

Media release

Ultratriathlon in Buchs SG | 14–29 August 2022

World champion chosen: Kenneth Vanthuyne breaks world record

The world champion in Deca continuous at swissultra in Buchs is Kenneth Vanthuyne. The Belgian was the fastest of more than 20 athletes. He even broke the current world record by more than 8 hours. Richard Jung from Germany came second and Poland's Adrian Kostera is third.

After 182 hours 43 minutes and 43 seconds it was done. Belgian Kenneth Vanthuyne crossed the finish line at swissultra in Buchs as the first finisher in the discipline Deca continuous. He thus crowned himself the world champion and world record breaker. «It went much better than I thought it would.» For the first time, the 39-year-old completed a ten-time ultra-triathlon: «I never thought about breaking the world record, let alone becoming world champion. »

Richard Jung had to give up twice in quotation marks. The 40-year-old German held the world record so far and finished second, five hours behind. However, with 187 hours 49 minutes and 24 seconds, he broke his own world record of 190:17:16. He is completely satisfied: «Until this morning I never looked at the others, because I just wanted to enjoy the competition. But then ambition got the better of me a bit at the end.»

Unlike the first two finishers, the objective was clear for the third. 35-year-old Adrian Kostera wanted to break the world record. The Pole had already beaten this in training and now wanted to have it officially on paper. «It took me more strength than I thought, but I'm satisfied. Besides, it's always been my dream to take part in swissultra». The Pole already holds the world record in the five-fold triathlon, the quintuple continuous.

Three times undercut world record

With Kenneth Vanthuyne, Richard Jung and Adrian Kostera, no less than three finishers broke Jung's world record from 2018. This one also comes from swissultra. At the beginning of this year's competition, it even seemed as if someone else would take the world title and hold the world record with a clear lead. But Robert Karaś had to stop the race on the fifth day. A few weeks before the start of the competition, the Pole underwent an operation from which his body had not yet recovered sufficiently.

Also on record course was the 70-year-old Johann Wünscher. He would have been the oldest finisher in the Deca continuous history but had to get out of the race during the swim. In the women's race, an age record is still possible. This with 60-year-old Nadine Zacharias. If she manages the 38 kilometres of swimming, 1,800 kilometres of cycling and kilometres of running by 3 a. m. on Monday 29 August, she will be the world's oldest Deca continuous finisher for women. A present for a round birthday.

The race goes on

More than a dozen participants are still in the Deca continuous world championship competition. They have almost a week left. The Deca one per day discipline has also been running since Friday. Here the athletes also complete a tenfold triathlon. However, not in one piece, but one a day. The third event will be the Quintuple one per day, starting on Wednesday. This means five triathlons in five days for the 8 participants. There are also some record aspirants in these two disciplines.

About the swissultra

From the 14th to 29th of August 2022, an ultra triathlon will take place for the fifth time in Buchs (SG). This after two cancellations due to the Corona pandemic. Under the name «swissultra» three different competitions will be offered in 2022: a Deca one per day (10-fold ultratriathlon - one ultratriathlon per day), a Deca continuous (10-fold ultratriathlon - each discipline in one piece) and a Quintuple one per day (5-fold ultratriathlon - one ultratriathlon per day). All three events are part of the IUTA World Cup Series. The Deca continuous will also be held as a world championship. The starting signal for the competitions will be given in the open-air swimming pool in Buchs SG. There the athletes swim their distances in the 50-meter pool. The cycling takes place in 9km laps from the outdoor pool area on the Rhine dam in the direction of Sevelen and back. The last discipline is running, which the athletes complete on a circuit of 1.2 kilometers. The swissultra is organized by the Swiss Ultratriathlon Association.

The competition dates at a glance:

- Deca continuous World Championship: Start Sunday August 14 2022 6 p.m.
Deadline Monday, August 29 2022 3 a.m.
- Deca one per day: Start Friday, August 19 2022 7 a.m.
Deadline Montag, August 29 2022 3 a.m.
- Quintuple one per day: Start Wednesday, August 24 2022 7 a.m.
Deadline Montag, 29. August 2022 3:00 Uhr

More Information: www.swissultra.ch

Media and Factsheet: www.swissultra.ch/en/media-relations

swissultra Blog: www.swissultra.ch/en/blog-landingpage

swissultra Pictures: www.swissultra.ch/en/gallery

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