



Press release 2005-05-19

Final day of Explore Sweden. The last team finished the race early this morning. Team Sole crossed the finish line at 20.48 last night, and Team Nomad, who had gotten the cut off stretched so they would be able to finish, came in at 06.47 this morning. Very tired and haunted by sleep monsters, after having raced for 114 hours and 47 minutes, but happy to finally have finished the race.

The teams are now packing their gear in the warming sun on the parking lot in Kittelfjäll. Tons of wet and dirty gear that needs to be stuffed into boxes for making the flights back to their home countries.

This years edition of Explore Sweden has been a very cold one. The teams have been freezing pretty much all through the course, especially on the kayak section when many of them flipped and took a swim in the cold rapids. Rebecca Rush in Team Montrail was no exception; "I was so cold, I could hardly sign my name when we came in to the TA!" Explore Sweden is not a race for everyone, and she is sure that that reputation has been cemented now and that more of the best teams in the world will come next year. "I will for sure come again next year!"

Rebecca Rush's Team Montrail placed fifth at Explore Sweden 2005. Maybe not the teams greatest performance, but she herself had one of the best races ever. "It was so cool! Most beautiful course ever, across frozen lakes, over mountains and through the forests," said Rebecca later in the afternoon when they had finished the race and gotten some much needed sleep.

Race directors Helena Lind and Mikael Nordström would like to thank the participating teams, volunteers and local people that have helped the race come true. A special thanks to destination partners Hotel Kittelfjäll, Saxnäsgården, Lappuddens Vildmarkscamping, Kolgårdens camping in Vilhelmina and Vandrårhemmet Järja in Storsole. A very big thank you to all the sponsors, especially Haglöf's, Petzl, Red Bull and Montrail. Also a thanks to the media that have followed the race around.

Tonight is the big banquet, party and price ceremony, where Team Cross Sportswear, winners of Explore Sweden 2005, will receive the check of 10 000EUR.

There will be an additional press release later tonight, approximately at 19.00, with some very important information.

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