



PRESS RELEASE:

Challenge Regensburg : Jan Raphael and Julia Viellehner taking the win

Regensburg, August 14th 2016 – Athletes, volunteers and spectators woke up to a **CHALLENGEREGENSBURG** race morning that could have hardly been any more perfect. Mild temperatures, beautiful morning sky spotted with fluffy white clouds and a light fog floating over the water to provide a remarkable atmosphere. The otherwise peaceful surroundings stood in contrast to the excitement of more than 1,000 athletes who started the 3.8 kilometer swim in Lake Guggenberger at 6.30 am. 180km of cycling and 42.2km of running followed and 8:27:27 hours later, Jan Raphael crossed the finish line at cathedral square as the winner of **CHALLENGEREGENSBURG**.

The leading swimmers completed the 3.8 km long course in less than 50 minutes with long distance debutant Sebastian Veith leading out with a 49:55 minutes swim, closely followed by Sebastian Bleisteiner and Jan Raphael. Raphael settled quickly and immediately put down the hammer on the bike. After two loops and 180 competitive kilometers, the former European champion had established a 13:11 minutes lead over the the chase group of local hero Sebastian Neef, Sebastian Bleisteiner and Dane Chris Fischer.

While Raphael's victory seemed quite sure at the beginning of the run it turned out differently. Towards the end off he 42.2km run Raphael suffered; had cramps and had to take walking breaks. By then Chris Fischer had put the pressure on from behind.

But finally, after a long dry spell, the 36-year-old took home the title at **CHALLENGEREGENSBURG** and was thrilled. "I have always been racing easier courses. But racing today was a real man's job", said Jan Raphael was exhaustedly shaking his head after 8:27:27.

"I'm really happy, but also quite done!" Second place finisher Chris Fischer was also happy about the "second best" result. "Especially the run course was amazing. I could think of no better place for a marathon," the Dane said. Third-placed Slovene Matic Motcic also confirmed that "It was a fantastic atmosphere!"

Julia Viellehner takes home first big title

Kathrin Walther was the fastest female swimmer of the day and came out of the water after 59:16 minutes in leading position. She was followed by Nicole Woysch. The 39-year-old Woysch who had to drop out of a race due to a technical problem the week before, was seeking revenge and pulled away on the bike, while behind her the fight for position on the road was on.

It was an exciting women's race. While it appeared that Woysch would settle in the front of the field on the bike course, the second part of the bike course was back wide open and saw numerous position changes. Kathrin Walther started the run less than a minute ahead of Erika Csomor and Woysch. Soon followed by Silvia Felt and Munich Marathon champion Julia Viellehner. Soon, the 30-year-old Viellehner played to her marathon strength, fought her way tot he front to lead at the half way mark.

Der Challenge Regensburg online

Im Web: www.challenge-regensburg.com

Auf Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChallengeRegensburg

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After 9:37:32 hours she was thrilled about her first victory at the long distance. "Today everything went great! On the bike I felt a bit cold, but when I started the run less than ten minutes behind the leading women, I was quite confident. I can't believe I won," she added.

Erika Csomor was also satisfied with her second place. „When Julia overtook it was so short and painless. Besides, I had expected it. So I'm absolutely happy with my result.“ Quite similarly, felt third Silvia Felt who completed the podium three minutes after Csomor: "The race and the atmosphere were just amazing! For me it'll be an unforgettable experience! "

Not only the superstars of the sport, but hundreds of other age group athletes enjoyed this unforgettable experience at the cathedral square. Even Mayor Joachim Wolbergs: "I've enjoyed the last few days a lot. When I walked through the city, I could see that people had fun. Thus, as I think, the organizers and we, the city, did everything right to get **CHALLENGEFAMILY** event to Regensburg.“ Organizer Tom Tajsich summed it up perfectly: "Regensburg is a perfect triathlon venue.“

Results – Professional Men

1. Jan Raphael (GER), 8:27:27
2. Chris Fischer (DEN), 8:31:30
3. Modic Matic (SLO, TKL), 8:39:52

Results Professional Women

1. Julia Viellehner (GER), 9:37:32
2. Erika Csomor (HUN) 9:45:04
3. Silvia Felt (GER), 9:48:17

More information and registration www.challenge-regensburg.com

More information about the ETU www.etu.triathlon.org

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ABOUT CHALLENGE FAMILY

The CHALLENGEFAMILY series of triathlons features 47 full and half distance races in 25 countries around the world, including the world's largest long distance triathlon – Challenge Roth in Germany. The birthplace of the Challenge Family, Challenge Roth now features over 5,500 athletes and 250,000 spectators and home to both world records held by Andreas Raelert (GER) and Chrissie Wellington (GBR). Since 2002, races throughout Europe, UK, Australasia, Asia, North America and South America have joined Roth. Together they provide athletes with a new experience of long distance racing with a strong focus on athlete and spectator experience, giving back to the community while respecting the legacy of sport and being committed to its continued growth. For further information on Challenge Family visit www.challenge-family.com.

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