



## Press release 2005-05-15

It has now been more than twenty four hours since the start, and most of the teams are doing good and looking strong. One team, Holofiber (CAN/FIN), has had to drop out of the race because of the girls problem with asthma. The three guys on the team decided to continue outside of the race.

After a long and hard 100 kilometre bike ride last night, on dirt roads and through snow, the teams switched to orienteering early on Sunday morning. First in from the orienteering was Team Nike at 02.12, shortly followed by Team Montrail and Team Salomon Suisse. Team Lundhags who were first out on the bike ride from TA 2 suffered a severe navigation mistake, and came in about 1 hour 15 minutes later.

Team GoLite, who were in the lead early on at the bike leg, has also had some problems with the girl in the team. She was very close to hypothermia when they arrived at TA 3, and had not eaten for quite a while. Reason was that they got lost in the forest for some time, carrying their bikes to find a short cut between one road and another. The docs ordered them to stop and rest, and they set out on the orienteering leg a little more than 4 hours behind the leaders.

Team Salomon Suisse came in as the fastest team on the orienteering section. They started out third, did some good navigational decisions, and managed to pass Montrail and Nike. Eating porridge from a plastic bag, team captain Alain commented on the orienteering section. "Nice course. Hard but with good light. We had some fun in the forest!" Salomon set out on the kayaking section a whole hour before Nike and Montrail, who were really close to each other. And Salomon has during the afternoon added to that lead by taking a smart short cut. Paddling is not their strongest side, and since there are many rapids in this section, they chose to drag their kayaks on the road, cutting past a large section of the river.

At a large rapid in Volgsele, there was a mandatory scout of the rapid. As Team Nike saw the rapid they chose to drag their kayaks around it in the forest. So did Team Montrail, only a few minutes behind. And when Team Cross, circus 20 minutes behind, heard that Montrail and Nike had portaged around, they did not even bother to scout the rapid. Up and away in the forest, faster than both Montrail and Nike.

The strong but maybe least experienced team in the race, Team Nomad (US), had some bad luck during the bike leg. Twenty kilometres into the bike leg one of their bike pedals broke and the rest of the leg they had to take turns towing each other and pedalling with one leg. "We don't need things breaking in a race like this when we are the slowest team anyway," said captain Scott Cole. They also had a paddle break in the rapids as one of their kayaks flipped and they tried to brace against the rocks. Even with these hardships the team was in a good mood. Grant, the joker of the team was looking back to the beginning of the race. "The mountaineering was awesome! It was loads of fun!" They set out on the orienteering leg, two hours behind the second last team, Tscherning-Loberen (DNK).

As of now, all teams has finished the orienteering section and are out on the river on their way to Vilhelmina. In writing second Team Salomon makes their way into TA 4 to change to mountain biking.

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