

Sports

June 14, 2005

Adventure racers endure at DMR

Herald Staff Report



GraftyPlay.com

A cyclist heads along the trail during the AdventureXstream competition at Durango Mountain Resort last weekend. Tweve- and 24-hour races were staged.



GraftyPlay.com

A competitor works across the Tyrolean traverse during last weekend's AdventureXstream event at DMR.

The day's agenda called for an adventure, either a 12-hour adventure or a full-fledged 24-hour, round-the-clock adventure.

More than 150 adventure racers joined the adventurous fray, all competing in the fifth annual Durango AdventureXstream Adventure Race on Saturday/Sunday at Durango Mountain Resort.

The competitors challenged either a 60-mile or a 100-mile course testing their skills and endurance in trail running, mountain biking and kayaking across challenging and variable terrain.

In addition, the competitors had to navigate the course and its 12 checkpoints. Plus they had to complete a 250-foot Tyrolean traverse and kayak (in a downpour). The events were designed to challenge team dynamics as well as mental and physical strength.

The racing started at midnight with teams rushing to pick up their Trek Section coordinates and plot their respective courses.

The 25-mile trek took teams between 7½ hours and 15½ hours to complete as many of the six checkpoints as they could within the given time period.

Many teams dropped out after the challenging night trekking section high in the San Juan Mountains while others dropped out later following the the fatigue of the bike section and the cold of the rain.

In a bit of a surprise, Gunnison-based Team Honeystinger/RockNRoll, rolled in first from the Trek Section at Checkpoint 7, hours ahead of several other four-person coed teams who were favored to win the competition, including the likes of Team Solomon/SmartWool, Team Boulder, Team BagelWorks and Team Zorrel.com.

The course ended up getting the best of last year's Adventure XStream Series

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champions, Team Solomon/SmartWool, who were racing with two new team members. In addition, Team BagelWorks was racing without experienced captain Matt Hannon.

Team HoneyStinger/RockNRoll (Paul Maniaci, Keri Nelson, Jermiah Reiner and Scott Murrell) eventually took first place in the Durango AdventureXstream 24-hour Race, winning the four-person coed category with a time of 18 hours and 54 minutes.

The team was the first to successfully complete all of the challenging navigation and trekking section. And the team held onto the lead for the remainder of the event.

Second and third places went to Team Boulder (19 hours and 53 minutes) and Team Zorrel.com (22 hours and 34 minutes), respectively. Team Zorrel featured athletes from Durango and Boise, Idaho, including local adventure athlete Rick Callies.

First place in the two-person coed team competition was Team Santa Fe Bear Pair with a time of 21 hours and 41 minutes. The winners from Santa Fe were Kim Bear and Jan Bear.

First place in the two-person open team division was Team Krumholtz from Fort Collins (23 hours and 53 minutes).

First place solo male finisher in the Durango 24-hour race went to Keith Bushaw of Arvada and Team Go Lite/Timberland Sprint. He finished in 18 hours and 58 minutes.

Team RMART (Bruce Rahmig, Chris Lepore, Katie Baker, Trisha Spaeth) took first place in the Durango AdventureXstream 12-hour Race, winning the four-person coed category in 9 hours and 54 minutes.

First place in the four-person open category went to Team Frank and the Beans with a time of 12 hours and 35 minutes. That team included Brian O'Malley, Franke Heine, Ken Nauman and Ed Vraspir.

First place in the two-person coed team division was Team Pedro's Boulder (Brett Landin and Louisa Jenkins) with a time of 9 hours and 46 minutes.

First place two-person open team was Team BedHead (Jeff Kindsfater and Greg Burks) with a winning time of 8 hours and 45 minutes.

First place solo male finisher in the Durango 12-hour race went to Jeremy Rodgers of Santa Fe with a finishing time of 8 hours and 20 minutes.

Less than two minutes later, Durango's Jan Nessel crossed the finish line, placing second in the solo male category (12-hour division). Nessel is the editor of *Inside/Outside Magazine*.

First-place solo female finisher in the 12-hour race went to Catherine Elliot (11 hours and 4 minutes).

Complete results of the event are available at [www. GravityPlay.com](http://www.GravityPlay.com).

The AdventureXstream Adventure Race Series is sponsored by SmartWool, Zorrel.com, CheckpointZero.com, Aquis, DEAN Ultimate Bicycles, *Adventure Sports Magazine*, Koobi Saddles and Durango Mountain Resort.

The series started in Moab with the second stop in Durango.

The next stop in the series will be July 23 at Breckenridge before an event Sept. 10 at Vail. On Oct. 6-10, the teams will compete in an expedition race in Moab.