



Press release 2005-05-16

We are now into the third day of racing. The weather is still chilly, with a light wind blowing. Teams are cold and wear lots of clothes on all the sections.

There are now three teams that have withdrawn from the race. Team Holofiber yesterday, and team GoLite and Nike today. Michael Tobin in team Nike has felt ill since the start of the race. During the bike leg he had to be towed by his team mates, unable to pedal. "I'm suffering really bad, but you have to tell me if I look too bad. We are not going to withdraw." But during the orienteering section around lunch today he could not go any further and his team mates had to continue unranked. Aaron Prince in GoLite has not been able to keep any food and they had to withdraw from the race early this morning.

Also the leading team for many hours, Team Salomon Suisse, has had some problems with a team mate feeling ill. They were first in from the orienteering section this morning at 09.35, but had to stay and rest at the TA for many hours.

During that time Team Cross Sportswear, who were second on the orienteering leg, caught up to Salomon, made a fast transition and set off on the second last bike leg to Saxnäs, 127 kilometres long. Cross seemed to be feeling strong and were in a good mood. There will be a five hour mandatory sleep/medical check in Saxnäs before the mountaineering/ski section.

Third in from the orienteering was Team Lundhags. They came in just a few minutes before Cross left, hurried in the TA and set off to chase Cross. This will be an interesting race with two really strong Swedish teams in the lead.

American Team Nomad came in from the kayak section, as the very last team after Danish Team Tscherning-Loberen. They were still in a good mood arriving at the TA, but were fighting the sleep monsters. Wet and cold with ice on their kayaks they had struggled with the rapids for quite some time. After some food and sleep at the TA, they set off at the bike section. According to the volunteers they are the happiest team in the race, even after some hardships.

For further information please visit www.exploresweden.se or contact Media Manager Stefan Nordström +46 70 642 1910.

