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September 9, 2004

Three-time Teva US Mountain Running Team Member Anita Ortiz wins the 2004 WMRA Masters Mountain Running World Championships

On Saturday, August 28 in Sauze d'Oulx, Italy (a ski village in the Italian Alps) Eagle, CO resident Anita Ortiz, 40, ran an impressive race to win the WMRA (World Mountain Running Association) Masters Mountain Running World Championships in a time of 53:30 just five seconds ahead of her nearest competitor Isabella Guillot, 42, France.

Ortiz started with the 35-39 age group due to a mix-up with organizers over her birth month (June instead of September) and therefore had no idea how Guillot or others in the 40-44 age group fared over the 8.46K course. Not until after the finish did an elated Ortiz find out she was first overall.

Competitors started in 20 minute intervals with runners in the same age group starting with men and women 70 and over. Ortiz's group started last at 3:20PM while the first group went at 1PM.

The course started in the village on cobblestone for approximately 100 meters before changing to pavement for another 300 meters and then heading onto a steep, rocky trail. It was then back to pavement for a downhill section through the village, another uphill portion on cobblestone, and back to grassy trails and switchbacks for the remainder of the course. In total there were 862 meters of ascent and 235 meters of descent. The course included some very steep sections relegating many of the competitors to a fast power hike. Top finishers ran the entire course.

There were more than 620 competitors in the masters competition, now in its third year. The 2005 edition will be held in Keswick, England on September 10 with the 2006 race slated again for Sauze d'Oulx in early September.

Tom Borshel, 47, Idaho Falls, ID ran 48:47 to win the 45-49 age group at the World Masters. Borschel the Teva US Mountain Running Team junior manager also ran the open race during the World Mountain Running Trophy on September 5 and cruised to an overall victory on the 10.1Km course.

Andy Ames, 40, Boulder, CO a first-time member of the Teva US Mountain Running team, ran 48:05 in the masters race and was 6th in his age group (161 competitors in the age group). Ames also ran the 10.1Km World Trophy course on Sunday, September 5 to finish in 55:08 good for 47th place overall (154 finishers). California resident Matt Ebner, 43, finished fifth at the masters in a time of 47:29. The 40-44 masters category was won by Ricardo Mejia, 41, Mexico in a time of 43:52 (the best time among the men).

Ortiz, on her third Teva US Mountain Running Team this year, also ran on September 4 over the same 8.46Km course for the World Mountain Running Trophy event and finished first for the US in 11th position overall in a time of 53:03. Ortiz along with teammates Laura Haefeli, 36, Del Norte, CO (15th woman), Erica Larson, 32, Los Alamos, NM, (24th), and Lisa Isom, 31, Vail, CO, (31st) earned a bronze team medal, the first for a US mountain running team at the World Mountain Running Trophy and the first medal for the women.

Visit www.wmra.info for additional information.