

Upated - AR World Champs - Portugal in the mountains



Wednesday, 11 November 2009



All Kiwi team Orion Health and Nike Beaver Creek with two Kiwi's continue at the front of the field at the AR World Champs after a long night on a 45km trek in the mountains of Portugal. **Update from stage 3.**

The rogaine format of the race and lack of live leader board updates has added total mystery to who's actually leading but since the restart it seems Nike may have the upper hand of one more check point over Orion.

Add in the time credits from day 1 and things may even be better for Nike if they take into consideration the total 105 points, five of which are over the limit and under protest. One thing to consider is that Nike & Orion lead from the restart of stage 2 and racing through into stage 3, what's not factored into their lead on the course in the 31 minutes Orion was behind at the end of day one, or any time credit/penalty Nike get. So until the leader board is updated with CP's, bonuses, penalties for missing stage cutoffs and protests are resolved then it's all speculation and a bit of a shambles. There is certainty in the DNF's, we have two at the moment, so given a few more days of natural attrition, DNF's, we will be able to narrow the field of potential winner with some certainty.

Anyhow it's good to get Annie's in race updates.

Here's Annie's update from the middle of stage 3

Nga Rakau arrived at the end of the 'white-water' kayak at around 4pm. Although the river levels were low, and there wasn't supposed to be much white-water, Neil & Tim managed to empty themselves into the river. And the team ahead of them did too. Resulting in Nga Rakau coming into the transition first, announcing that they were 'winning the AR World Champs'. Just because it's Tim's birthday, we let them have their moment of glory.

Their transition was a little slow, which was a very good thing, as Sonja and my (and Brian's) support day from hell was continuing, with three pairs of bikes shoes back at the last transition. (Did I mention the little town of Loriga at 3am this morning? No. That's because we're not over it yet).

The shoes turned up with another support crew in the nick of time, and the team headed off into the fading light on another 100km-ish MTB.

Word at that CP was that Orion & Nike had made it on to the water before the 3:30pm dark zone. Both still have all checkpoints & bonuses. I think the other teams can still get a checkpoint by the alternate trekking route, but another 20km on foot is probably not what they want right now.

Here's Annie's update from Midway on Stage 2 on the Kiwi's

We're now waiting at TA2, high up a mountain. The night is very cold and windy.

We left the cool little town of Fajao about 3 hours ago. There was a checkpoint in the main street, and a room in a building that opened on to the street (as they all do on those narrow cobbled streets) with food and hot soup for the teams.

It's slightly odd with the middle of the field coming through the checkpoints first, but around 7pm Nike arrived, followed 10 minutes later by Orion. Both teams pushing hard, and having collected all the checkpoints and bonuses so far.

At the end of the previous leg (trek leg 6), Nike had arrived first by about 3 minutes from Orion, with Orion transitioning slightly faster to leave about a minute ahead. Orion looked good, and were happy with their route choice and nav on the leg. Lundhags (with Kiwi Aaron Prince) were just running up the road as we left the checkpoint, about 20 minutes behind the other two.

There's still a little confusion over the status of Nike's bonus checkpoint from the first leg of the first stage. They collected 105 points, and were not given the CP, as apparently the requirement was to get exactly 100 points. I don't think any of the teams realised that, and it will no doubt be disputed.

Nga Rakau had left the Fajao checkpoint before we arrived, they were riding up a huge hill on the way out of town as we drove down in to it. All looked happy enough.

We don't expect any teams to turn up here now for several hours.

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