

RELEASE :: NOVEMBRO|2009

Final stretch from the highlands to the coast

## FIERCE FIGHT FOR LEADERSHIP

**This is the final stretch of the Estoril Portugal XPD Race, passing through Serra de Aire e Candeeiros and returning to the Atlantic coast. After 800Kms, there are still 47 teams racing and a good number of them competing for victory.**

As days and hours flow, the "survivors" of this adventure racing world cup final are taking a one way journey to the limits of human resistance. Since last Sunday a total 800kms have already been done on foot, mountain bike and kayak – a huge effort that will bring teams to the finish line at Baleal on Saturday morning (14thNovember).

Despite the fierce competition, it also became clear that adventure racers are keen on helping each other. Title holders "Orion Health" from New Zealand went through a very hard time last night. Wayne Oxenham was separated from his other three team members and was lost for over an hour; **"It was a somewhat traumatic experience, as I was alone for about 1h20m, completely lost and disoriented, having no idea where the others were. I ended up following another passing team and managed to re-join them further down the track"**. After this incident, the world champions are losing ground that may be unrecoverable, pushing them away from victory.

North-American team "NIKE/Beaver Creek" are leading in spite of their obvious exhaustion. **"We are worn out and I can't imagine how are we going to bear through the next few hours. I can only think of regenerating energies!"** Team leader Mike Kloser says. The Swedish team "Lundhags Adventure" and Britain's "Helly Hansen-PrunESCO" are still pressing the leaders, while the Portuguese team "Extreme Challenger/IGeoE" still hopes for a good final result.

More info at: [www.arwc2009.com](http://www.arwc2009.com)

PRESS RELEASE | 13 NOV. '09

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