



RACE REPORTS

PRE RACE

14-Jan-2008 06:20:06

SPONSORS

MEDIA CENTRE

**Report 2 From Estoril Portugal XPD Race**

17-Dec-2007 10:56:21

[View Gallery](#)**Limestone and fog**

Thanks to sleepmonsters.com and Louize Hill/Filomena Gomes/Togumi

As the second day of the Estoril Portugal XPD Race dawned many of the teams were passing through the Transition Zone (ZT3) 3, already half way through stage two of the race. Two sections of stage two ended at ZT3, as it formed a figure of eight. The only obligatory checkpoint on section three was at ZT3, meaning teams could skip the whole section if they chose.

The trekking loop out of ZT3 had climbing, rappel and downhill trikke activities at the checkpoints. The Russian girls of team Arena impressed everyone present with their skills as they flew down the rappel cords, barely giving the photographers gathered at the bottom of the cliff time to catch them.

The differences in the classification of different teams continued to grow during the day as some teams skipped checkpoints. Some teams had stopped during the night to sleep, both TEVA-La Penilla and Arena had stopped for about an hour and a half, while Alpine Pro/Nutrend didn't sleep at all.

Although team Motorola SOS Mata Atlântica slept for an hour and a half during the night, José Pupo, the Brazilian team member was clearly struggling as the team came through ZT3. The team made it back to Transition Area (AT)1, and set off on the mountain biking section 1 of stage 3, but then had to pull out. He is now recovering in a hotel, while his team will continue without him.

Stage three started with a mountain biking section that took the racers to yet another mountain range, the Serra de Candeeiros. One of the activities in this section was a short section of caving, including a short (5.5 m) abseil into a gallery, from which they could then walk out. The first three teams to the cave were the Czechs Alpinepro/Nutrend, and almost two hours later the Spanish team TEVA-La Pinilla and the Portuguese team MillenniumBCP2. By 22h00 only nine teams had completed the section and visited all the checkpoints. All the other teams had skipped checkpoints.

Most teams were setting off for the second section of Stage three (trekking) as it began to drizzle, the fog rolled back in and night set in. Many of the teams will be walking throughout the night across difficult limestone terrain. Stage three ends at Olhos de Água. Stage four starts with another mountain biking section, followed by a section of inline skating, then the river paddling section and finally a trekking section.

**From land to water**

Day three of the Estoril Portugal XPD Race started off bright and clear and the sunny weather was a welcome change from the fog and drizzle of yesterday. Stage three ended at Transition Area (AT) 2 at Olhos de Água (Alcanena). This area was bustling from the crack of dawn, and the whole morning. Most teams stopped here for a while to rest, almost all were clearly exhausted from the 40 km trekking they had completed during the night. This stage had brought the teams from the mountains down to the flood plains of the River Tejo, and the scenery changed dramatically. At AT2 it also became clear that there were changes on the leader board.

There were long gaps between the teams arriving and leaving from AT2. Some of the teams decided to stop along the way to sleep, while others decided to sleep at AT2.

Team MOTOROLA SOS Mata Atlantica, were the last in to AT2, but still in a good mood which impressed all those present. They announced they planned to do the bike ride as it was such a fabulous day, but were quitting once they arrived at the start point of the paddling. They couldn't miss this bright sunny day and they really wanted to ride their bikes on to section 1 (stage 4).

The first team to start the approximately 50km long paddling section was the Portuguese Team Freitas Outdoor, who also finished the section first. Nonetheless, the latest ARWS classification remains with the Czech team Alpinepro/Nutrend/Merida in the lead, followed by the Spanish TEVA-La Pinilla and then the Czechs from Team Tilak/Opavanet/Merida. These teams were the only teams to have visited all the checkpoints on the course.

Tomorrow is the last day of the XPD. During the night most the racers will start stage 5, with another mountain biking section, followed by trekking section with abseiling at one checkpoint, against a backdrop of the Moorish castle and the Romantic Palace of Pena in Sintra. The race will finish with a sea paddling section with an optional free-diving underwater CP, where the athletes will have to copy a drawing!

**NEWS IN BRIEF****Top teams in the Estoril Portugal XPD****1st place 2nd place**

Clube Praças da Armada / Portugal

**3rd place** Team Oure / Denmark

**Nike Just Do It Again****Congratulations**

Nike Powerblast wins the 4th Adventure Racing World Championship.

**3 races in Series completed**

With 3 races completed in this calendar year and 4 last year 109 teams have qualified to apply for a position in the ARWorld Champs.

**2 races in ARWorld Series finished**

The first two races in the ARWorld Series for 2006 have finished. Check Homepage for info

[View News in Brief Archive](#)