



WIN FOR PURE ENCAPSULATIONS AT 30TH RED BULL DOLOMITENMANN

Red Bull Dolomitenmann | 9 September 2017 – Lienz

The 30th edition of the Red Bull Dolomitenmann again lived up to its billing as the world's toughest relay contest and pushed its participants to the limit once more. Amid dry yet windy conditions, the Pure Encapsulations team conquered the challenges best of all to triumph for a third time. In second and third were the Kolland Topsport Professional and Kleine Zeitung Panaceo Martini Sportswear teams. There were just a few minutes separating the front three teams at the end after the lead changed hands several times.

Following weeks of intensive preparations, the world's toughest team event was held for the 30th time on 9 September. Extreme sportsmen from all corners of the world took on the Red Bull Dolomitenmann again, with the contest proving to be another highlight of the year that tested the teams to the max in all four sports. In windy autumnal weather, the likes of Toni Palzer, Alban Lakata, Andreas Goldberger, Paul Guschlbauer, Harald Hudetz and Benjamin Karl battled right to the end in a keenly contested affair. 40,000 spectators lining the course did their own bit in making the anniversary edition of the Red Bull Dolomitenmann a complete success – as another ultimate team event.

At 10 o'clock on the dot, the starting shot was fired on the 30th Red Bull Dolomitenmann as usual by Mr. Dolomitenmann, Werner Grissmann. 130 mountain runners ground their way up from the main square in Lienz to the Kühbodentörl at 1800 metres altitude under the gaze of numerous spectators. After three kilometres of flat ground, the runners were confronted with the Goggsteig climb, which pushed them right to the limit from the start. After Toni Palzer (GER) had rushed in front in a courageous start, Philip Götsch of Pure Encapsulations soon took the lead, and set the pace for some time among the elite runners. By the fourth refreshment station, last year's winner Mamu Petro (ERI) was able to overtake him, however – and he would not be dislodged from the front. Petro clocked a marvellous time of 1:22:03 for Kleine Zeitung Panaceo Martini Sportswear, ahead of Philip Götsch in 1:22:39 and Toni Palzer of Team Red Bull, who handed over with 1:23:50 up. Andreas Goldberger from the Wings for Life Team performed impressively in his final time in the event, completing the run in 1:49:45.

Due to the unsettled weather conditions, the paragliders unfortunately had to start from the Moosalm this year instead of the Kühbodentörl. The paraglider pilots were informed by the race organisers when their mountain runners had crossed the finish line and sent into action in front of thousands of fascinated spectators. It wasn't easy in the conditions, but Markus Prantl of the Pure Encapsulations team managed the short flight better than anyone else, overtaking his rival from the Kleine Zeitung Panaceo Martini Sportswear team to be the first man to the Dolomiten Stadium. There to greet him was a spectacular crowd of thousands, who enjoyed the exciting sporting contest along with a packed side programme that featured the Red Bull Skydive Teams, Streetstyle Soccer star Martin Schopf and much more. Prantl sprinted to hand over to his team-mate Tony Longo (ITA) first, but hot on his heels were Lorenz Peer of Kleine Zeitung Panaceo Martini Sportswear and Red Bull X-Alps contestant Paul Guschlbauer of Team Red Bull.

The mountain bikers were showered in applause as they left the Dolomiten Stadium to head up the mountains. They had 1500 metres of altitude to gain this year in reaching the Hochsteinkreuz – including sections where they had to carry their bikes.

While Tony Longo and Kristian Hynek (CZE) were able to make their experience count in front, the pack behind them was shuffled. Daniel Geismayr of Kolland Topsport Professional and Samuele Porro (ITA) of Kolland Topsport International were able to move up a few positions and send mountain bike marathon world champion Alban Lakata of the Red Bull team down to fifth.

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The kayakers then had a short run to complete before taking a seven-metre jump into the gushing Drava River. A number of sections where they had to carry their kayaks and torturous uphill sections pushed every last drop of effort out of the athletes. Gerhard Schmid was first into the water for Pure Encapsulations, and he put in a top performance to keep Manuel Filzwieser a distance away after he had started just behind. Schmid was able to extend his team's lead a little by the end and collapse exhausted into the arms of his delighted team-mates with an overall time of 3:50:57. A battle for second place raged behind him with Kolland Topsport Professional prevailing thanks to an outstanding performance from Herwig Natmessnig that sent Kleine Zeitung Panaceo Martini Sportswear into third. Defending champions Red Bull - with Toni Palzer, Paul Guschlbauer, Alban Lakata and Harald Hudetz - gave their all again in the 30th Red Bull Dolomitenmann but had to be content with fifth place. The 30th edition of the Red Bull Dolomitenmann saw a thrilling overall battle as well as exciting individual legs, with the lead changing hands and the outcome remaining closely contested right to the end.

Views from the 30th Red Bull Dolomitenmann

Werner Grissmann: "The weather this morning was extremely unsettled. The forecast was very good initially, but then came the fog and wind. Thank God we were able to move the paragliding start to Moosalm. From that point on, the event went by without any major hiccups, with perfect weather and tens of thousands of spectators. It makes me proud that so many top-class athletes got together in these teams and came to do battle in Lienz. Today's event was a worthy way to celebrate the 30th anniversary, and thanks to our great team even the weather couldn't spoil things."

Markus Prantl (Pure Encapsulations, paragliding): "The Red Bull Dolomitenmann is a brutal challenge. The conditions are always something else, and you always have to adapt again. A bit of luck comes into it too. We are absolutely delighted with the win. That is the third win for Pure Encapsulations and in the 30th anniversary contest. It's really a dream."

Andreas Goldberger: "When I saw the fantastic atmosphere at the start and took in all the positive emotions, I thought for a brief while that maybe I should play a full part in the race, but when I got to the Goggsteig I remembered why this was my last Red Bull Dolomitenmann. I'm happy with the decision, as I think watching will be really fantastic too."

Harald Hudetz: "I am actually very pleased. The jump went off perfectly and there was perhaps only one point in the race that didn't go perfectly, but at the same time I just couldn't close down on those ahead of me. Fifth place is quite okay. We are just the most awesome team."

Toni Palzer: "I can be completely thrilled. I wasn't too far behind Mamo Petro, and the time was good for the conditions. Fifth place in the overall standings is not what we expected, but Alban wasn't quite fully fit and in a contest like the Red Bull Dolomitenmann, everything has to work for all four athletes on the day, on the one hand, and on the other hand you need a bit of good luck. On the whole I have to say fifth place is no mean feat."

RESULTS (provisional, official results on www.redbulldolomitenmann.com)

1. Pure Encapsulations, 3 hours 50:57
2. Kolland Topsport Professional, 03:53:23
3. Kleine Zeitung – Panaceo – Martini Sportswear, 03:53:48
4. Kolland Topsport International, 03:55:08
5. Red Bull, 03:56:18

The highlights of the 30th Red Bull Dolomitenmann can be seen on 17 September from 22:15 in Red Bull TV Fenster on ServusTV.

www.redbulldolomitenmann.com

www.beat-the-gogg.com

#dolomitenmann

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