the lead.

MaXi-Race, Lanne, 3rd, 2nd, and now 1st!

The starting gun went off at 03:30 this morning, the same start time for the 2015 Trail World Championships, for the 1771 runners, including 135 women, who hoped to see the sunrise from the top of Mt. Semnoz. Even though the sun never showed up this morning, trail running fans were there to cheer everyone on!

At the top of the day's first big climb, the summit of Mt. Semnoz, the lead pack was running at a blistering pace: Michel Lanne (FRA), Vincent Viet (FRA), Canhua Luo (CHN), David Hauss (FRA), and Nathan Jovet (FRA). Very quickly, Michel Lanne took the lead, and kept it all the way to the finish line for his first victory here in Annecy after placing 3rd in 2016 and 2nd in 2017.

"I felt great from start to finish today. I was more comfortable on the descents than my fellow runners. At the beginning of the descent from Mt. Semnoz I started to build a lead. Then, all alone out in front, not knowing how far behind my competition was, it became a mental game. On the last descent from the top of Mt. Veyrier, which I know well, I gave it my all, thinking that the others still might be able to catch up."

Vincent Viet (FRA) crossed the finish line 20 minutes later, followed by Nicolas Duhail (FRA).

For the women, France's Marion Delespierre, 3rd at the 90km du Mont-Blanc, and 15th at the TDS in 2018, enjoyed her first victory at a major race, finishing in 10 hours 57 minutes. In the lead from start to finish, and 23rd overall, her pace continued to increase as the kilometers flew by; she ran 15km/hr over the last kilometer.

"I'm so happy since I started to bonk around km 60. The technical descents all along the course worked my legs and were tough to manage. Once on top of Mt. Veyrier I understood that I had a chance to win, and I'm really happy with my performance since my goal was to finish in the top 5!" Isabelle Dragon (FRA) and Virginia Olivero (ITA) finished in 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

For final times and results: <https://maxirace.livetrail.net/>

Salomon GORE TEX® MaXi-Race: 11 races

- Ultra-Race: 115km, 7000m vertical gain – The Ultra is limited to 1000 runners, 5 ITRA pts
- MaXi-Race: 82km, 5200m vertical gain – The flagship race is limited to 2000 runners, 4 ITRA pts
- XL-Race: 81km, 5200m vertical gain – Around the lake in 2 days
- XXL-Race: 117km in two days
- R-Race: 80km, 5200m vertical gain as a 2 or 4-person relay team – A challenge to share with others
- Marathon-Race: 40km, 2500m vertical gain – A half loop around Lake Annecy, limited to 2200 runners, 2 ITRA pts
- Femina-Race: 16km, 950m vertical gain - 100% for women only, limited to 600 runners
- Short-Race: 16km, 950m vertical gain – The gateway to trail running, [Stage on Mountain Running World Cup](#)
- Mini-Race: from 100m to 1km for 300 young runners
- MaXi-Orientation and Semi-Orientation

Sunday, May 26, 2019

05:30: Start for the Marathon Race

06:30: Start for the XL-Race and XXL-Race, Day 2 – *Doussard*

08:50: Lead runners finish – *Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux*

9:30 – 10:30: Registration for the Mini-Race for kids – *Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux*

11:00 – 11:50: Mini-Race for kids (see details on the Mini-Race page) – *Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux*

17:00: Last runner crosses the finish line, all races close – *Albigny Beach, Annecy-le-Vieux*

For all race information,

the press kit, press releases, and press passes:

www.maxi-race.org

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

Results, favorites, and info posted on: <https://maxirace.livetrail.net/>

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