

HALTI

Race Starts! Lundhags set early pace, Nike Powerblast currently lead



The Adventure Racing World Championship has begun. Teams began their 800km journey through Sweden and Norway with a short sprint through high grass to their inline skates before racing 2km uphill to the first transition to mountainbikes. Lundhags dominated the start, arriving at TA 1 first and leading out for the first mountain bike ride. Spyder overtook Lundhags to arrive first at TA 1 again before put on their wetsuits and travelling on foot to the canyoneering section at Murtsebäcken.



Teams enjoyed a fast canyoneering section with Spyder, Lundhags and US teams Nike PowerBlast and Merrell Wigwam Adventure setting the pace early. These teams were joined by Golite Timberland, and Swedish teams Bjurfors, FK Herkules and FJS. New Zealand teams OrionHealth.com and Port Nelson/ Grizzlytours.com, and Team Finland rounded out the leading teams.



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Early reports from the course officials showed Nike PowerBlast, known for their strength on the bike began opening up a lead on Spyder and Lundhags on the 25km ride to TA 2 and the underwater map hunt. From TA 2 teams must locate an orienteering map and complete an orienteering loop, locating 3 checkpoints.



The last report showed Nike PowerBlast just in front, with the Scandinavian teams Lundhags, Bjurfors and Team Finland chasing hard. Overnight teams will complete approximately 6 hours of mountain biking, a trekking section including a glacier pass where mountaineering equipment is essential and a return mountain bike through Hemavan and on towards the Red Bull Challenge.



Scandinavian Airlines

The weather is cold, and high cloud threatens more rain. Teams from warmer climates are finding the water and air temperatures uncomfortable. Other teams are thriving in the conditions and pushing hard. In the back of their minds, teams are contemplating the Red Bull Challenge - an activity that remains under wraps until teams arrive around 11.00 Thursday morning. Teams are mandated to complete the Red Bull Challenge. Should a team member fail to complete the activity, the team will be disqualified.



Press releases will be issued daily at 17.00. To follow the racer's progress visit www.arwc2006.com for race updates, photos, video and news reports.



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For press images, see: <http://www.arwc2006.com/media/photos/>



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