

Press Release

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After a 10 days race, Emil Inauen from Switzerland wins the 6th edition of La Grande Odyssée Savoie Mont Blanc in 40h17mn, that is 23 minutes ahead of the competitor in 2nd place, Radek Havrda from Czech Republic.

The mushers, sled drivers and their huskies have travelled almost 1000 kilometers in 10 stages and climbed more than 25 000 meters of height difference through the most beautiful areas of Savoie Mont Blanc (Haute-Savoie and Savoie).

At the end of the 10 stages with an average of 100 kilometers per stage, Emil Inauen from Switzerland, has been the most impressive musher. He bravely passed the steep hillsides, the frigid temperatures, the heights and snow storms and managed to bring his dogs to the finishing line.

This incredible feat was achieved after years of efforts and training but also through the unique bond he has forged with its canine athletes, real snow marathon runners. In adversity and when fatigue occurs, only the love of dogs to their master can push them to excel.

This 6th edition has been the most intense of all. Never has the competition been so tight and never have the dogs and mushers been that well prepared for this incredible challenge. The podium is completed by two Czech mushers, Radek Havrda, winner in 2009 and Jiri Vondrak, who fought hard in this race to reach the podium. During the final stage, he steals the third place from Petter Karlsson, the Swedish winner in 2008.

The first French is Jean-Philippe Pontier, who ran the race fantastically. He moved to Norway this summer to give himself the means to improve his performance. It seems to have paid off.

The leading woman of the race, Barbara Inauen, spouse of the race winner, finished in 10th position.

La Grande Odyssée Savoie Mont Blanc is only 6 years old and already into the elite club of the greatest sled dogs races in the world with the Iditarod (Alaska), the Yukon Quest (Canada-Alaska) and the Finnmarksløpet (Norway).

La Grande Odyssée Savoie Mont Blanc started January 10th with 4 days in the heart of Les Portes du Soleil, then went through Megève, Notre Dame de Bellecombe, and finally through Haute Maurienne Vanoise. In total over the 110 stations of Savoie Mont Blanc, more than 24 were involved in the race.

"This year was a watershed in the history of this race by the popular craze (over 60 000 spectators) and its very strong media coverage. The future of La Grande Odyssée Savoie Mont Blanc is guaranteed by the signing of the 2001/2013 agreements with Espace Diamant, Haute Maurienne Vanoise and Les Portes du Soleil (only for 2011)" said Henry Kam creator with Nicolas Vanier and event organizer.

Next year, the 7th edition of La Grande Odyssée Savoie Mont Blanc, will take place from January the 8th to the 18th of 2011.

For more information, photos or images, please contact:
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