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Teva U.S. Mountain Running Team Member Wins Fourth Pikes Peak

Manitou Springs, Colorado ---- Three-time Teva US Mountain Running Team member Anita Ortiz set an age group record en route to her fourth victory at the Pikes Peak Ascent on Saturday, August 21.

The race starts at an elevation of 6,295 feet (1,918 meters) with a summit elevation of 14,110 feet (4,299 meters) making the net elevation gain 7,815 feet (2,381 meters). The total distance is 13.32 miles with an average grade of 11%.



The 40-year-old mother of four led from the start to post a 2:44:58 nearly eight minutes faster than her winning time from 2003 and close to her best time of 2:44:33 from 2002. “The footing was good most of the way, but there were some areas with ankle-deep water and some icy spots near the top. My legs felt great, my breathing was a bit off, probably related to the time off from my injury (in May Ortiz suffered a stress fracture in her hip),” said Ortiz.

Second place finisher Leanne Whitesides, 34, Grand Junction, CO finished in 2:59:09 while Nancy L Citriglia, 30, Winter Park, CO placed third in 3:09:36. Scott Elliott won the men’s division in 2:23:31 earning the 40-year-old Boulder resident his eight victory.

While most athletes who finish Pikes Peak reflect on their present race before thinking about the future, Ortiz was already thinking about 2005 when she plans to try the Pikes Peak Marathon. “The race is a few weeks before the World Trophy next year and I think the timing is right.”

Ortiz can get plenty of advice from Teva team mate Erica Larson, 33, Los Alamos, NM who won this year’s Pikes Peak Marathon (August 22), her fifth title in six years. Both Larson and Ortiz will travel to the renowned Italian ski resort town of Sauze d’Oulx to compete in the grueling 20th World Mountain Running Trophy on September 4. Sanctioned by the World Mountain Running Association (WMRA) and under the patronage of the IAAF, the women will run 8.4 km and climb 862 meters. Ortiz will additionally race in Sauze d’Oulx on August 28 in the WMRA Masters Mountain Running Championships over the same course.

“I’m really looking forward to racing in Europe. It will be great to run the course and to have some quality training on the mountain before the Trophy,” said Ortiz.

Results from the WMRA events will be available post event at www.wmra.info.

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Websites of interest:

- www.wmrt2004.org - World Mountain Running Trophy 2004
- www.cerritos.edu/lgersitz/MUT/Home.html - USATF Mountain Ultra Trail Running Council
- www.wmra.info - World Mountain Running Association
- www.pikespeakmarathon.org/ - Pikes Peak Results