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Reports From Estoril Portugal XPD Race

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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

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The day before

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

The Prologue Stage was held in the centre of the town of Cascais. An original format that left many of the racers perplexed before it started. The organisers sent the athletes off looking for submarines hidden round the town in a life-sized game of battleships. Each team was given a map of the town, divided into squares and a list of questions, one for each square. The right answer gave the right to "shoot", hitting either the target or landing in water. The first team to get all eight submarines will set off first tomorrow morning.

The prologue was won by the Portuguese team MillenniumBCP-Porto who found seven submarines and will be setting off first tomorrow, they were followed by , followed by MilleniumBCP3, who also found 7 submarines, but took one minute longer and TEVA-La Pinilla who found five submarines.

Tomorrow the real race starts. Stage 1 will leave from Cascais, in front of the town hall. The first team will leave at 07:00, inline skating and by Trikke in direction of Guincho beach. This short section will be followed by a section of trekking and coasteering. The CPs that were planned for in the sea have had to be moved because of the rough sea conditions. The final section of this stage is a long section of mountain biking, most of which will be in the night...

From the seaside to the countryside

The first day of the Estoril Portugal XPD Race started under a foggy drizzle along the coast of Cascais. Team MilleniumBCP-Porto were first under the starting arch, for a section of inline skating and trikke. The following teams set off at two minute intervals.

The wet slippery cobblestones of the road in front of the Square Praça do Município made life even more complicated for the skaters, but as soon as they were rolling on asphalt they set off fast.

Some of the Portuguese teams preferred to carry their skates and run, rather than struggle to skate. Others took the risk, and skated, but it was not an easy journey for them. Teams broke up with large distances opening between the elements who could skate and those who couldn't.

The Russian team Arena, consisting of women only, left 10 minutes behind Motorola SOS Mata Atlantica but the girls showed good cooperation and eventually managed to overtook them near the end of the section.

The following section was one of the most demanding in physical terms, a coasteering activity that passed through Cape Roca, the most westerly point in Europe. After some ups and downs, teams arrived at Praia Grande beach. The views from this section were stunning, from the high cliffs over the raging ocean. This part of the Portuguese coast is deep valley after deep valley, and there is no way to avoid the repeated steep climbs and descents.

From Praia Grande the teams set off on mountain bikes with Team Teva-La Pinilla setting off first. The third section was a long one, again with repeated climbs and descents.

The first teams to arrive at the first Transition Area (AT) were all from the North and East of Europe. Master Unit (Team 25) from Finland arrived at 18:02, with Salomon Navigator (Team 26) from Poland and Alpine Pro/Nutrend (Team 23) from Czech Republic, both at 18:04.

From here they will set off on Section 1 of Stage 2, a 45 km trekking section in the land of dinosaurs, where if they don't go carefully they may stumble on dinosaur bones which can be found in abundance in the fields here. No one will have time to stop, but they will also be passing close to the largest private collection of fossils.

