



Day Two

After a frenetic first day with many short stages and a mix of disciplines Swedish Teams Lundhags and FJS are firmly established amongst the leading group of teams including favorites Nike PowerBlast, Merrell, Bjurfors, Aberdeen Asset Management and Kustjägarna.



After the first night racing, the weather conditions on Section G the Storfjället Trek have made already difficult terrain more challenging. Teams are struggling to navigate in low cloud, drizzle and poor visibility and this stage may prove to be a crucial one for leading teams as they move from the short, intense stages that characterised the first 24 hours of the race, and section G onwards where the race settles into the longer stages that will be a feature of days 2- 4 of the ARWC.



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Strategy will be important here. Teams have the opportunity to utilise the racers village located just metres from TA1, with a number of teams choosing to sleep at their accommodation after departing TA1 for the final time. Teams Lundhags and FJS made a tactical decision not to sleep, rather they have continued their fast pace and have taken the lead in the ARWC while other leading teams including Finland and Nike have chosen to sleep.

Lundhags and FJS have moved quickly to the 77km mountain bike stage which includes the 'detour' of the Red Bull Challenge. The Red Bull Challenge is a tyrolean rope section over a canyon some 45kms into the 77km mountain bike. Teams arrive at the Challenge, make their way through the bush and are met by Peak Experience staff and are assisted into full body harnesses. They then move to the cliff edge where the team must complete the Challenge one member at a time. With one person gathering in the rope, a team member must clip in and after being checked by safety staff slide down the rope at up to 100km per hour coming to an abrupt stop above the valley floor. The 'ride' is approximately 150m long and very very fast. The kick back at completion of the ride is significant, but each member of teams Lundhags and FJS, the only teams to complete the RBC to date, hardly flinched. Upon completion of the Challenge both teams continued on their bikes to the end of Section G and TA3.



Swedish Military Teams in ARWC

The Swedish Military is well represented at ARWC2006 with teams Kustjägarna, FJS and I 19 Vaude competing. FJS continues to race strong into day 2 of the race, staying close to Lundhags and leading the very experienced teams Finland, Nike, Aberdeen and Merrell after choosing not to sleep at TA1. After keeping pace with the early leaders in the first 15 hours of racing, Kustjägarna have settled into the middle of the field and completed the Red Bull Challenge on Thursday evening, the 17th team to complete the Challenge. Kustjägarna follow a steady stream of strong teams that have completed the Challenge with an average of 20 minutes separating each team as it completes the rope section. Many teams arrived at the Challenge around the same time, and with a 'first come, first served' policy, teams have been forced to queue up in order to complete the Challenge which has given many teams, including Kustjägarna an opportunity to rest and refuel. Both FJS and Kustjägarna look strong and their progress of these two Military teams will be followed by many in the armed forces with interest. FJS have taken the early lead over Kustjägarna in this battle of the Military teams and the competition between the two will be followed. Team I 19 Vaude has had a challenging first day at the ARWC. After some delays in the canyon section the team persevered in high spirits through the mountain bike stages and underwater map hunt before beginning the Storfjället Trek. After arriving at CP14 at 18:34, the team chose to withdraw from the race.



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